From the Editor  Mimi Gardner ’52

A full, full issue this time.
First, this picture is from art that Betty Barr Wang (SAS ’49), our Shanghai resident representative and discoverer of all things interesting, came upon when she was walking by the old campus on Heng Shan Lu one day. There’s a wall along what used to be the girls’ hockey field and it is hung with art such as this from a gallery just there. The gallery logo is OUR water tower! We will visit that gallery in September.

Founders Week Invitation
You have each received the invitation and schedule of events by now for the September 10–18, 2017 Founders Week celebration at SAS—the first of what will be an annual event. We so hope some of you will join us for that adventure. “Us” so far includes Anne Romasco, the Gardner’s, Ellen Styles Rajacich, the Angus’s, Joe Wampler, the Stannard’s, and the Heinrichsohn’s. The Class of 2007 will be celebrating their 10th reunion that same week—the start of many such—and a chance for us to “hand over the reigns” of SASA to the next generation. We’ve been encouraging this possibility for many a year. AND I heard a rumor from B.B.W. that the next Teddy Heinrichsohn has already been spotted. Perhaps it’s this very tall guy being so cute with Betty? There are stories of many friends no longer with us in this issue—wonderful lives to celebrate. B. J. and Jake, generally a wonderful presence at reunions, were especially missed this time. There’s a really good note or two from you—always welcome.

A Most Memorable time in Ann Arbor
The report about the Reunion in May in Ann Arbor is long. I hope you will take time to read it because the Symposium was just exceptional and the gathering was our last big one. Joseph Ho, the main host and planner of the whole event, is now part of the SASA family. He has endeared himself to all who attended the last two reunions. We have also included the link to the YouTube video of the Symposium for you to get a sense of the very interesting presentations we enjoyed.

Updates on Dues
The honor roll of dues payers who are up-to-date is included, as the duties of Treasurer are handed over from Charlie Way to Jeff Gorman with much gratitude to both. Check for your name—if you’re on the list, you’re in good shape. (If you should be, let us know. To err is human, someone said.) For those not on the list, we’ll welcome your catch-up check—still $15 a year. Mailing directions with the honor roll.
Keep in touch!
Notes from You

Ted Stannard SAS ’48 and Femmy often host SAS gatherings in their lovely Bellingham, Washington home. The food is abundant and wonderful, Betty Blakney says. This gathering was around last Christmas time. In the picture are Charlie Way and Pat, Betty and Dick Blakney, Jean Gallop Schuster, and Ted and Femmy.

Margaret Hale Bascom SAS ‘44
June Bascom, Margaret’s daughter, sent a most interesting article about a gathering of “Old China Hands” in Greensboro, VT this August to do a presentation through the Greensboro Historical Society for the community. Last summer Margaret was honored as “Matriarch of the Old China Hands” in a Historical Society event that preceded this one coming up. I quote from their newsletter sent by June Bascom, Margaret’s daughter:

“The…exhibit will feature four Greensboro families whose ancestors were American citizens who traveled to China in the 1800s and whose succeeding generations were born, grew up and lived in China into the 1940s...The focus of the exhibit is the connection that drew these families together both in China and then later as summer and year round residents in Greensboro. It will show through photographs, film, documents, artifacts and a map and timeline, what took the Winston-Hale, Corbett, Houghton-Freeman and Allman families to China, how they lived, where they worked and how world events shaped their lives.

“Descendants…will share stories of their families’ uncommon lives growing up in China. June Bascom will talk about the experiences of her mother, Margaret’s family and their imprisonment in a Japanese camp in Shanghai. Eliza Burnham will talk about the experience of her grandfather, Norwood Allman, as a Consular Officer, Assessor on the International Mixed Court and a lawyer in Shanghai. Tony Irwin will talk about great grandfather Hunter Corbett, a Presbyterian missionary in northern China, grandfather Ross Corbett and mother Harriet Corbett Irwin both born and raised in China.”

Members of three of the families, Hale, Freeman and Allman, worked for the insurance company today known as American International Group or AIG. They all knew each other in Shanghai and made their way to Greensboro in the 1940s in the summers and some, including Margaret, now live there year round. Houghton “Buck” Freeman’s (SAS ’39) obituary was featured in SASA News in the spring of 2011.

