

# Thailand XVIII

Then & Now

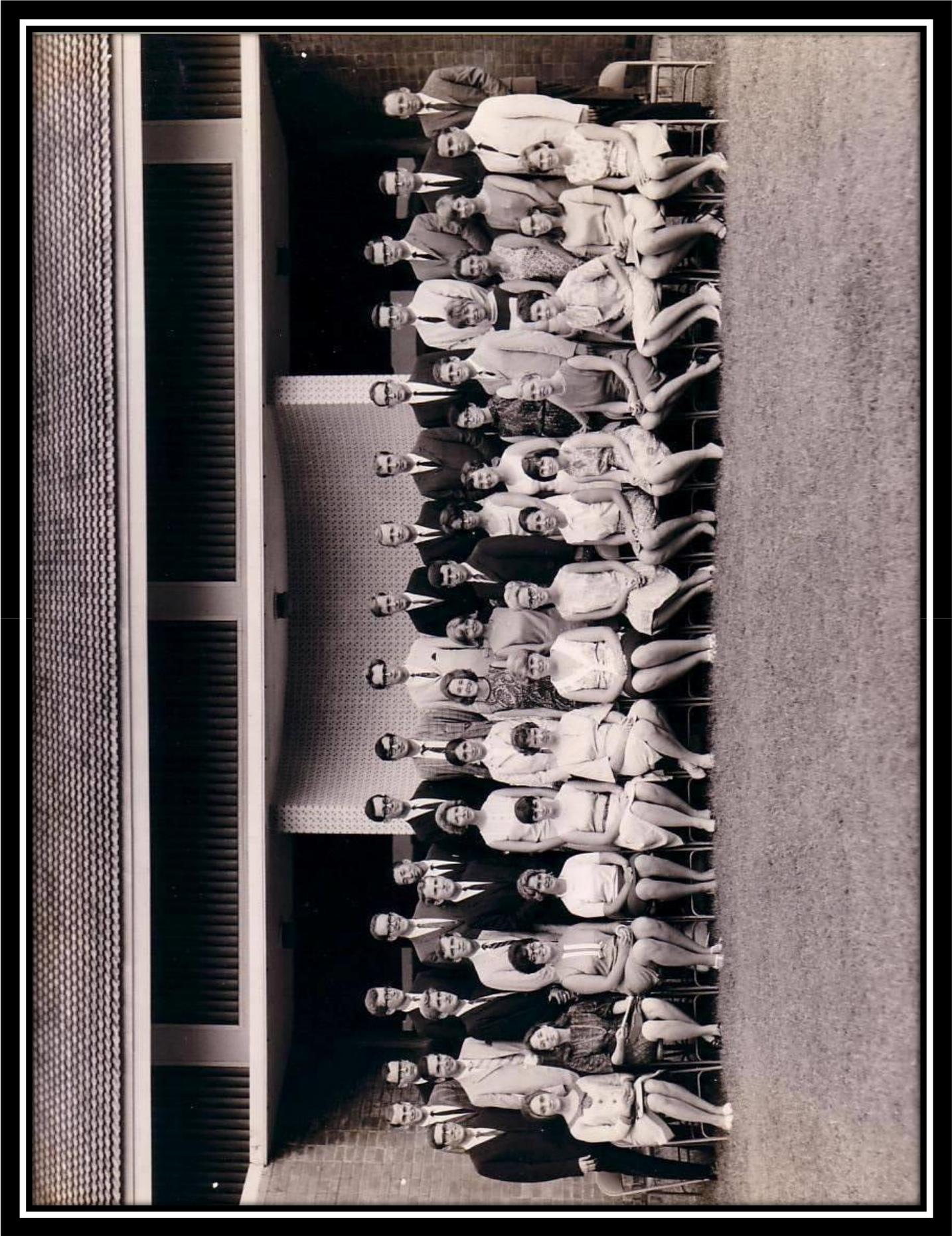
1967 - 2015



Reunion - San Diego, CA

27 September - 1 October 2015









# WHERE WE WERE THEN -

OCTOBER 1968

## NORTH

### *Secondary*

Pichit Girls – Dial Barnwell  
Maehongsorn Boys – Doug Buchwalter  
Lom Gao -- Jennifer Smith  
Phrae Boys – Paul Ehrlich  
Sankampaeng – Tim Rynkofs  
Tapanhin – Cathy Hemphill

### *Teacher Training*

Pitsanuloke – Mary Sautter  
Nakorn Sawan – Nancy Davis  
Uttaradit – Joan French

## SOUTH

### *Secondary*

Songkhla Boys – George Lee  
Saiburi – Diane Christie  
Yala Boys – Harvey Somers

## CENTRAL

### *Secondary*

Samut Sakorn Boys – Sandy Giusti  
& Chachoengsao Gen. Ed. Dev. Ctr.  
Petchburi Girls – Bill Holmes  
Prachuab Boys – Jack Swanson  
Prachuab Girls – Kathy Swanson  
Saraburi Boys == Fuller Temples  
Satri Uthaithani – Maureen Reardon

### *Teacher Training*

Nakorn Pathom Gen. Ed. Dev. Ctr  
– Wendy Wilkens  
Rajburi Village Institute – Bob Holladay

## BANGKOK

### *Teacher Training*

Chandrakasem – Joe Bprich  
Chandrakasem – Bev Borich

### *University*

Chulalongkorn – John Wilkinson  
DTEC Language Inst. – Nancy Wilkinson

## SOUTHEAST

### *Secondary*

Samut Prakarn – Chris Smith  
Rayong Boys – David Viskochil  
Rayong Girls – Sally Viskochil

## NORTHEAST

### *Secondary*

Kalasin Boys – George Smith  
Kalasin Girls – Chrys Smith  
Tat Phanom – Alan Roth  
Nangrong – Burgess Needle  
Wapeepatum – Roger Neustadter

### *Teacher Training*

Ubol – Jim Coughlin  
Khon Kaen Gen. Ed. Dev. Ctr. – Harvey

### Tilden

Maharakam – Peggy Kavounas  
Maharakam – Ed Kavounas  
Sakolnakorn – Bob Harcharek

## SECRETARIES

Bette Jo Simon  
Maureen Reardon (2<sup>nd</sup> year switched to TEFL)

## THAILAND XVIII MEMBERS WHO DID NOT COMPLETE THEIR TERMS INCLUDED:

### NORTH

Uttaradit – Catol Danicic  
San – Ronald Krannich  
Srisamrong – John Tachanz

### SOUTH

Trang Boys – Stan McNatt  
Trang Girls – Margaret McNatt  
Pattani Girls – Carol Newell  
Koh Samuey – Jim Epley

### NORTHEAST

Surin Bpys – Susan McAvoy

## BANGKOK

Pranakorn – Frank Fischer

## SECRETARIES

Liz Rutkowski  
Mary Nannery

## POST PEACE CORPS

Beverly Christiana

A little more than a year after the Peace Corps, in 1970, one of the three most momentous events in my life occurred—my daughter, Stephanie, was born in South Dakota. We remained there for the next three years until we accompanied my then-husband to Taiwan for the first of several moves associated with Foreign Service assignments. Subsequent assignments took us to Shanghai and back to Taiwan.

While on an interim assignment in the United States, the second of the most momentous events in my life occurred—my son, Zachary, was born in Virginia in 1976.

Throughout the foreign service years, 1973-1985, I adjusted to the moves, the kids being my primary consideration—locating medical care ( inadequate in Shanghai, thus necessitating many trips to Hong Kong with sick children); markets (also woefully inadequate in Shanghai); playmates (no English-speaking ones for my son in Shanghai. He learned two dialects of Chinese); schools; and securing household help, a virtual necessity for access to local markets, and for child care due to diplomatic entertainment expectations. Shoes and clothing were always issues with the children. For our assignment in Shanghai, I bought and shipped a thousand pounds of household goods. There were no consumer goods on the Chinese mainland at that time, and the shipment included everything from aspirin to boxed mac and cheese.

In 1985, the kids and I, along with a dog and a couple of tons of household effects returned from Taiwan to the United States. My marriage had dissolved in 1984--I remained until 1985, when my son became ill, and his medical clearance from the Department of State was pulled. I left my position as director of human resources at the American Institute in Taiwan, a position I found deeply satisfying. I moved my family into our house in Manassas, Virginia, which had been rented out during our overseas assignments. My son needed medical care, and interestingly, I faced the same challenges in the U.S. that I had faced overseas—doctors, food, playmates, childcare. I had no job, no car, no credit, and little savings.

The United States was a mystery to me, having been overseas for five years. I remember that getting phone service was a particular source of consternation, as de-regulation had taken place—hook-up was remote, and one bought one's phones over the counter. Totally unknown to me.

I secured a position in county Social Services, where I had previously worked when in the United States from 1975-1980. My stepfather co-signed for a car for me. Several years later, a gold American Express card arrived in the mail.

In 1986, following a daunting amount of paperwork, and a long year of waiting, which included an extensive background check, complicated by my residences overseas; multiple tests including medical, psychological, intellectual, and polygraph; and numerous interviews; I was offered an officer position in the intelligence community, where I remained for thirteen years.

Those thirteen years were incredibly rewarding professionally, but incredibly difficult personally. I juggled single parenthood, home maintenance, a commute that eventually stretched to three to four hours a day, and long hours at the office. Yet they remain some of the most satisfying years of my life. I watched my children both struggle and achieve, reaching maturity to become independent, caring, and contributing adults. I was well rewarded at work for my efforts—I was recognized as a manager and as a leader in an extraordinarily dynamic and competitive environment.

I remarried in 1999, number three of the most momentous events in my life. Tony restored my trust in marriage, and my faith in emotional intimacy. We settled on twenty-five acres in Northern Virginia. I retired, Stephanie had married and she and her husband gifted me with three glorious grandchildren. Zachary was attending Texas A&M, and was doing well. Life was good.

2006 proved to be a singular year. Tony had a stroke, which initiated a long, slow, painful physical decline for him, and an emotionally painful journey for me. Stephanie and her family moved to Bangkok on diplomatic assignment. Zach moved back to Virginia after earning a degree in atmospheric sciences.

Time marched on for the next eight years. My son married, and another wondrous grandchild was added to the family. My daughter and her family returned to the United States after six years in Bangkok. Tony continued to decline, and I became a full-time caregiver. He went into a nursing home in 2013, and died of end-stage dementia in 2014.

