



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

December 2025

Lots of thoughts on the issuance of greeting cards at holiday time. Not as many (read none) holiday pictures. This forces me to provide filler until you get your act together:

Here are a few members of my family having a celebratory dinner in Boston.

Also, the folks at ***Harvard Magazine*** want me to remind you to send comments to their Alumni Notes section. If I can do that for you, let me know.

Richard Power:

No cards.

Peter Wattson:

We just sent cards, no pictures this year, but I wish we had sent pictures of our grown children and grandchildren. I always appreciate the cards we receive with pictures of the sender's family.

Kenneth Plevan:

Hello, at last a topic I feel competent enough to respond on. Holiday cards. Never sent any. Maybe because we were Jewish and did not celebrate Christmas? We were both partners in large law firms, and therefore received many each year from colleagues, of all varieties, but never were tempted or felt the need to send any. BTW, at Rosh Hashanah we received a number from more religious friends. Here again, never sent any. Is it good for the planet to send paper through the mail rather than electronic cards?

On the issue of Harvard being in existence well before the Isaac Newton publication, if any of you are not scientists and interested in reading books following up on Newton, I can recommend books by Michio Kaku. I read two, *The God Equation* and *Hyperspace*. While I understood maybe 25% at best, they were thrilling.

Good health in 2026, and lets hope for a brighter future.

Robert DeNormandie:

We have never been very good about getting Xmas cards out with the proverbial family photo and quick update of what's been going on.... Getting all together, taking the photo, making the card, deciding on a short narrative, stuffing the envelopes and sending them all off in a timely manner were too much to handle so we stopped.....

Best to you both as we tackle a new year. Eliana and I are glad to be in pretty good health and the family is also moving along well in their respective careers. One grandchild started BC this fall and is enjoying the challenges, while the second is looking around and will be starting the application route next summer. She seems relaxed about it all, but deep down it is recognized as a new chapter to confront. We are confident she will come out just fine.



Alan Winkler:

It's been a tough year. My wife Sara had both knees replaced 13 years ago, and one of them wore out. She had that redone at the end of August, but trouble with anesthesia led to rehab, and then the femur broke, so more surgery then rehab. Home for a few weeks, and another femur break. All in all, 8 surgeries, and still in rehab.

Me? About a year ago, both hands began to hurt like hell. Carpal tunnel syndrome. Surgery on both hands, and in the process, they found amyloids – proteins gone awry – that can cause heart attacks, Alzheimer's, kidney failure. I'm now being treated at the world-famous Cleveland Clinic with brand new meds that won't cure this but can control it. Much relieved.

It took about 6 months for my hands to be flexible enough to play my guitar, but I'm finally performing again, and did 3 shows in the past couple of months, one for Earlham College alumni, one at Miami University, one at our Oxford Community Arts Center. A real relief to be doing that again....

Mark Van Baalen:

Well, since you asked... Louisa and I send out a Christmas newsletter with a summary of our ups and downs for the year, and photos as appropriate. We try not to brag too much about the achievements of the grandchildren. We also have a philosophical sentence or two in there, but carefully avoid politics. These newsletters go out by snail mail, which with the price of postage these days costs us a hundred bucks. Well worth it to stay in touch with family and friends.

Santiago (Sandy) Leon:

There's a lot of love happening on **Isaiah Jackson's** CaringBridge page.

Here's the recent activity:

Read 7 new comments about "[Wednesday, December 24, 2025](#)" from Santiago Leon, Vincent Ciccarello, and others.

See 4 new reactions to "[Wednesday, December 24, 2025](#)" from Peter Rhodes and others.

See 1 new reaction to "[Tuesday, December 23, 2025](#)" from Peter Rhodes. Visit the page to [view all the activity](#)

Has CaringBridge helped your community of family and friends stay connected during a health journey? A \$25 donation to CaringBridge will power an author's page for two weeks. Will you make a gift to ensure that this platform remains no-cost and ad-free?

[Make a contribution to CaringBridge today.](#)

Daniel Melia:

Happy New Year!

If you are really desperate for text, here is some end of semester cynicism.

I am the Impresario and Librettist-in-Chief for the "Mooseketeers", a small group of folks who offer the humorous skit at the annual (124th this year) Berkeley Faculty Club Christmas Dinners. I offer here one of the songs "celebrating" the new rules that allow large payments to student athletes for their Name, Image, and Likeness. My interlocutor here is a moose head on the wall of the Great Hall in the Faculty Club.