Dalice Snyder SAS ’51 sent a very nice note about missing the Ann Arbor reunion. She doesn’t do email so our infrequent communications are hand written. She spoke of her grandson who is a single dad whom she hoped might come in her place, but he couldn’t take off work or leave his son for that long. Dalice lives a long train or bus ride away from Ann Arbor in Verdale, WA. She seems in fine spirits.
Harold Adolph SAS ’50 wrote, “After retiring from a busy missionary surgical career with the SIM (Serving in Mission like CIM – China Inland Mission, founded by Dr. Hudson Taylor) working mostly in Ethiopia, Liberia, and Niger Republic, I was involved in presenting missionary surgery to 165 medical schools including 20 in China. My predecessor at the age of 89 pleaded with me to join him in Ethiopia to work on one more project with him. But we had just moved into a retirement center run by our mission in Sebring, FL. This resulted in our return to Ethiopia to build a 200 bed hospital which would train Christian African Surgeons in a program sponsored by the Christian Medical-Dental Association called the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons. The hospital opened in January 2005 and received “Best Private Hospital” in Ethiopia in the year 2015. Nine surgeons have been graduated from a five year program and 5 surgeons are still in training. The hospital has treated 225,000 patients and operates on about 6,000 each year.

In October, 2015 we had the opportunity to visit the hospital my father started in 1931 in Changzhhi, Shansi. It is where I was born. At that time it was a 100 bed hospital. Now it is a 1000 bed 12 story high ultra modern municipal hospital . (We told of this visit in the March, 2016 issue of SASA News.)

My books are: Hoyistic Attitudes, God’s Prescription for your Good Health
Today’s Decision – Tomorrow’s Destiny

Note from the Editor: Enjoy this remarkable “brief bio” from Alister Anderson, SAS ’40, who has kept up with his SASA dues for years. He is now 92. A cover note for the bio included the following: “I was a student at SAS for 8th and 9th grades and have many fine memories as a student. I cherish the memory of two teachers, Mr. Chaney and Mr. Gibb. Mr. Chaney was imprisoned in a Japanese Camp during the war and suffered greatly. After the surrender of Japan my ship went back to Shanghai in 1945-46. I visited SAS again and had a wonderful visit with Mr. Cheney.”

“A Brief Biography of the Reverend Father Alister Carroll Anderson
I was born in Norfolk, VA in 1924. I attended The Citadel in 1941 and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1946 and was commissioned in the Regular Navy and ordered aboard the U.S.S. Samuel N. Moore in the Pacific. I served on the Moore until September, 1947 when I resigned my Regular Navy Commission to attend theological seminary. I had received at that time what many Christian ministers have experienced and call a Divine Call to serve in the ordained Christian ministry. I graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City with a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1950. I served parishes in Maryland, New York and New Jersey until 1956 when I volunteered for service in the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

(Continued on next page)
During the years of my Army chaplaincy I served with the 4th Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas and in Germany. I was Post Chaplain at Fort Jay, NY and Chaplain at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. I served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam (1967-68); Landstuhl General Hospital and Support Command Chaplain, Kaiserslauten, Germany. I completed my military service as Staff Chaplain, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. I retired with the rank of Colonel in 1977. During my combined military service of 27 years as a regular, active duty and reserve naval officer and army chaplain, the military units I served were awarded four battle stars. I have been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service and Army Commendation medals.

In 1990 I resigned my ministry in the Anglican/Episcopal Churches and was ordained a priest in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church two years later in 1992. Currently I provide Orthodox Worship Services for Eastern Orthodox priests who are away from their congregations for reasons of sickness, conferences and vacations.

I am married to Ann Stuart Anderson and we have 3 living children and six grandchildren. I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1946 Association. I serve as Chaplain of the Maryland Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Chaplain of the Jefferson Davis Camp #305. SCV and in 1998 was appointed as Chaplain-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.”

From Jim Cavanaugh, SAS ’47 (paraphrasing just a bit and omitting some, but still a very entertaining Christmas letter)

“…I freely admit that I didn’t trust my 85-year-old reflexes in the 3-lane speedway traffic of Allen, TX, where I’d lived the previous four years, preferring now the single-lane low-speed-limit roads of Sherman, TX…My daughter Kathleen lives at the other end of town with her husband and 20-year-old daughter, Sam.

“Shifting into Shakespeare’s sixth age of man, ‘the lean and slippered pantaloon, with spectacles on nose,’ I acceded to Kathleen’s wishes that I live near SOMEone in the family, and hop-scotched from St. Simons to Allen to Sherman – named for Colonel Sidney, whose troops at San Jacinto originated the cry: ‘Remember the Alamo!’…

“But I’m not living alone; I share digs with Sasha, who was whiling away her time at the county animal shelter, when she caught my eye last February – an 8-year-old Australian Shepherd mix (accent on ‘mix’) – a wonderful companion. Very well trained, she quickly picked up a few additional commands from me, e.g. ‘No, I like my tea more golden,’ and ‘I told you No starch in my shirts, please.’ Since the results of my various surgeries these last few years make it difficult to walk more than a block, our daily walk sees me riding in the electric wheelchair Kathleen bought at an estate sale for $25, and outfitted with a small headlight and a flashing red taillight…Sasha’s the walker at the end of a long leash, which I’m sure makes it look as if she’s pulling the wheelchair. Ah, yes; I was fated to be the Eccentric Old Geezer Down the Block.