In the year subsequent to his death, I have sought to find a new construct of reality. I awake each morning to a beautiful landscape and a beautiful home, both of which Tony and I built together. Two dogs insist on food and cuddling. I have taken trips—to Florence, Italy; to Puerto Rico; and to Seattle and the Black Hills of South Dakota. All were lovely, but two were interrupted by the realities of life—my stepfather died, and my nineteen-year-old grandson was in a near fatal automobile accident that left him with traumatic brain and spinal injuries. He continues to recover.

Reinhold Niebuhr prayed that he “...might be reasonably happy in this life...” in a supplication that later became known, in an abbreviated version, as the AA “Serenity Prayer.” I love the words “reasonably happy”—more grounded in reality than idealism. It is what I have hoped for in my life. I have lovely children and grandchildren, memories of a fulfilled life with Tony, caring friends and family. Satisfaction has come thru raising two service dog puppies, volunteering in my church, in patient/family work with hospice, and as the human member of a therapy dog team (“Tempe,” my first therapy dog, and I were named “Volunteers of the Year” with hospice—the first time a creature four legs was recognized). I am surrounded by the quiet beauty that life in the country brings. I live comfortably. My friends and family, my dogs, my books, and occasional travel offer both sustenance and diversion. I am “reasonably happy.”



**Joe Borich**  
**Senior Advisor, Nyhus Communications**

Throughout a distinguished career that has spanned government, non-profit, business, and military sectors, Joe Borich has been a respected analyst and official operating at the forefront of the US-China relationship. Joe brings an unrivaled level of experience and expertise to the Global Advisers program. He assists American client companies who are interested in engaging with China more deeply and Chinese companies establishing a presence in this country.

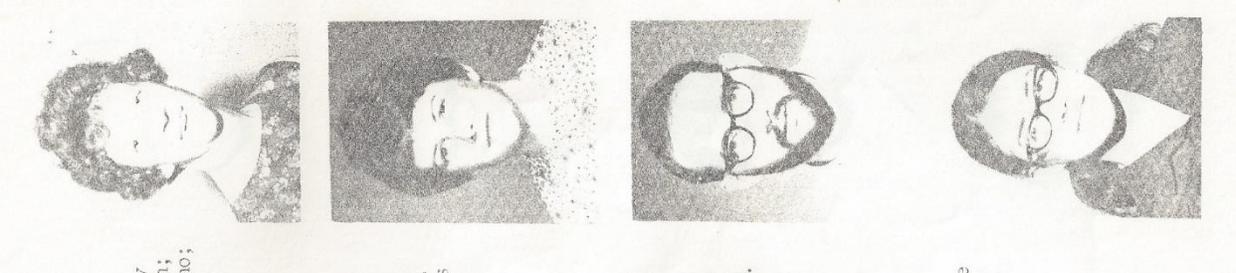
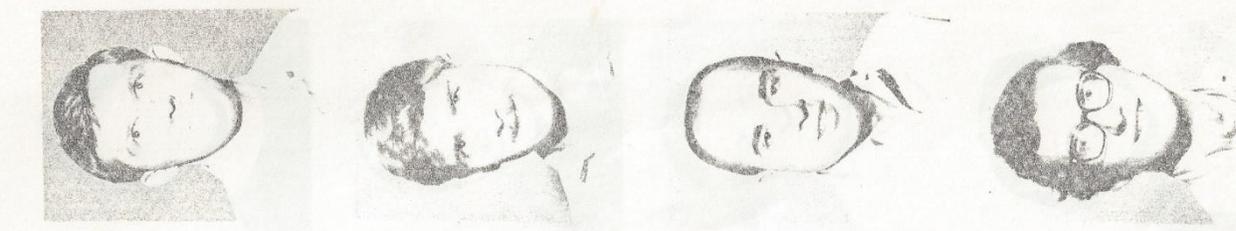
Prior to joining Nyhus, Joe served as president of the Washington State China Relations Council for sixteen years. The Council is the nation's oldest non-governmental statewide trade association dealing specifically with China, and the principal voice for promoting Washington State as the leading gateway to China. In that capacity, Joe represented the trade policy interests of more than one hundred corporate members. These companies included The Boeing Company, Microsoft Corporation, Costco Wholesale, Expeditors International and PACCAR International.

Joe held numerous positions at the U.S. Department of State before moving to Seattle in 1997, including a term as American Consul General in Shanghai from 1994 to 1997. In total, Joe spent twelve years living in China and Taiwan and continues to travel there frequently. He maintains a vast network of contacts with Chinese government officials and business leaders, as well as with US government agencies and American business organizations. Joe is a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Pacific Council on International Policy, among other organizations. He has served every US president from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton in various China-related capacities.

Joe was born in Minnesota, received a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University, and a master's degree from the University of South Dakota. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand and later served in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam. Joe, his wife Ting Hsiao-hui, and their daughter Grace reside in the Seattle area.

# WHO WERE/ARE THESE PEOPLE??

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## **NANCY DAVIS HILL**

P.O. Box 96

Greensboro, Vermont 05841

Tel. 802-533-2609

Email: [nancydhill@gmail.com](mailto:nancydhill@gmail.com)

Some of you may recall that I was engaged when we left Thailand in 1969. Contrary to predictions (why would she leave him for 2 years?!), less than a month after the plane landed in Montreal I was married to my fiancé, Lewis Hill. Culture shock quickly set in as I adjusted to the cold climate of northern Vermont, life in a busy plant nursery, a 130 year-old farmhouse, and the foreign culture of Vermont.

Those rocky first few months extended into a span of nearly 40 wonderful years, until Lewis died in 2008. We operated 3 different plant nurseries (Hillcrest Nursery, Vermont Daylilies, and BerryHill) and sold the first two when they became too big to handle. While the plants were under snow during the long winters, we wrote horticultural books and magazine articles, explaining how to grow the plants we raised. Fortunately Knopf published the first one, which gave us a good start. Because Lewis was the horticulturist and I the editor, initially his name was on the first ones, until I gradually became confident enough to add mine. Lucky for me, many of the fourteen we wrote are still in print.

I helped pioneer the local land trust, historical society and over the years have worked on numerous boards and events. We enjoy wonderful X-country skiing here, and my year-round walking group is on the back roads 3X a week. I have been fortunate to live in this small, rural but unique town that has a lovely lake with summer residents, including many writers and artists. They have infused local life with cultural activities, including lots of music, plays, lectures, etc. .Our neighbors have included such folks as Wallace Stegner and Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and currently Greensboro is the home of Jasper Hill Cheeses, Hill Farmstead Brewery, Circus Smirkus, and an about to be built “Globe” theatre complex.

Five years ago I married one of the “summer residents”, Clive Gray, a retired Harvard economist who worked for HIID, advising governments in many countries, mostly in Africa. We live in his cottage on Caspian Lake in the summers and in my newer warm(er) home in the winter. Lewis and I had no children but I gained an instant family of three wonderful children and their families, including 3 lively grandsons. Lewis preferred to always be “home for supper, if possible” so most of my earlier travels were with friends (many hiking trips in England and Scotland including the famed “Coast to Coast”, and New Zealand with the Sierra Club.) Clive and I have traveled together, mostly in Europe, and in May returned from 3 weeks visiting Paris, the Normandy Coast, Geneva to visit his daughter who lives there, southern Norway, and Denmark.



*Nancy Davis Hill & Clive Gray*

I have gathered periodically with Cathy Hemphill, and Chris Smith Sargent since our days in Thailand, and have had some delightful times in Hawaii (where we met Tim Rynkofs), San Diego, Seattle, Vermont, and this spring visited D.C. and Virginia together. I look forward to renewing acquaintances with all of you and hearing your stories.

## PAUL EHRLICH

After Peace Corps I became a monk. I studied Vipassana Meditation. It was an amazing experience being a young farang monk. After about a month I left the monastery and started traveling home. I stopped in Cambodia and visited Ankor Wat. I then travelled to Vietnam. Yes, I know it was the height of the Vietnam War. But, I had a friend to go visit in Dalat in the Central Highlands. After Vietnam I continued traveling and stopping in every country between Asia and the United States. I remember that George Lee and I had an experience in Taiwan that was really funny. When I got back home in New York I applied for and got a job as a junior high school teacher in Long Island. However, after about a year and half of teaching my itch for S E Asia continued and I applied for and was offered a Fulbright scholarship to teach English at the university Sjah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Yes, that was the place that was devastated by the tsunami years after I had left. In that year in Sumatra I learned to speak Indonesian. When my year of teaching was finished I yearned to return to Bali. I lived in Kuta which was undeveloped back in 1973. That was one of the happiest times of my life. I spoke fluent Indonesian, I surfed, I met many travelers. I felt free. It was great. I traveled on and off for about three years throughout Asia returning to the United States every once in a while.

In the 70s I learned transcendental meditation and later took a six-month teacher training course in Europe and became a teacher of Transcendental Meditation or TM. I was teaching TM in Massachusetts when I met Joanne. We dated, she got pregnant, we married and had a child. My daughter, Chandra was born in 1976. I was 32 years old. Suddenly I found that I needed to get a job that made more money than teaching TM so I could support my new family. The Peace Corps hotline had many job offerings. Some were overseas jobs. One was a job teaching TEFL in Iran. I had never been there. Sounded like an adventure and it paid well. I applied for the TEFL job and got it. We had a one week training and in Chicago and then we were flown to Iran. I was stationed in Esfahan In the center of the country. We lived there for two years from 1976 to 1978. It was a tumultuous and stressful time in my life. In our second year of living in Iran the revolution started. We left just nine weeks before the Shah left barely getting on the last air India flight out of the airport in Tehran. Joanne and Chandra returned to Lowell, MA and I continued to travel in Asia. On the way back home to the East Coast I stopped in Santa Barbara, CA to be the best man at my friend's wedding. It was 1979 and I fell in love with Santa Barbara. I called Joanne and asked her to join me. She flew out and we tried to be a family. Joanne and I eventually split up. She met someone and they moved farther and farther away from Santa Barbara.

I continue to live in Santa Barbara and had various teaching jobs. I wasn't making much money. When I turned 36 I began to look into the future and wondered for the first time what my life would be like in my 50s, 60, and 70s. With my working at various teaching jobs my future looks bleak. I wanted a home base and didn't want to have to struggle in my old-age. So I looked in many directions. I had a short stint as a law student, came to my senses and withdrew from that career path. At some point I got interested in real estate investing. I went to seminars and studied real estate investing and I was able to buy my first house in Santa Barbara in 1981. I bought my second house in 1982. And then for the next number of years I bought houses sold the ones that didn't work and bought others that did. I still own the first house I ever bought and it continues to provide a good monthly income. Having passive income has allowed me the freedom to pursue many other activities.

