

Class of 1976 Class News in our own words

The past several years have presented so many challenges to us all. Some of us have lost loved ones, we have lost classmates, we have endured the scourge of COVID19. Here's to the Red Class of 1976 – to those with whom we are in contact, and to those with whom we are not. If you haven't been in touch (or know someone who would like to reconnect) please email me to let me know the best way to contact you.

Ann-Dillon Dalton Costa reports "Tom and I continue to enjoy spending time at our long-time home in Yardley, Pa and have recently been doing more from our other home in the DC area as more has reopened. Seeing Anne Courtemanche and Susan Burk is always a highlight when I am in Alexandria! Two of our 4 children are married. One in Atlanta with 2 granddaughters and one in Philadelphia with a baby expected at the end of July. We are looking forward to attending the reunion dinner in July! We are thankful for all the blessings in our life."

Karen O'Keefe reports "My husband John Ready and I are well. I am looking forward to seeing as many classmates as possible at our Class Dinner Party on October 29, in conjunction with Trinity's 125 Convocation and Reunion celebration. We have only had Covid once, and it was mild thanks to an antiviral medication. We have five grandchildren, 11 and under. They are adorable. We are still living in the Maryland suburbs of D.C. For three years, we have been in the midst of an endless renovation. I am still writing. If you make it to the 10/29 class party or come to town another time, call me, we can have coffee!"

Karen Smith is keeping busy. She writes "This has been a year of change for me. I retired in March. Not sure if my timing is good considering the inflation rate since I retired. I miss having an income. I'm still figuring out what I going to do the all the time I used to spend at work. Now that summer is here, I'm enjoying additional time at the pool. I hope to spend more time in Florida next winter. In the meantime, I'm helping my sister raise a couple of Irish setter puppies. The younger puppy (son of her older grand champion) won Best of Breed 4–6-month puppy at the Irish setter National show on Colorado this June. We are proud of the little boy and looking forward to having fun showing him. Thinking about attending the reunion in October but can't commit until I know the exact dates."



Karen MacPherson writes: “As of the end of June 2022, I've been retired for a year. It's been a journey! Most of you know that our classmate and my dear friend Gail Berger died in late June 2021, just two days before I retired. It was a shock, of course, and I miss her dearly, but her death also was a vivid reminder that life is indeed both precious and finite, and that I should make the best of the days I have (especially those in which I'm in decent health). So, over the past year, I've reconnected with favorite hobbies, including continuing to refine my French conversation skills and taking up piano lessons again after a long hiatus. I've also been fortunate to find some great volunteer activities, including being on the vestry (governing board) of my Episcopal church, as well as in the choir, something I've wanted to do for a long time. I help out in a food pantry run out of our church; the pantry is named Tommy's Pantry after the late son of Rep. Jamie Raskin, our U.S. representative. In addition, I'm a volunteer reviewer of kids' fiction for a foundation (An Open Book) that brings kids authors and illustrators to Title 1 schools in the DC area and also raises money to purchase books so that every kid who hears an author or illustrator can take home a copy of that author or illustrator's latest book. And I do write now and then for the Washington Post, mostly about kids and teen books, but also now about adult mysteries (my longtime favorite fiction genre :). Of course, I also spend time with my family, including my husband Peter Hardin and our children, Sally and Tim Hardin. Sally, who got formally married in 2020 to Colin Richardson, had a wedding celebration last September 2021 at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Mass. It was a wonderful event! Sally and Colin live and work in DC so we see them, and their beagle Warren G. (named after the rapper) fairly frequently. Our son Tim and his partner (of 11 years!!!) Lizzy Sulc, had been living in nearby Silver Spring but they (and their hound Tybee, named after the island near Savannah) have just moved to Charlottesville, Va. so Lizzy can attend the UVa Darden School of Business to earn her MBA. Fortunately, Charlottesville isn't too far away! In addition to family, Mary Lynn Rampolla and I regularly have lunch, and also gather for dinners now and then with our husbands in tow. And Mary Lynn, Ann Courtemanche and Susan Flood Burke and I had a great catch-up lunch in April! I hope all of you are well, and I hope to be able to attend the class party on Oct. 29. It's been way too long since most of us have seen each other.”

