



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

November 2024

I hope you all had a festive holiday. Here's our November newsletter:

Richard Horvitz:

Within the next few months, I am going to be moving out of the house that my wife Anne and I occupied for the last 33 years and into an independent living townhouse unit in a retirement community in Grand Rapids. The house is way too large for one person. Cleaning out all the stuff Anne left behind has been a monumental task that has taken up much of my time over the year and a half since she passed away, and I am also working on downsizing as much of my stuff as I can before moving into a smaller place. Once I move there, I will have one grand (and I mean grand) estate sale to get rid of as much more stuff as I can before working on getting the house fully cleaned out, fixed up, and ready to put on the market. This will not be until next spring.

One of the last things Anne said to me before she passed away was "I want you to travel." She and I had gone on a number of cruises and other trips in the last 10 years of her life, but between COVID and her declining health we had not taken any trips since 2020. One of the first things I did after her death was to renew my passport, and this year I have taken two major trips. The first was a Danube River cruise from Sofia to Prague with Smithsonian Journeys. I visited Sofia, Belgrade, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Prague, and a few other smaller places, all of which were fascinating. The second was a trip to England and Ireland. I spent 6 days in London visiting various museums, palaces, and historic sites, and then traveled on to Edinburgh and Belfast before going on a 5 day bus tour around Ireland. I have already planned another trip, a cruise around South America, for next year.

I am doing well, staying in good health, keeping physically active, and finding plenty to keep my mind occupied. I read a variety of magazines, follow medical and other news stories on the internet, and take quite a few emeritus education courses at a local college or via Zoom. Even though I am retired from medicine for more than 8 years now, I still find the subject intellectually interesting. These activities actually all keep me pretty busy, and I plan to continue with these all and pretty much the same life style when I move into my new place.

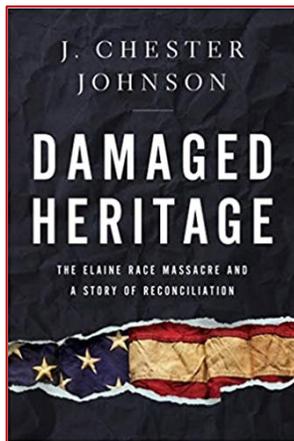
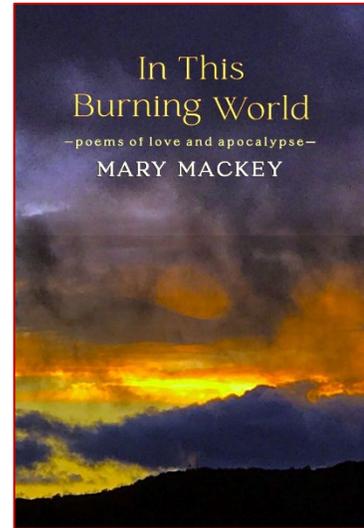
Jim Hurley:

In May of 2022, Phyllis and I retired and moved from Jackson, MS to Fairhope, AL to be near two of our children. I retired after 48 years as a professor, first training pastors in New Testament and theological studies and then training both pastors and professional counselors in marriage and family therapy and counseling. Phyllis handled our home and raising our three boys and became a school administrator when the last one entered school. This year we celebrated our 58th anniversary. At this point, we are both in good health. I don't miss the administrative tasks or the deadlines, but I do miss seeing graduate students 'get it' as they move through coursework and clinical training.

In my 'retirement', I am able to use my professional training and experience in non-academic settings: I teach a men's Bible study, preach occasionally and steadily do counseling as member of my son's professional counseling practice in Daphne, AL. South Alabama is great for some hobbies. Things grow: I am enjoying growing figs, blueberries, blackberries, pears and Satsuma oranges. With mulch, none of them require weeding! I also enjoy the deer hunting and fishing that are easy to do here. Both meats are lean.

Mary Mackey:

In October, I spent 2 weeks in Rio de Janeiro where I spoke to graduate students in Environmental Studies at the Federal University about my forthcoming collection of poetry. "In This Burning World: Poems of Love and Apocalypse." Marsh Hawk Press will be publishing this book in May 2025, and it looks like, besides a launch I in the United States, there will be a Latin American book launch at the July meeting of the Society of Caribbean and Latin American Environmental History in Rio. At the end of November, I was part of The Women's National Book Association holiday storytelling festival. I told the story of the time my husband and I tried to get out of Maceio, Brazil, after having almost been caught in the crossfire during a bank robbery, only to discover that we could not get to the airport, because there was a prison riot going on, and the prisoners and their relatives had set palm trees on fire, chopped them down, and pitched the flaming trunks onto the freeway.



J. Chester Johnson:

His book, **Damaged Heritage: The Elaine Race Massacre and A Story of Reconciliation** (Pegasus/Simon & Schuster), has been chosen as one of the select books included in the Library of Congress Shop. At present, he is completing a related, nonfiction book.

Steve Berman:

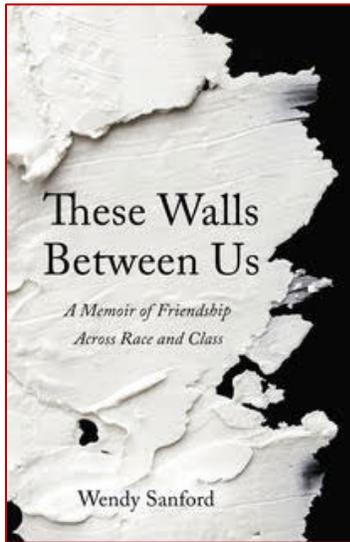
I am still reaching out to friends and family through my poems. Here is one from November a year ago. Have a lovely holiday season!