In the 1980s I took many self-improvement courses. It was at one of those that I met Maggie, my wife and partner of the last 27 years. Maggie is an amazing woman and has brought out the best in me. We waited 10 years to have a child together. She was 40 and I was 54 when we had our son, Orion.

Orion is now a 17-year-old senior at Dos Pueblos High School. He has managed to maintain a 4.0 while playing football. Needless to say, I am very proud of him. When my daughter was 12 I introduced her to yoga. I have been practicing yoga and meditation for decades. But, in 2000 I decided to take my first Yoga Teacher Training Course. I wasn't planning on being a teacher. I just wanted to deepen my understanding and practice of yoga. However, my daughter encouraged me to become a yoga teacher. So, after the teacher training courses I became a yoga instructor and have been teaching since then. I have been teaching yoga since 2001 at various venues in Santa Barbara. I'm currently teaching 2 fitness classes and one yoga class at the Santa Barbara Athletic Club. I was invited to join the Prison Yoga Project and was offered a job teaching at the Santa Barbara County Jail. I teach there on Wednesdays. I was there just today, the day I am writing this bio.

One of the things I am most proud of is starting our annual Santa Barbara Family Camp. I was impressed with people I met who had a history or tradition of doing the same thing every summer with their families. I wanted our son, Orion, to have such an experience where each year we would camp in a natural setting with other families. We just completed our 14th year of Family Camp. This past July 26 to August 2nd 85 people gathered together to experience the natural beauty of the redwood trees in the Santa Cruz Mountains. My daughter, her husband and my two grandsons flew out from Massachusetts to join us. I've watched the sons and daughters of my good friends develop as children into teenagers and enter into adulthood. In some years we have created a rite of passage for 13-year-old boys and girls. They got to feel the love and support of their community.

In two weeks Maggie and I and 18 of our friends will be going to Burning Man. This will be Maggie's second time and my eighth time going. It is a transformational experience where 60,000+ people gather together in the desert of Nevada for radical self-expression, artistic freedom and lots and lots of love.

After attending one of my daughter's yoga retreats in Costa Rica. My friend, David and I traveled overland to Panama to do some exploring. We went to a group of islands called Boca Del Toros. I found a cute little yoga studio to go to. And by chance we met some young Peace Corps volunteers who were stationed in Panama and on vacation. When they heard that I was in Peace Corps Thailand in 1967 they took us under their wing. I was kind of a rock star because they were saying they wanted to know what the Peace Corps was like "back in the old days". They took us to some uninhabited remote islands that were stunning. These guys were fun and it was great to hang out with them as their guests.

One time Maggie and I went to Thailand and we were visiting the umbrella village near Sankampaeng where Tim Rynkof was stationed. We were looking at some of the umbrellas when I heard my name called out. And, to our surprise it was Fuller Temples. Such an amazing coincidence. He had called me to see if I wanted to go to Thailand. But, Maggie and I had already left on our trip. We had spent some time in Bali before coming up to Thailand.

I still enjoy speaking Thai occasionally when I go to Thai restaurants.

Life is good and I am filled with gratitude.

## Joan French Chamberlin

Which of these things do you think I did?

Fired a 50 caliber machine gun? Wrote but didn't publish a fantasy novel for middle grade students? Recruited, organized, and led a team of 14 amateur astronomers from the Southern Hemisphere to write a tutorial for beginning variable star observers for the AAVSO? Gave presentations at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu and at an International Astronomy Conference in Brazil? Slept in the same building that Hubble slept in at Mt Wilson Observatory while attending a two week session on observational astronomy? Became a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador for Maine? Paraglided off a Himalayan mountain?

The answer is All of the Above. Not all of my years were spent doing these, but these are some of my more unusual experiences.

When I returned to the US, I spent 2 years teaching High School English in Massachusetts. Bored by reading so many piles of papers, I returned to Maine and got a job as a secretary and bookkeeper at a dental supply company in Portland and began my Master's in Literacy at University of Southern Maine. I finished my master's, married my husband Chris, and got a job as the first special education teacher in my school system. I worked at all levels from kindergarten through high school during my 33 years in this district.

After Chris and I got married, we joined the Army Reserve to earn extra money. Chris is a Vietnam veteran. I went off to Boot Camp, where 6 weeks of training was crammed into 2 weeks. Probably it was the worst two weeks of my life, but I survived. After a year, we both went to Maine Military Academy and became 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants. That was quite an experience, since I was the only woman cadet with about 11 guys, most of them veterans. I didn't even know which end of the rifle was up. I became a very fast learner! Chris and I were the first husband and wife team to graduate from the academy.

After 5 years of Army Reserve and teaching, I resigned my commission when our daughter, Bryana, was born. Two years later we had a son, Brent. I was lucky to be able to spend all my summers and vacations with the kids, since I was a teacher. Those years were hectic. After they were in school, I began writing in the evenings, after they were in bed. I joined a writer's group on Peaks Island and met with other writers who were writing children's books. Once a month we met to read and critique our works in progress. I actually finished the first draft of a novel, which was so much fun to write; but revising was not so much fun, so I never revised it.

I spent many hours taking the kids to sports events, music events, and I was a Girl Scout Leader for 12 years and a Cub Scout leader for 3 years. After the kids went off to college, I was lost. Nothing exciting to do! Chris bought me a telescope for Mother's Day, and I joined an astronomy club in Maine that had just opened an observatory. After that, I was hooked. I learned how to use the telescope, find objects in the sky, and loved showing these objects to the public at star parties. I spend lots of time reading books on physics related to astronomy and organized a Space Day once a year for the whole school district for 6 years. I took informal astronomy classes at the university planetarium and got brave enough to apply for the Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Education in Astronomy at Mt. Wilson Observatory in California. I never thought I would really get

selected for this. I hadn't had even one official astronomy course. But I told myself, you never will know if you don't try. And to my complete surprise, I was accepted. It was one of the most exciting moments in my life. I learned so much and even got to do my own personal photometry project and present it to astronomers at the observatory.



After that I applied to become a NASA Solar System Ambassador for Maine. I became very active in astronomy outreach for two astronomy clubs in Maine. I do astronomy activities as a volunteer in Maine schools and for the public. At Mt. Wilson, one of my instructors began a global organization called Astronomers Without Borders, which I also became active in. In 2009, I joined a citizen science group called Citizen Sky, which was part of the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers). This is the organization in which I became the leader of the team of Southern Hemisphere astronomers which created the tutorial for beginning variable star observers in the Southern Hemisphere.

Through AWB and Citizen Sky I got to know my Nepali friend, Riway. We shared many ideas for astronomy outreach and he invited me to come to Nepal to visit. I stayed 6 weeks, got to know his family and friends, and had many wonderful adventures. His family is now like a second family to me and he is now working on his doctorate in astrophysics at University of Massachusetts Amherst. I have since returned to Nepal 2 other times for a month each time and had the opportunity to visit remote places in western Nepal, Chitwan National Park, part of the Annapurna trekking circuit, and many other places. I had always wanted to return to Nepal and to get to know the culture, the people, and live as a Nepali. Going there as a tourist wasn't on my bucket list.



I returned to Thailand to visit friends there in 2007. I was worried that I might have forgotten a lot of my Thai; but, after one day there, I was speaking as if I had never left. I will never forget how my Thai friends treated me. I felt like a queen. There was a new president at the university in Uttaradit. He heard I was coming and organized a big dinner to which he invited any teacher who had worked there as well as students that knew me. I had planned to go to Lampang to visit one teacher friend and the president wouldn't let me go by train. He got a student to go with me and sent me in his personal vehicle. The university had begun a program to train students in tourism, and he had a room for me there. The hospitality was amazing.

Most of my time now is spent doing astronomy outreach, doing things with my family, and going to Nepal to be with my Nepali friends. I enjoyed teaching, but teaching astronomy is definitely my favorite thing to teach.

I am looking forward to hearing what all of you are doing and have done in all those years since we left Peace Corps. Peace Corps changed my life in so many ways. It gave me courage to try things that were new and different. It enriched my life with people from around the world. It made me believe that people everywhere are basically the same, which is what gives me hope for the world.

## CATHY HEMPHILL

There's no question that my two years in Thailand had a huge impact on my life. I think it is one of the things I am most proud of. And it provided me with a lifetime of funny stories.

I had not kept in touch with any of my students (regrettably), but about a year and a half ago they found me. It's been delightful reconnecting and learning how their lives have played out. And it's wonderful to know that I had a positive effect on some lives. I'm really looking forward to this reunion and the chance to reconnect with so many from our group. I know it'll be better than Facebook.