Moose: I hear that our backup long-snapper, Thor Jockmann, is staying for a fifth year instead of turning pro.

MC: Yeah, he was ranked ninth in the ACC and Cal offered him more than twice the Chancellor's salary for his NIL. But let him explain . . .

[Jock an enters in football helmet with ball.]

Song #9|

I'm Just a Jock Who Won't Turn Pro (*Just a Girl Who Can't Say No*, Rodgers and Hammerstein)

It ain't so much a question of not knowin' what to do
I knowed the winning plays since I was ten
I heard a lot of sport reports and reckon some are true
'Bout how my NILs could soar, but then...
I know I mustn't fall into a pit
But when I'm on the gridiron, I forgit!
I'm just a jock who can't turn pro,
It's not such a terrible fix.
The Jets have offered some OK dough,
But they can't match the college's mix.
My redshirt means I can stay on
As long as I maintain a two point o
But I still have to pass Math fifty-five
Or my GPA will take a mortal blow.
I need the cash the school will pay,
'Cause a high draft pick I ain't.
Hopes for pro riches are faint;
No sense in being a saint,
I can't turn pro!

Recording: <https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=i%27m+just+a+girl+who+can%27t+say+no+song&type=E210US105G91909#id=1&vid=24e17a12f44b6ac69eef3009cc46faf2&action=click>

Karaoke: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_Cp5IcqJ98

Moose: So I guess we can bet on Cal with equanimity for the rest of this season.

MC: Well, *I* guess not. What with the tragic loss of The Axe to Stanford, in spite of being heavily favored, my grandfather's dictum, "Never bet on a traditional game," sounds like better advice. We did just beat highly ranked SMU, and we can hope that with a spanking new Head Coach we will get the Axe back ASAP, (and, at the trivial cost of only about eleven million dollars to buy out the old coach!) [Er, that's not a joke, folks.]

Claudia Byram:

Personally, I really connect with photos in Christmas cards. Don't know why! And my list is down to about 10 people ... Oh - and I sometimes send Blue Mountain e-cards. Some are quite funny. (At least I think so - might be one of those differences....)

Best for good adventures in 2026.

Ross Snow:

I wonder if our classmate **Judith Martin** will chime in on your cards question. My take is that either a regular card or photos of you both with or without family works. It's your choice. What feels better?

On Harvard (being pre-Newton): No wonder Harvard goes out of orbit every now and then.

On me: Nothing newsworthy to report. But it is splendid in the desert this time of year.

Elaine Bostwick:

Ha, ha. Since you are getting away with sending no cards, why start now! I sent about 20 cards, with a short note to each person.

While I enjoyed choosing the cards, and enjoyed being in touch with “old” friends, it made a hectic season even more hectic. Maybe you could send “fresh start” cards in January. You could put a photo of you and Nandy on the front, and several photos of family on the back. I got 4 cards, made by printing services, that had photos, and those are the cards I keep.

David Keidan:

Send pictures of both of you and the extended family.

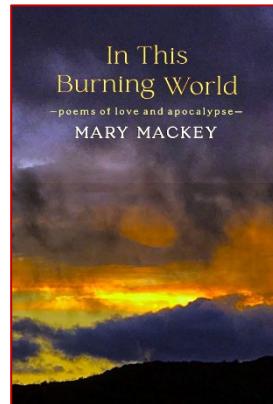
Mary Mackey:

In the past few years, I've been sending email greeting cards that are animated, beautiful, and set to music. The cards allow you to add a personal message at the end. Here is the email of the greeting card service I use. Maybe some other people in our class can suggest others. <https://www.jacquielawson.com/>

I've had a busy December. Besides doing the usual Christmas shopping, I put together a crab feed for my relatives. It wasn't easy to track down crabs because they've shortened the season a great deal, well, I managed to get enough for all of us to have a crab apiece, including my two grandchildren, ages, six and 10.

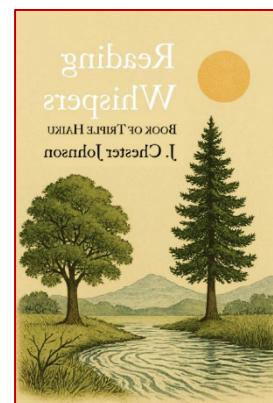
In addition, I have been doing events for my most recent book of poetry "In This Burning World: Poems of Love and Apocalypse," while putting together a new collection of poems that will come out this spring from the newly founded Women's Spirituality Studies Press. The title of the new book is "The Goddess of Burning Hair," and many of the poems reference the burning of the rainforests of the Amazon and those of a large wetland in Brazil called the Pantanal, which is drying up due to climate change. In late, November, one of my film scripts was selected for the City of Angels Film Festival in the category Best Feature Filmscrip. It didn't win, but it was great to have it in the running.