Margaret Suzor Dunning writes “No major news to report on my front. I continue to work at Finn Partners and lead the firm’s Higher Education practice. I’m on the Boards of our alma mater, Trinity, and the Federal City Council, plus play a role on the Education Committee of the Economic Club of Washington. My husband, David, and I recently attended a family wedding in London, followed by a trip to Budapest. And next on my list is knee surgery in late July due to arthritis, of course (only arthroscopic this time around, not yet full knee replacement)! I’m keeping it in perspective: I could live in Ukraine or be forced to wear a burka in Afghanistan.”

Debbie Eich Zuoro writes: “I enjoy living in Vermont; gardening, skiing, cycling, yoga & lake life on Lake Champlain. Skiing at Stowe mid-January, I hit a chunk of ice and suffered a tibial plateau fracture of my left leg. Luckily, I did not need surgery but had to be non-weight bearing for 3 months. I hope to be back on the slopes again this Winter with my 3-year-old grandson. My children, Eric, and Carolyn both live in Vermont with their families. I volunteer as chair of the local conservation commission. Hope to reconnect with classmates at the class party. ciao, Debbie.

Marian Loughlin Aube reports that she has moved to Florida permanently. No more Maine winters for her! This spring she visited Carla Goheen Loughlin and Steven in Alaska.

Nancy Schott shares : “I live in Lancaster PA which is convenient to DC, Philly, and NYC with Amtrak service. I count myself lucky that I was able to travel to 3 family weddings over the last year in Denver, Raleigh, and Milwaukee. Even through Covid I continued volunteering at the library, at the garden for President Buchanan's house and with AARP tax prep.”

Mary Farrell Robinson reports "The COVID years were/are still difficult. My mother Annemarie, Class of 1948, died in January 2020. I am so thankful she was spared the isolation and fear of the pandemic. My other sad news is that my brother, Fran, died in May of this year. He had ALS for more than 10 years and was resilient, spiritual, and inspirational until the very end. On the happy side, I retired on December 31, 2021. My year and a half working remotely showed me that being home wasn't so bad! I'm still trying to catch up on all the reading and projects I couldn't tackle while working full-time. Paul and I recently vacationed in Quebec City and enjoyed the feel of Europe without crossing the ocean. We've also had some wonderful family gatherings that were prohibited during COVID including a wedding in Austin, Texas and a recent Tanglewood weekend in the Berkshires. Hope to see you in October!

Susan Heyer Brunner writes "Since Covid, we have not done any international travel. But we have been traveling around the beautiful US in our quest to go to all the National Parks. We have been to 40 of the 63 parks We plan to see Glacier NP in September. Four of our five Grandchildren are in high school. We love attending their sports, choir, and track activities. Our youngest Granddaughter, Ella, is 2. Her energy and fun spirit are a delight to be around. I am active volunteering in the community and helping to support the care needs for my 97-year-old father in New Jersey. " I've attached Sue's Christmas greeting from 2021 which provides additional information.

Jeanne Gropp Wedig reports "I don't recall if I responded last year, so I'll give a brief recap. Since retiring in 2012, there's been a lot of traveling, and since 2020, a lot of staying home! In 2017, Frank and I began living part-time on the south coast of England, where we do lots of "rambling" and hanging out in pubs and tea rooms (more time in the former than the latter). For some bizarre reason, I've become obsessed with Egyptology, to the extent that I'm learning to read and write hieroglyphs. Hospice volunteering, my favorite activity, has been severely curtailed during Covid, so I look forward to its return. That's it!! Not much going on. I miss Gail Berger, a lot.

Janet Rosowski Kruse reports "The past year was quite active. Matt and Allyssa finally had their dream wedding last July Covid put a damper on the big wedding in 2021. July of 2021 they finally had A Redo of their "I Dos". After the wedding, my brother John and I, his friend Bill and 4 dogs continued our tour of the US. We visited North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Michigan. One of favorite places we visited was a working library in Mayville, North Dakota built in 1900. It had books from the early 1900s. What a treasure. This year we are planning a trip to upstate New York and Pennsylvania."

Margaret Adams Miller shares, "My husband is deceased, I have two grown sons and I am still working."

Eileen Davis Durkin reported in but said nothing noteworthy to add this year.