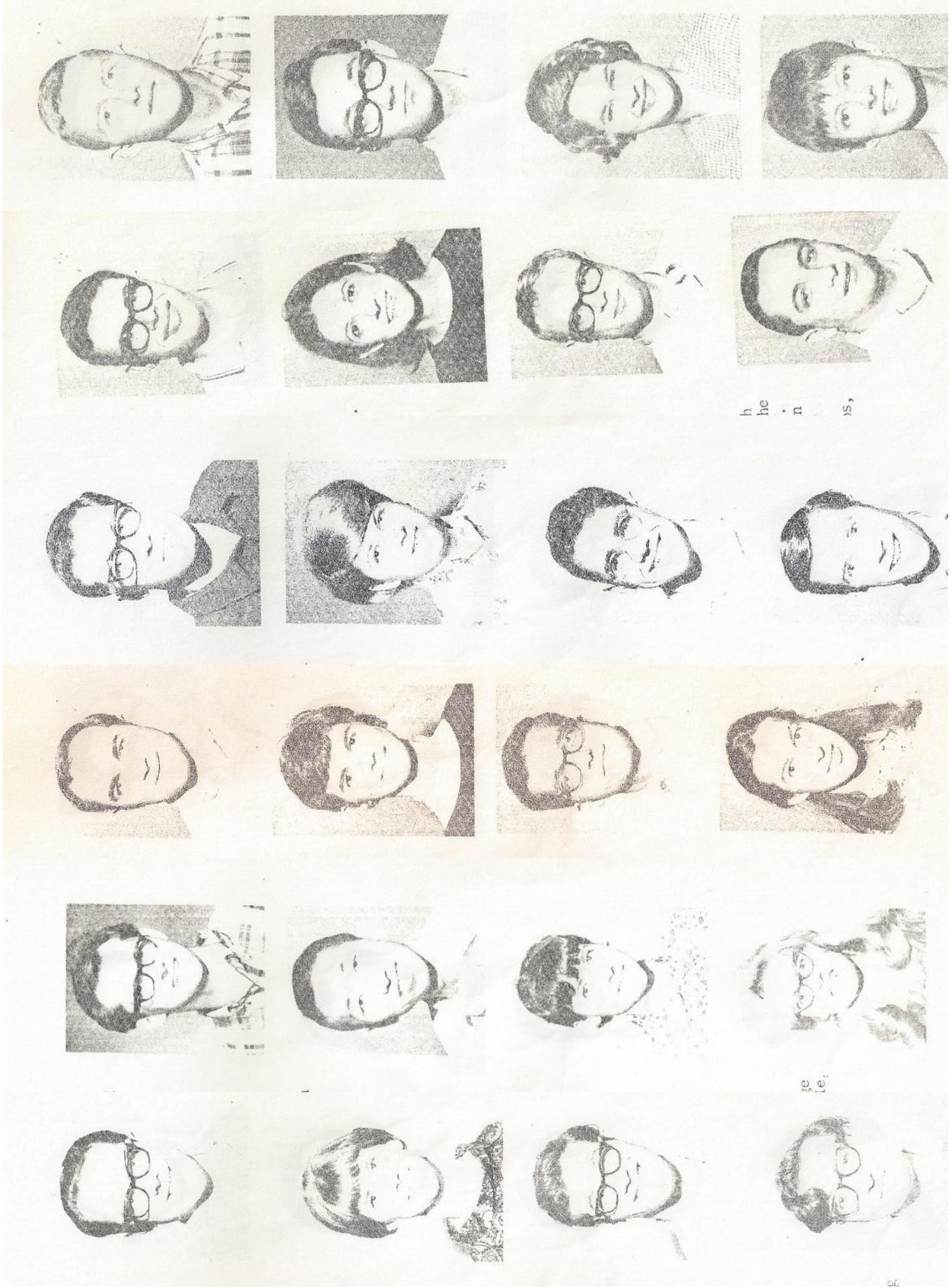
To me, my life has been fun, interesting and productive. To others, probably not so much, so I'll keep it brief.

In the years since Peace Corps:

- I've been married (yes, to a man). That didn't work out too well on so many levels, so I've been divorced.
- I've struggled with life at times – who/what am I, what's important?
- I've been both lucky and unlucky in love. Once I accepted that I'm gay (and that took quite a while), it became easier. I had a wonderful, long relationship with my soul mate, Sally. It was unfortunately cut short when she died of cancer. It was a marvelous life while it lasted, though.
- I've been very lucky with friends. I have several close ones who've been with me for a very long time - some since Peace Corps, others since shortly after.
- My career wasn't what I'd planned. I thought I'd be a teacher, and eventually I did do a lot of teaching and course writing, but first I took a "temporary" job with the IRS. It was the only job I could find when I returned from Thailand. I retired from there 26 years later. Along the way I got my MBA, worked all around the country and the world, wrote and taught many technical and managerial courses, and finished as Chief of the Appeals Office in San Diego. During those years I was often the first or only woman in the position and like to think I opened a few eyes and doors. It was a successful and interesting career and allowed me to have a comfortable retirement for the last 20 years.
- Since retiring I've worked several days a week as a volunteer in a variety of organizations- The LGBT Community Center, San Diego Gay Pride, office of Councilmember Toni Atkins and California Police Athletic Federation. It's been great fun!
- Since Thailand I've lived in LA, DC, Bonn, Manila and San Diego, where I've been for the past 32 years. I can't think of a better place to live and hope you'll enjoy your visit here.

Cathy

WHO WERE/ARE THESE PEOPLE??



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## **GEORGE LEE**

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MBA FRESNO, 1974-1975

Ph. D. IN ECONOMICS – UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MASTER OF CEREMONY OF CHINA NIGHT – UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, 1971, 72-79  
ABOUT 600 PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR 1974, 1975- UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, UNDERGRADUATE  
ECONOMICS

MASTER OF CEREMONY OF NARCISSUS QUEEN CONTEST, COMPETITION OF  
MOST ACCOMPLISHED CHINESE WOMEN IN HAWAII, 1972.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIST, EB/PAS STATE DEPT., 1978

CHIEF ECONOMIST, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF TAIWAN, 1980-1983

ECONOMIC OFFICER - US CONSULATE GENERAL, HONGKONG, 1983 – 1985.

COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ, AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CHINA, 1985 – 1986

ACTING COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CHINA, 1986 – 1987

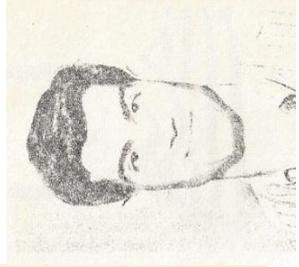
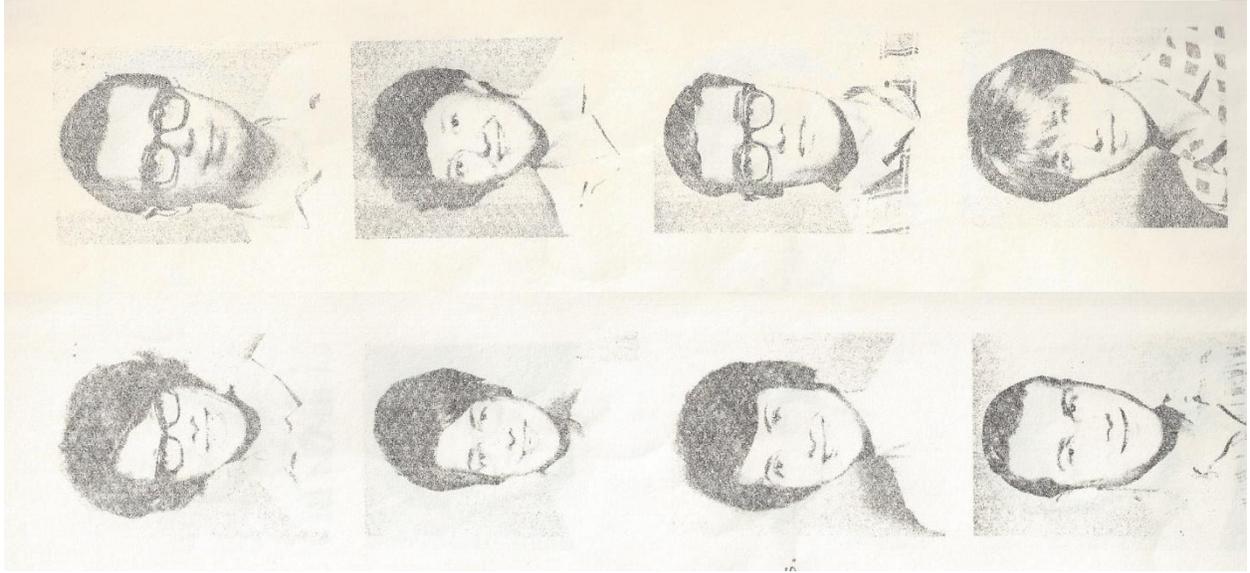
PROFESSOR, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY,  
1987 – 1988

TENURED PROFESSOR, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, SAN FRANCISCO STATE  
UNIVERSITY, 1988- 2012

DIRECTOR OF US-CHINA INSTITUTE, 1988 – 2012.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, 2012 - PRESENT

**WHO WERE/ARE THESE PEOPLE??**



## BURGESS NEEDLE

I was one happy camper when Peace Corps-Thailand told me that since Bangkok and Boston (my home town) were equidistant, I was going to get the largest travel check possible! To sum it up, Air France got me a 1500 mile air corridor and a one year open ticket with my check allowing me to visit and have a few adventures in: Angkor Wat, Calcutta, New Delhi, Katmandu, Kabul, Istanbul, Athens (and islands in the Aegean) and



finally Zurich where I ran out of money and although I still had ticketed stops in Paris, Dublin and London, had to fly directly back to Boston. Cannot complain! Fairly disoriented back in the states. Ended up working as an assistant machinist for American Can Plant #71 in Needham, Massachusetts for a year. My girlfriend and I worked out a deal where I'd help pay for her graduate program and, when she was finished and hopefully employed, she would help pay for my graduate program.

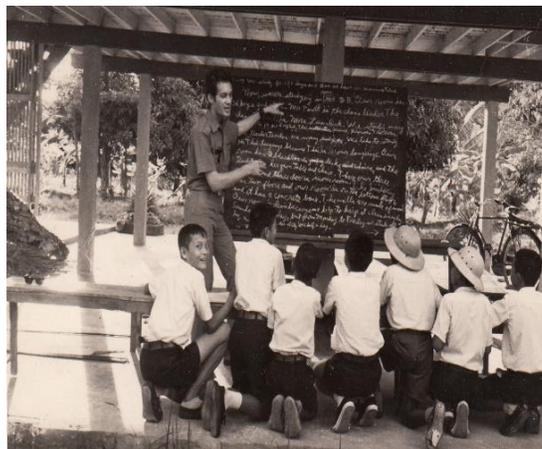
Again, to sum it up, she ended up with a Masters in Teaching degree and drove with me to Tucson when I enrolled in the newly-formed graduate library program, earned a certificate in school library science, secondary language arts AND junior college certification in 'education.' My girlfriend hated Tucson, left for greener pastures, leaving me to meet, fall in love with and marry Barbara, the woman I married and lived with for almost forty years, before she succumbed to pulmonary failure in 2013. We had a terrific life together, sharing our mutual interests in literature, music and travel. In 2001, Barbara was the recipient of a double-lung transplant and given an additional ten years of life which we spent traveling. The high point was a return trip to Thailand in 1995. Funny, I did not recall a Toyota dealership in the provincial capital last time I was there. Our experiences driving along California's Highway #1 were incredible, especially the first sights we had of the Oregon coast.

While Barbara worked as a school psychologist, I worked as a school librarian in both junior high and high schools in the same district. Whenever I had free time I wrote: novels, plays, short stories, essays, freelance articles and poetry. Just always wanted to write, so I wrote. I've been fortunate enough to have had a dozen or so short stories published in various on-line magazines and had even more success with poetry, having over a hundred or so appearing in small press publications here, there, and everywhere, including: Connotation Press, 10,000 Tons of Black Ink, Inkapture (UK), Blackbox Manifold (UK), Concho River Review, Raving Dove, Boston Literary Magazine, Decanto (UK), Centrifugal Eye, Iodine, Kritya (India), Prism Review, Blue Lake Review, Minotaur, Nutshell Magazine (UK) and DeComp Magazine among others.. Diminuendo Press published my first poetry collection: EVERY CROW IN THE BLUE SKY. @. 2009. My second collection, THAI COMIC BOOKS was published in 2013 by Big Table Press. My most recent collection is titled FADED PHOTO BRINGS IT BACK (available on Kindle). I'm currently trying to whittle down a 600 page journal I kept while living in Nangrong, Buriram to see if there are any possible commercial chances of having it published. The novels sit on a shelf in my office gathering dust.