Happy new year to everyone! May 2026 bring you joy, peace, and lots of chocolate.

**J. Chester Johnson:**

"BlazeVOX is delighted to announce the publication of *Reading Whispers: Book of Triple Haiku*, a luminous new work by acclaimed poet and essayist **J. Chester Johnson**. Long celebrated for his clarity, moral vision, and imaginative reach, Johnson turns now to the intricacies of brevity, revealing just how expansive a few lines can become in the right hands.

"In *Reading Whispers*, Johnson creates an innovative structure: the "triple haiku," a form that places three haiku in conversation beneath a unifying title. The result is a kind of lyric echo chamber, images suspended and extended, resonating across the white space of the page. If traditional haiku invites readers into a moment, Johnson's triple haiku opens the door to a roomful of them.



"Poet **Kimiko Hahn** calls the collection 'a heartfelt innovation,' noting how Johnson's linked imagery follows in the tradition of Japanese verse sequences while expanding their interpretive space for contemporary American poetry. **Cornelius Eady**, Co-founder of Cave Canem and winner of the 2025 Wallace Stevens Award, praises the way Johnson 'shows you how much space there is between these strong, wise and open lines... Enough space to fit a world.'

“These poems are compact yet unbounded: nine-line fields of emotion, sly humor, contemplative turns, and moments of radiant clarity. ‘At its frequent best,’ writes **Edward Mendelson** of Columbia University, the book ‘presents a whole world of emotion... in nine brief lines.’

“For readers familiar with Johnson’s work on race, civil rights, and national healing, including his widely acclaimed nonfiction book *Damaged Heritage, Reading Whispers* will feel connected yet surprising. As poet **Barry Wallenstein** observes, Johnson’s new poems reveal ‘a voice happily free of certainties and absolutes; playful, gentle, wise.’ The political and personal currents that run through Johnson’s previous writing appear here in distilled form, ‘mini meditations,’ he writes, glimpsed sidelong, truths arriving ‘at a slant.’

“Johnson’s longstanding contributions to American letters carry a unique breadth: from his role in retranslating the Psalms for the Episcopal Church, to his iconic poem “St. Paul’s Chapel” (a central 9/11 recovery-site text with over 1.5 million copies distributed), to his expansive work on civil rights and the legacy of the Elaine Race Massacre. His writing appears in the Civil Rights Archives at Queens College, and he has been recognized at the Harvard Alumni Authors’ Book Fair, among many other honors.

“*Reading Whispers* showcases yet another dimension of his capacious craft, an intimacy of scale paired with a resonance that lingers long after each poem’s final syllable.”

Book Information

Title: *Reading Whispers: Book of Triple Haiku*

Author: J. Chester Johnson

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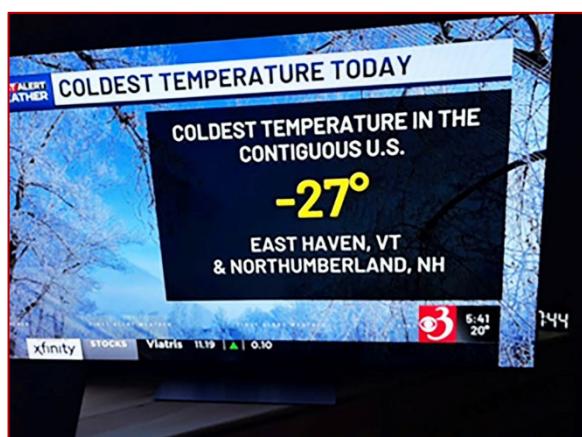
Format: Perfect-bound paperback

Length: 104 pages

Price: \$18

Barbara Richardson:

Barbara and her sister with their Social Justice calendars.