Robina Cunningham Hogan's reports "I am still working with a goal of 50 years in the textile industry! Now have 10 grandkids, with Callum born last Nov. who is Robina's 7th child. Really miss Heidi, but I get Irellyn her daughter some. She will be in 7th grade this year at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte. I just had her at the beach this weekend and we never left the house but once! Living at the beach doesn't push you to go to the beach all the time. She just enjoyed going through her mom's things since it has been almost a year. Losing a child is very difficult. One of my granddaughters just placed in the top 10 in Irish dance nationals, so she will be off to worlds for the second time. The others all are doing great! My husband has struggled since he got covid last year with Heidi. He now is on oxygen and actually just went through his 3rd round of covid with double Pneumonia. This was a bad disease.

Anne Muir Kelly conveyed the following news “Things are going well. Kids and grandkids are all fine Daughter Marie, son-in-law Dan, and grandson Conor live in Hawaii, but will be moving back to the continental US before the end of the year. Son Chis, daughter-in-law Erin, and three lovely granddaughters live in the same town, so we see then often which is fabulous. Dave is doing well, and we have a wonderful garden again this year. Lots of zucchini, tomatoes, lettuce, swiss chard, onions, cauliflower - and more! I must say that we eat well. I can't take any credit for the success as Dave has the green thumb, not me. I've been fortunate to have seen **Buffy Morris Cafilisch** several times this year when she is in the Boston area. We've enjoyed our walks and it's truly the highlight of my week. Just imagine that it's been almost 50 years that we first started as freshmen - where has the time gone? I'm still working and truly love leading the sales team at GivingData, a software company that develops software for foundations that grant money to non-profits. In addition, I volunteer as a mentor for start-up businesses through an organization called EforAll. Currently, I am working with a non-profit called Colorful Kids which provides room makeovers for children with disabilities. I love it and it's so wonderful and rewarding to see all the great work that this organization and its' volunteers are doing.

Susan Flood Burk shared “I have been “actively” retired for ten years this fall, including by continuing to serve on two boards of DC-based non-governmental organizations focused on national and nuclear security. I am active in the non-partisan but political AAUW of Virginia, serving on the state board in various capacities and working to advance legislation in Richmond to advance equity for women and economic security for women and families. (Much more challenging with a Republican state house, but I digress.) Our daughter and her husband live in Williamsburg with their two boys (5 and 2). (She is an elementary special ed teacher and I can confirm that every article you read about how difficult it is to be a teacher today is true!) And our son and his wife are expecting their first baby in November. (They are back from a year-long “sabbatical” living on their sailboat and are hoping to settle in VA Beach.) Mike and I have been fortunate to be able to spend extended times at our home on the Outer Banks, NC, where a brother and a sister have relocated permanently. The little boys love it and we’re making precious memories. I am acutely aware that life is short; we’ve all lost dear Trinity friends in the past few years and beloved family members. My family, friends and Trinity sisters are my lifeboat, especially in these trying times. And the little ones remind us of how important it is to stay informed and engaged in efforts to make the world a better place for all people. For me, activism is a great antidote to despair. It also keeps my mind off my two knee replacements and other physical reminders that I’m not as young as I used to be 😊.”

Pat Hussey has been busy. Here’s her news (edited): “Where to begin? As I get older, reconnecting seems more and more important. I haven’t been good about that with you all, but nothing like the present.

First, let me wish you all well... health is very important and more so, I believe staying healthy as we age!



I don’t know whether to begin with the sad or happy - but let me start with the saddest news I have felt in years, the loss of Gail Berger, long-time friend from High School and our dear friend from Trinity. To this day, I still cannot accept this fact easily. We were like Mutt and Jeff in HS, we stuck together, probably because we were artist types – you know, a bit odd but friendly.

I lived with Gail and her family for some time, and she threw me the biggest and most special going-away party when I went to Trinity. Remember she did not join us until our sophomore year. I miss her dearly and she will always be an important and loved person in my life – one who had profound impact on me. Remember, we did

our senior projects together at Trinity – she had her art show, and I did my recital! She was a great gift to all of us.

The rest of the year... Oh, where to start! I managed to be Covid free through most of the year. Started early with a gig with Maryland Lyric Opera singing chorus with so many of my professional colleagues.



We tested at every rehearsal and always sang masked, even at the performance at Strathmore – We sang a concert version of Puccini's *Turandot*, of which I had sung two other fully-staged versions with the Washington Opera in earlier years. We wore concert black, about 70 strong, full orchestra and fabulous soloists – it was quite special, masks and all- soloists were unmasked as were some orchestra members!