The high points of my teaching career included: doing Edgar Alan Poe presentations to junior high students [planting and finding a bloody piece of calves liver under the teacher's desk - as reference to the Tell-Tale Heart - being the high point of those shows]; giving astronomy/mythology shows to middle and high school students in a special room where all the constellations of the Northern Hemisphere glow on a painted ceiling and, finally, presentations to the faculty on the joys of writing across the curriculum [somehow motivating them to see the process as 'joy'].

Echoing so many conversations my parents and their friends had when I was growing up, I now also find myself referencing my various ills, ailments and operations. What fun to be in my Golden Years. Anyone else still have their gall bladder? Prostate? Appendix? How about having a tumor on your pituitary? Got that one out through my nose. Even more fun! Parkinsons? Yup, I can check that one off. Oh yes, and a few intestinal blockages that ended up in scary hospital stays and finally being diagnosed with Crohns Disease. Okay, that's it, folks. No more talk about our bodies. I'm trying to stay healthy, eat less sugar, no alcohol and find myself sipping an occasional coffee as a special treat. My life has been blessed with wonderful friends who all seem to have an inexhaustible supply of talents: architecture, bird watching, lots of mental health specialist and, of course, poets. Love them one and all. I really look forward to meeting and sharing with as many people from Thailand XVIII as show up at the reunion. My experiences during training on Hawaii and my two years teaching in northeast Thailand will always remain extraordinarily special experiences in my life.

Latest chapter in my life: After fifty-three years I reconnected with my first girlfriend, Marcia, and both of us realized it was time to pick up where we'd left off. The only wrinkle in the current situation is that my home is in Tucson and hers is in Ripton, Vermont. That is why I am arriving for the reunion in San Diego from Vermont! Our plans are to continue nurturing our good times together within the context of sharing the best of both climates. We're continually astonished, as we back track our respective lives, how closely we've geographically criss-crossed paths, read the same books, enjoyed the same films and hummed lyrics to the same songs. I've shared many stories with her about my adventures in Thailand and heard Marcia's tales of years spent in Iran. Both of us look forward to the reunion and a chance to re-establish old friendships and forge new ones.



## **Alan Roth bio (includes both professional and volunteer work)**

### **Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, Advanced Fusion Systems LLC** April 2008 – Present (7 years 5 months)

Principal, VP for Business Development and Chief Risk Officer

Participated in the founding of the firm. Breakthrough technologies in the fields of high energy physics for the electric power industry, for waste remediation, for medical applications, for space vehicles and more. We have a manufacturing plant with research laboratories. Total space 250,000 sq ft, investment nearing \$100 million.

### **Manager, Business Development, Hudson Research, Inc.** 1995 – 2009 (14 years)

Breakthrough technologies in the fields of high energy physics and electro-optics for military and industrial applications.

### **Chair, General Competition Division, USA Track & Field** January 2002 – December 2008 (7 years)

This division, during the period I was Chair, was one of 3 operational divisions of this national governing body and included the activities of 3 committees: Associations, Masters Track & Field, Youth Athletics. It would be better labeled the Grass Roots Division as it covered all activities that operated outside of national elite competition. While in this position, I created America's Running Routes which gave runners an opportunity to map their running routes online and save them in a structured database. I had good staff support to put it online. It now contains over 500,000 routes. You can see it at: <http://www.usatf.org/routes/>

I also initiated and managed a randomized, controlled study of pre-run stretching as there was no science on which to base this activity. There was considerable disagreement about it as many coaches were telling their runners "You must stretch before you run!" while others insisted "Don't ever stretch before you run!" The study was a 5-year effort and concluded that it really didn't matter whether you stretched or not. However, the devil was in the details as we found that if you were normally a pre-run stretcher, you should maintain that. We had a good team that did the study with me and we had good staff support. You can access the study at: <http://www.usatf.org/stretchstudy/index.asp>

### **Chair, Associations Committee, USA Track & Field** January 1999 – December 2008 (10 years)

USATF has 57 associations that cover the U.S. The associations provide services to athletes in their territory. This includes coaching education, event sanctioning, training of officials, officiating at events, putting on championships in track and field and long distance running that include youth, open and masters categories. Each association is represented on the Associations Committee. The Committee's Executive Committee meets via monthly conference calls and in person twice during the year. The Committee puts on a Workshop each year attended by leaders of most associations. The Chair position had a 2-year term so I was elected 5 times. The Committee works to enhance the work of all of the associations in each discipline as well as in administration. It was a very demanding volunteer job.

### **President, Advanced Product Distributors, Inc.** January 1991 – December 2008 (18 years)

Handled a number of advanced specialty chemical products for industrial, commercial and consumer markets. Handled sales for most of the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Greece, France, Czech Republic.

### **Announcer (24 years), New York City Marathon** November 1980 – October 2003 (23 years)

Did the announcing for the Expo, MC at International Friendship Run, MC at Pasta Party, announcing at Staging Area, announcing at Start. The International Friendship Run started with a ceremony on the plaza of the United Nations where 15,000 international runners attended. I did a lengthy welcome to them in 17 languages. For all of my announcing for the marathon, I used 7 languages consistently as there were many runners who did not speak English. For some years, half the runners were from overseas.

I also announced many other races over many years. Among them were the 2000 Olympic Trials Men's Marathon and the Pittsburgh Marathon.

### **President, Potomac Valley Association of USA Track & Field** May 1995 – April 1999 (4 years)

### **Founder and Manager, Achilles Track Club of Greater Washington** May 1986 – April 1992 (6 years)

Club is for physically disabled athletes.

### **Development Consultant, Independent Consultant for AID, United Nations, World Bank, Argonne National Laboratory**

April 1979 – December 1990 (11 years 9 months) Africa and Asia

Major emphasis was on management, planning, and evaluation of development programs and projects in Third World countries. Within these specializations, consulting varied among the following disciplines: policy analysis, marketing, institutional development, development economics, and management information systems. A major theme was advancing the role of the private sector in development.

In addition to these broader development skills, there was a focus on three major technical fields; agriculture, public health and energy. In agriculture, the focus was on agricultural economics and marketing. In public health, the focus was mainly on management systems and policy analysis. In energy, most of the work was on economic and financial feasibility studies for both large and small projects, public and private and covered a broad range of energy technologies.

Had the role of team leader as well as subject-matter specialist for many of the consulting assignments.

### **Founder and Manager, Greater Washington Running Council** March 1984 – May 1990 (6 years 3 months)

An umbrella organization for DC area running clubs to deal with common issues.

### **Consultant, Development Alternatives Inc.** April 1976 – May 1989 (13 years 2 months)

Was a senior staff member for first 3 years and then did occasional consulting work for the company for about ten years. The work was in many countries in Africa and Asia.

**President, Washington Running Club** January 1984 – December 1985 (2 years)

**Manager and Lecturer: Training Projects, Practical Concepts Inc.** April 1975 – March 1976 (1 year) Washington, D.C. and abroad

I both managed and lectured in training programs in planning and evaluation methodology. This included program and project strategic planning and detailed project planning that included risk management and evaluation. These training programs generally were a week in duration for about 15 senior managers and were implemented in the U.S., Canada and numerous countries in Africa and Asia.

## **Projects**

**Keynote Speaker - Annual Meeting of the Japanese Running Society in Tokyo**

Keynote speech was two hours to enable time for spontaneous translation. Speech focused on the creation and early development of the New York City Marathon and on the dynamics of volunteerism in road racing in America. March 29, 2001

**Solo Speaker at Enterprise Risk Management Symposium - Concurrent Session titled "Anticipating Black Swans" March 15, 2011 75-minute presentation**

Approx. 75 people. Symposium sponsored by the following non-profit organizations: Society of Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society, the Joint Risk Management Section, and Professional Risk Managers' International Association, in collaboration with the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, Asociacion Mexicana De Actuarios, Enterprise Risk Management International Institute, and Colegio Nacional de Actuarios. The session first provided basic information about the major systemic threats that can break down our economy and our enterprises. The risk probabilities of each of the threats was discussed.

**Solo Speaker at luncheon meeting of the Chicago Chapter of the Power & Energy Society of the IEEE. April 13, 2011 1-hour presentation**

Presentation topic: EMP [electromagnetic pulse]

Audience of 22 engineers among which were 18 electrical engineers who have worked on transformers. Included discussion of solar storms, geomagnetic storms, high-altitude EMP, non-nuclear EMP. Examines what these are and how they can affect the electric grid. Also examined means to mitigate the damage.

**Webcast solo speaker for the Canadian Institute of Actuaries - Title is "Emerging Risks of Grave Importance: Providing Clarity and Understanding." Oct. 13, 2011 - 75 minutes**

The risks that were covered include Solar Storms (inc. EMP), Extreme Weather Events, Water Scarcity, Food Scarcity, Cyber Threat, Climate Change, Pandemics, and Earthquakes/Tsunamis. Most of these have a black swan aspect to them. We generally just go on with life with the expectation that we'll be okay. That full impact from any one of them is unlikely, at least for the near future, and we are busy with life as it is.

**Solo Speaker for Global ERM Webcast: Preparing for the Unexpected: Enhancing the Actuarial Toolkit, Asia - Pacific Agenda - Presentation title: "Anticipating Black Swans" December 8, 2011 - 15 minutes**

Due to time constraint, my focus was on solar storms/electromagnetic pulse.

Hosted by The Joint Risk Management Section of the Society of Actuaries, Casualty Actuarial Society, and Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the AFIR/ERM section of the International Actuarial Association, the Institute of Actuaries of Japan, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and the Institute of Actuaries of Australia, in conjunction with The International Network of Actuarial Risk Managers.

**Speaker for a General Session of the Spring meeting of the Casualty Actuaries of New England April 2, 2012**

90-minute solo presentation for an audience of 320 actuaries, entitled "Emerging Risks - Knowns and Unknowns" The URL for the PowerPoint presentation is: <http://www.casact.org/affiliates/CANE/0412/Roth.pptx>

The presentation covered solar storms/electromagnetic pulse, climate change, water scarcity, food scarcity and pandemics.