Reading Isak Dinesen

These Winter's Tales
words falling on the page like snowflakes
each one unique and beautiful
conjuring worlds and lives
from quite another time
and place and yet
no different from our own
when it comes to the vicissitudes
of fate the lostness of our hearts the dreams
unrealized and all that might've been
had we but known the time to speak
and what it was that needed saying

William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters. Here's a black-crested titmouse (*Baeolophus atricristatus*) on 11/18/2024 at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas.



Wendy Sanford:

Quakers Today podcast on some of my experience as a co-author of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. (October 15 at the following site: <https://quakerstoday.podbean.com/>)

Also did I share that the audiobook of my memoir is available? Finally the voice of the book's co-creator Mary Norman is part of the whole.

Donald O'Bell:

(ed. note: Don has sent further evidence of our class gender make-up) And see: <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2023/10/2/gender-parity-admissions/>



Robert Brothers:

A personal cycle of 18 years has been completed by new leadership in multicultural ceremonies for the Earth. I can now step aside. People have come forward to lead Water Blessings at each of the 4 places along the 160 mile ley line leading north through Mount Lassen, Mount Shasta, and Mount Ashland, straight to the ancient Salmon Ceremony site at Ti'lomikh Falls on the Rogue River.

The cycle began in 2006 when a Takelma Indian elder, Agnes Baker Pilgrim, asked me to organize what became First Nations' Day in Ashland -- Welcoming the spirits of Native people back to southwest Oregon 150 years after Oregon's Trail of Tears (the forced march 200 miles north to the reservation at Siletz).

This welcoming ceremony had unexpected results. The landowner of the site at Ti'lomikh offered his land to Grandma Aggie to continue the multi-cultural ceremony that she had begun in the 1990s with her Yurok husband Grant Pilgrim on the Applegate River.

In 2007, I helped Grandma with the ceremony on the Rogue River, and she helped me to begin the Water Blessing ceremonies on Mount Ashland. Ten years later, meaning was given to the line-up of 3 major mountains pointing to Ti'lomikh when a fish hawk, an Osprey, flew right over me when I was opening our ceremony in the snow below the 7,000 ft. peak of Mount Ashland. I joked, "Hey, what are you doing up here? You're a little early for the Salmon Ceremony this year, but you're headed in the right direction!"

That Osprey showed us new opportunities for our multicultural ceremonies, linking up with people from tribes by the mountains to the south: Ajumawi and Karuk at Shasta, Wintu at Lassen. Leaders have now come forward at these two mountains, and most dramatically, at Ti'lomikh. Ospreys have flown over us again during ceremonies.

I am writing this on a very special day: the anniversary of Grandma Aggie's passing 5 years ago, and the same day her successor at Ti'lomikh, Echo Miller, was born many years before. Echo grew up at Aggie's knee. When she told Aggie that she had been looking for an animal totem, but couldn't find one, Aggie replied, "Well maybe it isn't an animal, maybe it's a dragonfly like mine." Dal Dal the Dragonfly is the Takelma cultural hero who began the Salmon Ceremonies at Ti'lomikh. Later on, when Echo was looking for a tattoo, the book opened to a dragonfly. Years later, when she was praying at the sacred tree at a Sundance, a swarm of dragonflies spiraled down the tree and all around her.

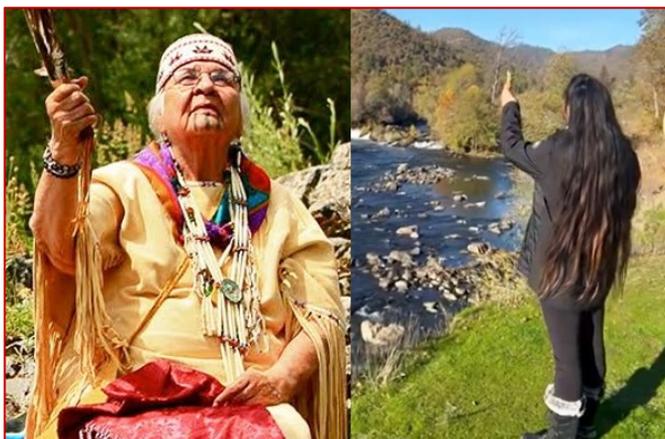
Here's photos of Aggie and Echo.

Left, Grandma praying from the Stone Chair at the Falls at Ti'lomikh where her Father sat in 1933.

Photo by Ryan Finney,
from agnesbakerpilgrim.org

Right, Echo praying, facing the Stone Chair during the Water Blessing, 2022-11-13

Photo by Miranda Downs



Left, Grandma Aggie in Dharamsala during the visit of the International Council of Indigenous Grandmothers to the Dalai Lama, October 10, 2006, photo by unknown



Right, photo by Echo, 2024-11-24

The HAA never sent me this month's necrology report, so I have nothing to report here until next month. Instead you get pictures of my Thanksgiving:
5 out of 8 grandchildren / 2 out of 3 kids:



Until December,
Tom Black
co-class secretary