As many of you know, I have been with my partner Dot Young for a long time – 33 years! We were married 9 years ago as soon as it was legal. She is a blessing in my life and I cherish every day we have



together. There have been many years of begin cautious about my lesbianism, but I am at peace with my lifestyle and very open about who I am – it's a challenge sometimes in my teaching, but I don't advertise my lifestyle. Happy to discuss this any time with anyone interested.

The rest of the year... well avoiding Covid and adjusting to life's conditions, and our social, political, and economic times has been challenging for all of us, to say the least. I hate politics but follow it ferociously. The world is in a dark place right now and the war in

Ukraine is shaking our lives on many levels.



We experience a major house flood last August and were out of our home for 6 months – moved back in late Feb. 2022. It was devastating – all floors, walls, my studio and kitchen, family room, bedroom, etc. had to be redone! It's like having a whole new home now – delays with supplies and workers, made it all a great challenge. Our little dog Coco got pretty sick, and

we almost lost her – but she is doing well now, being 13 years old and still smiling!



Visited the Fjords in May, - what a fabulous experience – so peaceful and lots of quiet time together.

June, July - I assisted with the Amalfi Music Festival preparing to have 2 local chorus come to Maiori,



Italy, where the Festival is based. Got to Naples, June 29 and then on to the village of Maiori – if you haven't been to the Amalfi coast – put it on your bucket list! Long story short – we had a fabulous choral experience with the Italian Premiere of Paul Leavitt conducting his Requiem in the magnificent Cava de' Tirreni – a Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Trinity and Basilica (photo) on July 2, and Stan Engebretson conducting the Salute to America on the 4th of July in the Garden Theater of Palazzo Mezzacapo in Maiori. (photo), with local soloists Danielle

Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson. Unfortunately, about 75 singers contracted Covid while in Italy – most got home to discover their plight. I too succumbed to Covid and had to quarantine the day the choirs left, and then I left the Festival, quarantined in Italy at a hotel near Naples, and cut out the rest of July to assist with the piano program! What a story – for another time!

Home on July 15th – no luggage, fun at the terminals, etc. If anyone has travelled lately, you know what I'm talking about! No place like home and I am so happy to be here in the states and with Dot and Coco! **I look forward to seeing you all in October for a reunion – October 29th in DC – be there or be square!"**

Kate Duggan Thompson sent a really "newsy" message "In April, Abbie finished her Ed.D. in Leadership from Creighton University. Abbie and Adam continue to teach and coach at Bishop McNamara High School. Katie (5th grade and 10 years old) and Will (2nd grade and 8 years old) have enjoyed outdoor sports and look forward to a fully vaccinated 2022. Becca, Jamie, Anna (4) and John (2) continue to enjoy life in Brooklyn. Mike is not yet retired by has been working from home. He has converted the dining room into his new office with the table as his new desk. Kate has continued to help Jessie with cay care for Eliza, usually three days a week. We had a week at the beach in Delaware in July and another week at the Jersey shore in August. We've also had a few trips to Worcester to check on my mom. We stopped in Brooklyn on our way north and love to see how quickly Anna and John are growing." The photo below is from Kate & Mike's 45th Wedding Anniversary.



2021 was a year of changes for me. My sister Mary needed back surgery, so we started looking for a new home that would be less challenging for her should her surgery not be completely successful (it was). We found a new home very early in the search and placed an offer which was accepted. We sold our previous home in the city and moved to a small town located in the westernmost suburbs of Syracuse. We lost our beloved beagle Lucy in November of 2020. We have finally welcomed a new beagle to the family – Lizzie, a two-year-old survivor of an Amish puppy mill. It was love at first sight. Two Christmases without a beagle in the house was two too many. We are enjoying small town life and our new neighborhood and wonderful new neighbors.

I'm currently working with a group of classmates to update our class roster as we plan a 45+1 reunion in October and head towards that significant reunion in a few years. If you can share contact information for classmates, I would appreciate it.

If I missed including anyone's news, please forgive me. I'm still suffering from brain fog 3 years after coming down with some mysterious illness after our trip to Hawaii in 2019.

I am reminded of a shopping trip to Wheaton Plaza during freshman year. There were 6 of us in the car. The car ahead of us contained 6 elderly ladies wearing hats and presumably gloves. We laughed and said, "That's us in fifty years!" My goodness, we are almost there!

Emily Herbst
169 Shire Way
Camillus, NY 13031

eherbst1@verizon.net