**Speaker for two Sessions at the 2012 ERM Symposium April 19, 2012: 90-minute General Session "Enterprise Risk Management Blind Spots: Prophets of Emerging Risk" and 75-minute Concurrent Session "Managing Risk in a Dangerously Changing World"(Link)**

Dr. Roth's General Session audience of 400+ people combining risk managers and actuaries. His topics included Climate Change, Water Scarcity and Food Scarcity. The session was shared with two other speakers. The session's URL: <http://cas.confex.com/cas/erm12/webprogram/Session4922.html>.

**Speaker for a General Session of the Taming Cats Seminar of the Casualty Actuarial Society Oct 2012**

Audience was about 135 actuaries. The full name of the Seminar is "Taming Cats-Managing Natural and Man-Made Catastrophe Risks." My solo General Session of 75 minutes was entitled "Examining Emerging Risks." I spoke on climate change, solar storms/EMP, water scarcity, food scarcity, and pandemics.

**Most recent article/report:** "Vitamin D: An opportunity for Improving Athletic Performance", published in the American Medical Athletic Association Journal, March, 2014, Provides evidence to show that a vitamin D [25(OH)D] blood serum level of 50 ng/mL provides an opportunity for athletes to improve their athletic performance. Most athletes have a blood serum level that shows deficiency and need to supplement with more sun exposure or more capsules. Usually, capsules of 5,000 iu daily will achieve that blood serum level. There is also some evidence presented that shows vitamin D helps reduce injuries and boosts the immune system.

**Education:** Ph.D. in Development Administration/Economics, New York University, 1974.

## TIM RYNKOFS

I loved our three month training program in Pepeekeo and also my teaching experience in Sankampang, the little silk village outside of Chiangmai. I spent a lot of my time in Sankampang with the Shinawatra family who owned Shinawatra Silk. Chansom Shinawatra became my Thai mother. Khun Chanson's nephew (Taksin) and niece (Yingluck) later became prime ministers of Thailand.

In 1969, with the Vietnam War still hanging over my head, I applied and was accepted to a two year federally funded Teacher Corps Program in Hawaii. I was assigned to the Waianae Coast which is about an hour's drive from Honolulu and did my internship at an elementary school. At the end of the two years, I had my first master's degree and a teaching credential. I still live in the same area and in the same condo I purchased over forty years ago. It has an incredible view of Makaha Valley and the Pacific Ocean and it has become my refuge from the world. I tell people I can't make my small condo any bigger but I can always make it nicer.

I taught regular ed for a number of years and later became the writing resource teacher for our large elementary school. The journey to improve my own teaching of writing to students led me to the University of New Hampshire from 1984-1987. I loved the change of seasons as New England in the fall is something that everyone should put on their bucket list. I returned to my teaching position in Hawaii in 1987 but did not finish my Ph.D. program until six years later, in 1993. I then took a teaching position as a gifted and talented resource teacher for the district until the year 2000. I had just retired from the State of Hawaii Dept. of Education when an associate offered me a position with Kamehameha Schools, which is a private school for Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian students. Promising only a one year commitment, I took a position as a support person for language arts at a local public elementary school. It was a great fit for my background and I continued in that position for six years until 2006.

For twenty years I worked part time for a small travel agency in Honolulu. I escorted tours for people traveling from Hawaii to the "Mainland" and eventually to Europe. I especially enjoyed the East Coast Tour which included Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C., and New York City. The job required organization and communication and that's what we do as teachers so it was, again, a good fit.

When I first moved to Hawaii I took up tennis and later became an avid runner for over twenty years, having completed nine Honolulu marathons. When my legs told me I shouldn't be running any more, I started walking at a good pace and continue that until today. I also go to the gym regularly and enjoy the social part of it while getting a good workout with my gym buddies. I've been blessed with good health and the stent in my heart and my hip replacement have not slowed me down.

I'm considering relocating to San Diego in the near future. My history and friends are in Hawaii but my family (brother, sister, cousins and their families) all live in San Diego and I feel the need to be near them. In fact, I will be looking for a place when I come to the reunion next month. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with everyone and want to thank Cathy for organizing it.

## **CHRIS (SMITH) SARGENT**

### **Who I am now – September 2015**

**Wife, Mother of 2 boys, grandmother of 2 girls and 1 boy – all teenagers.**

### **What I have done the past 46 years**

**Worked on staff at Peepekeo for Thai group that replaced us (with Mary Sauter)**

**Home for eye surgery and then back to Thailand for 3 months – just hanging out**

**Led group of students to Norway for Experiment in International Living.**

**Got married in 1971 (met Lee in Thailand while he was in the Army.) – David born in 1976 and Michael in 1978**

**Worked for my church from 1977 to 1990**

**Became involved with Youth for Understanding International Exchange and hosted 23 students from Asia, Europe and South America. Volunteered and worked for the organization until last year. Still support as I can.**

**Acquired another wonderful son from Burkina Faso in 1997 who is currently living with us again.**

**Foster parented 13 children and became instructor for Foster Parent Training class for 8 years.**

### **Currently**

**Enjoying partial retirement – Lee retired two years ago and so far we haven't killed each other.**

**Working 2 days a week at a veterinary clinic (been there 16 years).**

**Have collected several animals over the years – even before I started working at the clinic. Most people would agree I have become a certifiable crazy cat lady – though we also have two wonderful dogs.**

**Grandchildren growing up and keep us busy with their activities and just hanging out with us. Lots of school, sport and music events on the calendar.**

**Have been co-pastor of our church in Seattle for the past 2 years.**

**Get together with Cathy Hemphill and Nancy Davis Hill every two years to reminisce and relax. Most recent trip was in April this year to Washington, D.C. where we connected with Alan Roth.**

**Falling apart with old age. Had one knee replaced 4 years ago and had a partial replacement on the other knee the end of July. Forgot the joys of rehab – but trying to stay focused on the point where I start feeling glad I had it done and being pain-free.**

**Remembering 1967-1969 and looking forward to seeing everyone in September.**



## The Years Gone By: 1969-2015 Chrys & George Smith

In 1969, as we were preparing to leave Thailand, George decided that pursuing his doctorate in SE Asian history would be more interesting, and open more doors, than his planned return to grad school in American history. Well, he had one part of that correct. We both enjoyed our time at Northern Illinois University, where Chrys earned an MA in political science with concentration in SE Asia; we had a circle of close friends with SEA interests and experience (mostly young faculty members who are now well-known scholars in SEA studies); and our older daughter, Rebecca, was born in 1970 (note: when young, she'd often talk about when "we lived in Thailand," so immersed was she in things Thai). We went to the first Thai restaurant in Chicago, opened in 1971. We spent a year in The Hague, where George conducted research for his dissertation, "The Dutch East India Company in the Kingdom of Ayutthaya, 1604-1694." When he was finished, it was 1974 and, as you may recall, no one really wanted to talk about SE Asia, let alone have its history taught at the college level. So plans changed, and it was quite a while before we returned to Asia, though of course the impact of our Peace Corps experience was always with us – if nothing else, in its impact on our preferred foods.



Phase Two of our RPCV days took us to Urbana-Champaign, where George got a degree in library science, got the all-time best reference librarian position, and then moved to a library system. Chrys was an editor for the University of Illinois Press. We bought a house, had a second daughter, Morgen, in 1977, and lived happily, though with our hearts pining for the Pacific Northwest, the mountains, and the ocean. In 1979 George got a job at the Oregon State Library and we were off for home, Salem, where both sets of parents lived. Chrys continued her "liberal arts approach to career development" path and worked for the state as a researcher and legislative aide and then at Linfield College as a development officer. George ended up with four different jobs in our six years in Oregon – two of them in small public libraries which he cleaned up and left to others.

Then started a new adventure – our lives in Alaska, which we embraced as an extension of our Peace Corps experience – a chance to live in what in many ways was/is a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country, where many people (especially then) had no running water or sewer, government business in villages was often conducted in a Native language, the economy is based on exploitation of natural resources by outside companies, and travel is very difficult. It was wonderful for us and for our daughters – one still lives in Juneau (where she returned after college in Indiana, grad school at UC- Davis, and Peace Corps in Nepal) and the other, who has become even more of a Northerner, lives in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada (after college in MN, grad school in Vancouver and Montreal, and some time in Portland and Juneau)..

We moved to Juneau in 1985 when George became Deputy Director of the Alaska State Library. When he retired 20 years later he was Director of the State Library, Archives, and Museums. In between he'd been all over the state helping libraries assess needs, plan and build new facilities, and work with local officials; served on numerous national library research task forces; been an American Library Association fellow at the National Library of Cambodia; represented the State Department in Bulgaria; and, avocationally, coached and refereed youth and amateur adult soccer for 19 years as well as fishing and hiking a lot.

Alaska offered great opportunities, and Chrys benefited from several of those, ending her career in Alaska in 2005 as senior legislative aide to a state senator after spending 7.5 years as Special Assistant to the Attorney General, an amazing job with chances to work on key policy issues as well as travel in Alaska and to meet and work with public officials from around the state and nation. Prior to our year in Cambodia (1994-95), Chrys was second in command of the Alaska Municipal League, another fascinating job with contacts throughout the vast and diverse state. Volunteer activities for her focused on Girl Scouts, first as a leader, then as a board member. The kids thrived and grew up in the culturally enriched small town that is Juneau, and they both benefitted from the schools' emphasis on outdoor education and knowledge of the SE Alaskan environment. They played soccer and musical instruments, were active Girl Scouts, hiked, fished, and learned to be actively involved in their community, which both still are.

In 1994-95 George's ALA fellowship in Cambodia got us back to Asia for the first time since 1969. We (and Morgen, our younger daughter) loved the experience of being in Phnom Penh right after the country's first elections. Morgen and I volunteered/ worked for NGOs, she studied a classical Khmer musical instrument with a former member of the Royal Orchestra who was working as a barber, some of us (Morgen and George) learned a little Khmer, and we immersed ourselves once again in SEA culture, including trips to Angkor to revisit what we'd first seen in 1969. We also got to Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, where, in Kalasin, we were asked to address the opening day assembly at Chrys's old school!! Since '95, we've been to Nepal (to see our PCV daughter and revisit places we'd seen in '69), Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Bhutan, and India. Do you see a pattern here? We've only been to Europe briefly since we lived in the Netherlands – Asia still seems like home!

In 2005 we both retired from Alaska state government after George was recruited for a job at the Institute of Museum and Library Services. He ran the grant program that provides federal funds to state libraries to support library development. Living in an American big city was a new experience for us, and what a treat it was to be in DC, living on Capitol Hill. After three years (the time he'd promised to stay), George retired again (Chrys never got un-retired) and we moved back to Juneau, where our daughter and son-in-law had been taking good care of our house.