Rusty Sachs:

We never send cards. But I make it a point to speak, usually by phone, to any person (no banks or insurance companies!) who sends a card. But if I were to send out cards, this would be the image for 2025:

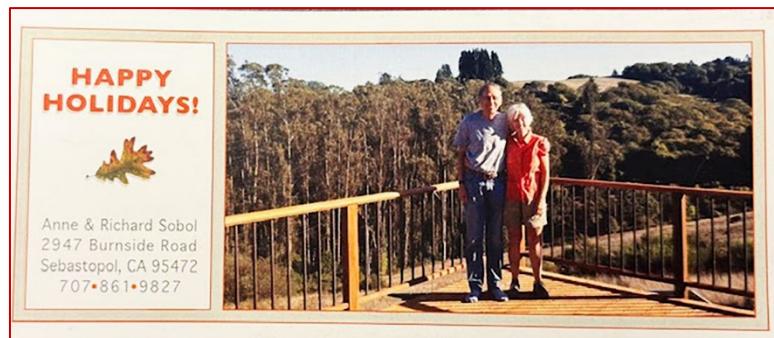
Anne Sobol:

My Christmas/Holiday card history is spotty at best. Over the years I have done a few photos turned into cards and the copies I've retained are meaningful to me. The first picture below is of my husband Richard and dogs on the front porch of our house on Bayou Liberty, LA circa 1992 not long after our move from DC. The second is of us on the deck of our house in Sebastopol, CA shortly after our move from Louisiana in 2013, card sent to friends included new contact info. I've also sent regular Christmas/holiday cards. I was raised in the First Parish Church in Lincoln, MA. My husband Richard was an assimilated, non-practicing Jew but when I created a card from both of us, I defaulted to Happy Holidays.

This year inspired by Christmas/Holiday cards I have been receiving for years from close school friends, I decided to try my hand. In the case of one friend, her husband is a Brit with a wicked sense of humor and he writes the cards which play on the theme of how brilliant and accomplished his wife is and how he does what he's told - he's no fool, he was one of the principal engineers of the Chunnel. Many photos of grown children and grandchildren. The other friend, one of our classmates, sends cards with glorious photos of places they've bicycled and of their accomplished children. I look forward to receiving their cards every year. I also look forward every year to another of our classmate's Christmas greeting in the form of a tiny calendar published originally by Quakers with uplifting quotations.

This year I started late and I didn't really have the computer skills to produce a letter on two-sides with photos and wrapping text. And I have no photos of grown children and grandchildren, but I did have a nice photo of me with my sister and my brother. But what to say? Rather the same problem presented by producing something for the Redbook. How to present oneself? I got a draft going and went to my local library and had a wonderful interaction with the reference librarian who didn't really know all the tricks of producing such a document but was willing to try. What came out is okay, rather too earnest and kind of preachy, but is who I am and hopefully conveys to friends that I care enough about them to take a stab at communicating. See attached. I snail mailed some, attached text to emails to others. Not really finished distributing them, hope I can get to it.

I don't know if I'll try again next year.



Catherine Hughes:

No holiday cards here either!

Although I just love getting cards from friends and family—especially ones with their photos—Keith and I have never been organized enough to manage to find or arrange for a family photo in time to order ourselves holiday cards to send out.

Since you asked for photos, here's me, our daughters and our granddaughter on Christmas morning!

Happy New Year!

**Stephen Bergman:**

Guess what, guys and gals, I'm ok.

Love all to all. Writing!

Tack Chase:

We send holiday cards whenever I get organized enough and have a good photograph of some family event. I want to share with my friends a happy experience from my life. We seldom (never) get all our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in the same place, so I just work with what I can get. On occasion I do worry that people may take my pictures as bragging, but I proceed anyway because I want to share with friends and I want to receive their photographs. We "inherited" Katty's mother's Thanksgiving crowd and they coordinate. The result is that every two years we have a large crowd. This year was 35, ten were ten or under. We got three of four daughters, four of six grandchildren, and three of three great-grandchildren, plus a passel of in-laws. It was delightful. was going to include a copy of this year's card, but remembered one of my daughters specifically asked her nephew not to share a Christmas photograph because it might end up on the internet.

Bob Rugo:

Ted Leary:

Ted and his wife, Lynn at her daughter's wedding in June in the Catskills.



In Memoriam:

Santiago Leon: Our classmate **Jack (Isaiah) Jackson** died a few days ago.

'65	Chris Tanz	10/11/25	Tuscon, Arizona
'65	Nancy Chodorow	10/14/25	
'66	Eric Olson	10/07/25	Weymouth, Mass

That's about it for this month.

Tom Black
co-class secretary

We all know mirrors don't lie; I'm just grateful that they don't laugh!