By late 2010 we'd decided that a variety of issues were pointing us toward another move, this one to Portland. Our top five factors were: good public transit (Chrys can't drive anymore); good medical care (that has proved to be very important); theater; music; and, very important, food (at which Portland excels). Not ready to enter a retirement center, we bought a house in a older neighborhood and are enjoying life here thoroughly. George, ever the historian, is volunteering as an archivist for the Oregon Historical Society and Chrys's major efforts have been focused on trying to save an oak savanna in the neighborhood from being developed. Portland has many things we love, including great Asian markets, a Lao temple, Hmong flower sellers at every farmers' market, two professional soccer teams, and wonderful restaurants and neighborhoods.



We'll be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January and sometimes think about those "glorious" days in the Pepeekeo school home ec building where we married couples shared space with just partial walls between our living quarters. We visited the old site a couple of years ago – no school, but the area is a community park and the little grocery store is still there. We talked with the owner, whose family owned the store when we were there – no cock fighting now, apparently. But talk about places that have changed – Pepeekeo is now a very desirable place to live, with very expensive housing development!

We've kept in touch with Bob Harcharek (our older daughter's godfather and Alaska resident for many more years than we) and Burges Needle, who we've seen periodically when we've been in Tucson. It's been fun to reconnect with Cathy and we are looking forward to the reunion.

JENNIFER SMITH STIEFEL

## Thai 18 Report

As I was travelling home with Joan French, I was intending to attend seminary to learn more about Christianity, specifically of the Episcopal/Anglican variety (I'd been baptized as a college sophomore, as most of my classmates left the church of their parents). But back then there were few opportunities even for non-ordained (lay) women, and Episcopal seminaries were reluctant to accept them.

Robert Stiefel, whom I'd met in college and with whom I'd been corresponding, met me at the airport in NYC. There I discovered I'd applied to the wrong seminary (not Episcopal, although ecumenical and welcoming but offering no clear career path). We drove back to Boston/Cambridge and wound up marrying on Dec 6, 1969. Beforehand, Robert told me that he was gay, but that like most gays of his generation he had grown up not wanting to be gay. In fact he had undergone treatment at Harvard Medical School to be "cured" (remember how long ago that was?).

By then we had moved to Haverford College PA, where Robert had begun teaching in the German Dept. The next six years, drawing on my PC experience, I worked in various paralegal and middle school teaching positions. Then we decided together to pursue studies at an Episcopal seminary in Wisconsin, Robert for ordination to the priesthood and I still trying to figure out what to do as a laywoman. We graduated in 1978, both with M.Divs. Through classmate connections and internships we wound up working for the Bishop of Colorado, Robert as his assistant, and I as a writer and developer for the lectionary-based curriculum *Living the Good News*.

I gave talks on baptismal (the deeper term for lay) ministry as this concept developed, women in the Bible, feminine imagery for God, and then taught courses in New Testament, beginning Greek, and the critical study of Scripture; then on the renewal of the diaconate. In this understanding the minister/priest represents the transcendent relation of God and humans, and the deacon stands for the horizontal relation between God and the world, together forming a cross. This finally made a way for me to understand how I might act out ministry for myself, and I was ordained as a deacon in May 1985. A deacon is "to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely," and "to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world" (*Book of Common Prayer*, 543).

JENNIFER SMITH STIEFEL

Concurrently, I decided to pursue graduate work in New Testament, first in Colorado and then in NYC. I finally focused sufficiently to complete a PhD in New Testament at Union Theological Seminary in 2000, just in time to be waylaid by medical problems. Now in NH (a very vanilla state), I joined the Seacoast NAACP to hear and express the concerns of the local Black community. You can see how my Peace Corps experience has shaped my life.

As my primary life accomplishment I submit our marriage of 40+ years. Robert and I continue exploring the relationship between a gay man and a straight woman in love. As time passed Robert was drawn to investigate his homosexuality and we looked at many aspects together. In NH, our public relationship took a new turn on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997 when, with my support and the support of his Bishop and parish, he came out (as a front-page story in regional media) as a gay Episcopal priest. Now, still in love, we approach the final miles together. From our address you can gather that we're now at a stage determined by our physical limitations, living in a retirement center where we serve as unofficial resident chaplains and lead weekly services of Holy Communion.

## Peace Corps Thailand Group XVIII Reunion

San Diego

September 2015

### Harvey and Janya (Lek) Somers

In my second year, I was moved from the Matayom Boys' School in Yala to spend a year at the Regional Inspector of Education's Office in Songkhla, Lek's home town. I asked Lek, a recent Chula graduate, to teach me to read Thai. I wound up extending my Peace Corps service to spend a third year at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science – while our long-distance romance deepened. We were married in April 1970 after the end of my third Peace Corps year.



*Family and friends gather for the wedding in Songkhla: L → R: Lek, Harvey, Tom Wallace (Peace Corps Thailand Regional Director for the South), Lek's sister Primprau, Judy Wallace, Lek's sister Patana, Bill Shaw and his wife Wannee (also Lek's sister)*

After a year spent mostly in Army training in 1971, we moved to Los Angeles where I was accepted into a Southeast Asian History graduate program at UCLA. Our first daughter, Jennifer, was born in 1974, just before we returned to Thailand for two years of teaching and research. We were back at UCLA in 1976, where I taught summer school. But interest in

Southeast Asia waned after the Vietnam War ended, financial assistance disappeared, and we wound up moving to Cleveland to spend some time working in the family business – selling cameras. Our son, Jeremy was born there in 1978.

I had first taken the Foreign Service written test in 1969 while still in Peace Corps service in Bangkok. I kept at it, and persistence was rewarded when I finally passed the oral stage in 1979. Still the following clearance process was lengthy. After our third child, Jessica, was born in 1982, we finally were invited to D.C. in 1983.

Testing still fluent in Thai after all those years, I was immediately assigned to Embassy Bucharest for an 18-month introductory tour as a Consular Officer. Our family went on to Embassy Bangkok (Political Officer, 1985-88), returned to the D.C. area 1988-92 for a tour in the East Asia Bureau followed by Chinese language training, and then were off for a tour at the American Institute in Taipei 1992-96. We returned to D.C. 1996-2001 for two tours followed by more Chinese training. Then we were off to Guangzhou 2001-05 and finally Vientiane, Laos 2006-09.

We retired to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 2009 where we settled into a basement suite in our older daughter's home – with three of our in-house grandchildren providing constant amusement. I have been active in a range of local groups including the Southeast Michigan RPCV group, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), the Southeast Michigan Mensa group, the Ann Arbor League of Women Voters, the Dems, and the Beth Israel

Congregation among others. My hobby is collecting turtle figurines with some 7,000 now in the collection. Lek has found time for a lot of tennis (she is very competitive!) when she is not helping take care of the grandchildren. Lek continues to cook the best Thai food I have ever eaten!

Jennifer married Alon Weizer. They both have their MDs from Baylor Medical School, Jennifer in ophthalmology and Alon in urology, and now work at the University of Michigan Health Center. Their children are Audrey (10), Violet (8), and Guy (4).

*L →R: Harvey, Lek, our daughter Jennifer, Guy, Violet, Audrey at home in Ann Arbor*



Jeremy (MBA from the Wharton School) married Tomiko Duffy. He is Vice President, Energy & Power Investment Banking, at Wells Fargo Securities. They live in Charlotte, North Carolina, with another three granddaughters: Isabella (9), Mina (7), and Zoe (3).

*L →R: Harvey, Lek, Mina, Zoe, Tomiko, Isabella, Jeremy in Charlotte, N.C.*



Our younger daughter, Jessica (MBA from Harvard), is now Senior Director of Corporate Development at Evolent Health in Arlington, Virginia, a company leading the process of reshaping the future of U.S. health care.

Peace Corps Thailand was a great experience. The Foreign Service was hugely fascinating and worthwhile in terms of public service and our continuing international experiences. But watching our children and grandchildren grow and develop is now the best reward.

## **Jack and Kathy Swanson – The Last (almost) Half Century Summation**

We left Prachuab Kirikhan with a change of plans. We had planned a trip home through Europe, ending with our picking up a MGB GT. Instead, we travelled through Cambodia (Phnom Penh and Siem Reap), Taiwan, Japan (Nara, Kyoto, and Osaka), and Hawaii, arrived home in May and had a baby in August. She was originally diagnosed in Thailand as a parasite. It's a wonder she is fine as we really didn't eat well and drenched our bedroom in DDT every Friday.

Plans changed re grad school, too. Instead of Art History in Michigan, Jack did a MFA in studio art at the University of Minnesota and Kathy finished her MA in English there. Jack worked as a PC recruiter for the University and a TA in painting and drawing. Kathy landed a job teaching English at a community college. Jack joined her there, teaching courses in studio art and art history and eventually working as the Dean of Students.

Life went on: three children, a dog, a mortgage — and then the college abruptly closed (fiscal mismanagement, etc). Our PC survival skills kicked in, most importantly, frugality! Kathy was hired for one year at Augsburg College, a four year liberal arts school near the UMN west bank. After a national search and arrangements to finish the PHD, she was hired full time and has now completed thirty years as professor, eighteen years as department chair, several terms as faculty senate president, etc. etc. Jack worked for a non-profit as a counselor and then moved on to work in administration for adult basic education within the Minneapolis school system. He is now retired and trying to convince Kathy to do the same.

The children are well and happy. The Thailand baby and her husband now have three children and will spend year two teaching in an international school in Kuwait City. They also served as PC volunteers teaching in a small village in Kenya. The travel lust persists and they (and children) spent last Christmas in Sri Lanka, spring break in Egypt, and June in Kenya and Zanzibar. They will return to MN after the next school year; Christina is a PA and husband Craig is a science teacher and swim coach at Carleton. (He started a swim team in Kuwait; the team's first meet was in Qatar.) Middle child Eric also lives in Minnesota, about 20 minutes from us, and the youngest, Anna, and husband live in Durango, CO where they work for environmental agencies (Grand Canyon Trust and Verde).

Jack and Kathy have spent the last 42 years in the same house which has been expanded and revamped a few times and the last 26 summers in a cabin in northern MN. That, too, has undergone major revision but remains an oasis of calm, wooded peace where we hear only loons calling and frogs croaking most of the time. We have travelled, spending a few weeks every Christmas in a house in Puerto Morelos, Mexico and making regular trips back to Thailand with family and Kathy's Augsburg students. We are planning a trip this fall to Turkey, Egypt, Kuwait, and Jordan (Kathy is on sabbatical) and a trip with family to Thailand in June to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. So, most of the time, life is good!

We remember our days as PC volunteers as wonderful, difficult, exhilarating, and trying -- but certainly life-changing. We learned to solve problems and to persevere as we left behind the naiveté and ethnocentrism of 22-year olds fresh out of college. Despite the chaos of war around us, with our PC colleagues and friends we saw the world as place of wonder demanding exploration and all its people demanding respect. We truly share a bond with our Thailand 18 group and are very grateful for that connection and for the chance to spend time reuniting after so many years.



Prachuab 1968



Mexico 2014

## Fuller Temples

I got my draft notice the morning after I returned home from Thailand and on July 5, 1969, I found myself in the US Army. I spent the 2<sup>nd</sup> of my two years military service in Vietnam and was home again in 1971. The army was a stressful time but Cathy Hemphill, who was in Manhattan Beach at the time, was kind enough to put up with me when I needed to get away from the army. She was a good sport and I am grateful to her. After the army, I got a degree in counseling and went to work for a local school district but before I actually started my new job they moved me to the district office to manage a federal project in career education. Over the next few years I held various administrative positions in the district, mostly in federal programs, finance, and personnel.

In 1978 I was offered and accepted a position in the federal programs office of the South Carolina Department of Education and I spent the rest of my career at the SDE. The state superintendent of education is elected in our state and as time went on our state government and the education department became more and more dominated by a rising tide of right wing politics that still poisons public life in our state. As our focus shifted from serving children to serving political agendas, I decided it was time to leave and I retired in 1997. For the next ten years I did consulting for various state government and legislative offices, primarily with charter schools and management of competitive grant programs. I spent a really fun year as a consultant for our Department of Natural Resources helping consolidate their multitude of educational programs.

I gradually gave up consulting but before I could learn to be retired the big financial collapse in 2008 left my family's construction business in peril and for some reason I decided to go work as an estimator, a career for which I had no training, and stayed there "sort of" full time and only retiring from that work a few months ago. My brother always told anyone he could that my main job was to make the coffee, decide where we would eat lunch, and go to Walmart.

I have kept close connections with Thailand. Since the time I left Saraburi, my students have come here to visit and I tried to be a home away from home for those in the US for graduate school. As the years passed they have sent their children here as well. If I live long enough perhaps the grandchildren will come. My family got used to seeing a revolving cast of characters and adopted them all with enthusiasm and a generous spirit. I went back to Thailand regularly through the years. I took my parents about eight years ago for a visit. One of the most incredible coincidences of my life took place on a trip to Chiang Mai. I was with Thai friends at the umbrella factory near Tim Rynkof's town of San Kamphaeng and someone called my name and I turned to see Paul Ehrlich and Maggie who incredibly were there at the same spot and at the same time. They went with me to find Tim's friends from the silk shop and we saw each other again several times over the following weeks while I was still in Bangkok.

Last October one of my former students died. He had made his life in the US as a mathematics and computer sciences professor at the University of Houston. I went to see him at the end and was proud to give a eulogy at his funeral. He raised three lovely girls and we traveled to Thailand

several times together with small children in tow. His wife came from Houston last weekend for my father's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. On a happier note, Bu, the youngest son of the family I lived with in Saraburi, is due to become a grandfather for the second time! Bu came to live with me after I returned from Vietnam, he graduated from high school here, went to college here, and has married and raised three lovely children here, and they have been fully absorbed into the sprawling Temples clan.

Looking back I have had a quiet, uneventful life since Peace Corps and Vietnam and am content with the person I have become. I am trying to learn to be an older person and make sure this phase of my life is productive and meaningful. I keep bonsai trees and enjoy the time I spend working with them. I also collect antiquarian books, mostly being interested in the lovely bindings of 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain. I am an eager reader of all literary genres and have recently learned how to check out audiobooks for my iPod from our county library. I love to talk books with friends and family but as memory has become a problem I started keeping a book diary so I could tell people what I had been reading and also avoid buying the same book twice. My book diary reminds me of books I enjoyed and places where I read them.

I swim (that means splash around) at least four days a week at our senior center and a growing number of my days seem to involve visits to doctors though I am in reasonably good health. I don't travel as much as I once did. For many years I spent the summer in Bath, UK and from there traveled around Europe. As that trip became too hard on us we went back to spending summers on the Oregon coast, primarily in and around Newport and I am pleased to say we have rented a house in Lincoln City for next summer-- if I am still here!

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dial Barnwell Garms

**Dial Barnwell Garms**, 52, a former associate professor of English at the Institute for Technological Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka, died of a heart attack June 18 at her home in Fairfax, Va.

Ms. Garms was born in Decatur, Ill. She graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara and had recently begun a master's degree program at George Mason University. She served in the Peace Corps in Thailand and later taught English in Vietnam. She was the head librarian at the American International School in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and also worked as a volunteer with a WHO-organized program to eradicate smallpox in Bangladesh. She was a community service volunteer in the Philippines and Malawi.

Ms. Garms was a member of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, Va.

Survivors include her two daughters, Doria of Atlanta, Ga., and Diantha of Fairfax; her parents, Joseph B. and Rosemary M. Barnwell of Kensington, Calif.; and two brothers and one sister. Her marriage to David Garms, a retired FSO with the U.S. Agency for International Development, ended in divorce.

### Sandy Giusti

*written by Cathy Hemphill in 1987*

When Sandy came back to the States she moved to Los Angeles. I had a job and an apartment so she moved in until she got a substitute teaching job in Palos Verdes. She rented a funky little apartment in Manhattan Beach only two blocks from the beach. While helping her move, my sister and I fell in love with the area so we got a place nearby. Bill Holmes was living not too far away, working for Pan Am. On the weekends the four of us spent a lot of time together – mostly on the beach.

It was a wonderful, light, happy time for all of us. Sandy was at her effervescent best. She loved her teaching and often helped my sister with her class on field trips. My sister's students were emotionally handicapped kids from the inter-city.

But Sandy was still in love with Tony Hall. It had started before the Peace Corps and continued after. Tony was working in San Francisco as an assistant to Mayor Alioto and didn't want to move back to Palos Verdes. Sandy would spend hours on the phone talking to him. I finally convinced her it would be cheaper for her to fly to San Francisco for the night and talk in person.

After about a year of this Sandy decided she'd move to S.F. and see if she and Tony could work things out. She got an apartment in the North Beach area, and I made a couple of trips up to visit her. She made a great tour guide because she truly loved the city. Things were very on and off again with Tony, but she felt comfortable in San Francisco. It had become home.

I remember our last conversation. She was a little low and needed to get away for a few days. Things weren't working out with Tony. She was going to come visit me in a couple of weeks, if that was okay. A week later in San Francisco she got out of her car and was killed by a hit and run driver.

She was too young, too smart, too alive to die. She should have been given more time, but she wasn't. She lived a happy, full life in her brief time. She was a good friend.

I still miss her.



*In Memory of*  
**Douglas M Buchwalter**

**October 23, 1938 - April 29, 2013**

Douglas Merele Buchwalter 74, of Largo Florida passed away on April 29, 2013. He was born in Columbus, Ohio and graduated with honors from Ohio State University in 1960 and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1965. His academic honors included Phi Beta Kappa and the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. He was admitted to practice in the District of Columbia in 1967 and in the State of Florida in 1977 and the United States District Court Middle District of the State of Florida in 1979. Doug was a true citizen of the world. His employment experience included positions with the United States Department of Education in 1966 and 1967, the Peace Corps in Thailand, an English teacher for primary school through universities from 1967 to 1970, the FUKUI Prefecture Board of Education in Japan and as an English teacher and teacher trainer from 1970 to 1973. His civic activities include being a member of the Palm Harbor Sertoma Club, a member of the board of directors for the Clearwater Boys and Girls Club from 1994 to 1996. He was an expert in wills and trusts and spoke to various groups and associations with Raymond James and Smith Barney, Inc. He was a prolific, avid reader and book collector. He was in sole practice in downtown Clearwater since 1980. His love of books was exceeded only by his love of humanity. He had a bright and sunny disposition, he had an uncanny ability to laugh at the difficulties in life. He was the sole surviving son of Merle and Martha Buchwalter. He loved the Orient especially Thailand, its people and customs. His years in the Peace Corps left an indelible mark on his life and re-enforced his love for humanity. He was a kind, considerate and gentle soul who was almost unequally brilliant. He will be sorely missed by his friends both within and outside the legal community and by all the people whose lives he touched. If he touched a persons life, he made it better. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Moss Feaster Funeral Home Serenity Gardens Chapel in Largo FL.

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# Presidential Proclamation--50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps

*BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

## A PROCLAMATION

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps, forever changing the way America sees the world and the world sees us. Today, one of President Kennedy's most enduring legacies can be found in the over 200,000 current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have collectively given over a half century of service to the cause of peace. On its 50th anniversary, the United States Peace Corps remains an enduring symbol of our Nation's commitment to encouraging progress, creating opportunity, and fostering mutual respect and understanding throughout the world.

Over the past five decades, Peace Corps Volunteers have served in nearly 140 countries, bringing a wealth of practical assistance to those working to build better lives for themselves and their communities. From the first group of volunteers to arrive in Ghana and Tanzania in August 1961, they have been emissaries of hope and goodwill to the far corners of our world, strengthening the ties of friendship between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Living and working alongside those they serve, volunteers help address changing and complex global needs in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business and information technology, agriculture, environmental protection, and youth development. With each village that now has access to clean water, each young woman who has received an education, and each family empowered to prevent disease because of the service of a Peace Corps Volunteer, President Kennedy's noble vision lives on.

In our increasingly interconnected world, the mission of the Peace Corps is more relevant today than ever. Returned volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, bring a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions back to their home communities in the United States. The lasting accomplishments of the Peace Corps continue to strengthen partnerships with leaders and countries around the world. This year, we also mourn the loss and pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Sargent Shriver, the founding director of the Peace Corps. The impact of his decades of public service will echo forever in countless places across the globe that have been touched by the Peace Corps.

On this anniversary, we honor the men and women from across the country who have carried forward our Nation's finest tradition of service, and we rededicate ourselves to fulfilling the dream and continuing the work of all those who aspire and yearn for peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2011, as the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the Peace Corps and its volunteers, past and present, for their many contributions to the cause of global peace and friendship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

***BARACK OBAMA***