(Continued on next page)
“My largely inactive 2016 (lots of reading and continued writing on ‘Murder at Summer Theatre’; I know, I know, I’ve been at it a long time – but remember that it took me 20 years to complete ‘Acting Means Doing’!!) leaves some space on this page, so I’ll use it to relate one of the many wacko moments from ‘Happy Town’ which played three performances in Boston, and then only five in NYC (Jim was the Director):

The star was Henry Hull, best known for his many years as Jeeter Lester in ‘Tobacco Road’ – in the 30s the longest running play on Broadway. His first show in New York had been in 1911; ours was to be his last. During rehearsals he’d duck out to a nearby bar whenever he got a chance, even once during a performance. I raced out to get him, gasping: ‘Hank, you’re ON!’ His answer was: ‘How’m I doin’?’ A very good question for all of us. I’m doin’ fine, and hope you and your family are, too!

Editor’s note: Have we been wondering where the bust of Juno is? Well, here it is!

Handing off the Checkbook

Some time in 2010, Charlie Way took over the SASA checkbook from Roy Wildt. So for going on 7 years, we have been sending our dues to Charlie in Bellingham, WA. Well, at his request, he is retiring and has worked out the details with Jeff Gorman SAS ’53 to pick up the checkbook for us.

We wholeheartedly thank Charlie for his good service: dutifully paying the production bills for SASA News, sending checks to SAS for the two student stipends that we give each year to outstanding seniors, and underwriting to some degree the travel expenses of the annual speaker we sponsor at SAS.

Your dues pay for a part of all this. At the 2015 Reunion we took up a collection to add to the coffers so that we would have more to help folks get to reunions. We should note that a couple of our alums, Paul VanderMeer and Ted Stannard, have made sizeable additional donations to cover their dues for life plus. So there is a balance in the account that enables us to offer help to those who would love to travel to China for this very first Founders Week celebration in September but find it beyond their means. Please let me know ASAP:

Mimi Gardner
7 Glover Square, Marblehead, MA 01945
mimihollister1@verizon.net
781-910-2376

We wholeheartedly thank Jeff Gorman for taking on this job.
Dues checks should be made out to SASA and mailed to:
Jeffrey Gorman,
3050 Military Rd.
Apt. 2101
Washington, DC 20015-1325
Honor Roll of Paid-up Members


All these are current through at least 2017 – some beyond that. If you are not on the list, it means you need to send $15 made out to SASA and send it to Jeff at the address on the previous page.

In Memoriam

**Betty Jean (BJ) Rugh Elder, SAS ’51**
March 12, 1933 to March 14, 2017
Obituary courtesy of Dave Elder

BJ, the only child of Dwight and Winifred Wintler Rugh, was born in Changsha, China. Her parents worked with the Yale-in-China Association which helped support a hospital and Ya-li, a boys’ middle school in Changsha. BJ spent most of her first 16 years in China, with interludes in the US on home leave. She spent her last two China years at SAS.

In the US, BJ graduated from Los Gatos High in California and Oberlin College and Case Western Reserve University School of Nursing in Ohio. In 1957 she married fellow Oberlinian, David Elder, and worked for the Cleveland Visiting Nurse’s Association before she and Dave went to Japan with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to manage an International Youth Work Camp program. This was followed by 5 years in Hong Kong, again with AFSC, where she and Dave adopted their two daughters, Jennifer and Renee. Returning to the U.S., the family lived in Philadelphia where BJ became the school nurse at Germantown Friends School and the family joined the Germantown Quaker Meeting. The family spent part of 1973 in Hong Kong, again with AFSC, a stay that culminated in a rarely granted one week trip with the family to her home town of Changsha in January, 1974, a time when the Cultural Revolution still dominated daily life in China. This was the first contact in 25 years between Yale in the US and the Ya-li community in China and it eventually led to the restoration of ties between the two. Subsequently BJ was able to return to China 6 more times, with the last visit in 2007.

*(Continued on next page)*
Back to Hong Kong
After returning from Hong Kong in 1974, BJ enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania program for Nurse Practitioners. On graduation she worked with a newly formed Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in Center City, Philadelphia. Many of her clients were from the nearby gay community which was just beginning to experience what was later identified as HIV/AIDS. Later BJ became the director of nursing at UU House, a nursing facility in Germantown.

As she approached retirement from UU House, BJ began to develop her interest in writing. She enrolled in writing courses. Her short pieces on her growing up years in China eventually evolved into her lovingly written memoir, “The Oriole’s Song: an American Girlhood in Wartime China”, which was published in 2003.

BJ and Dave moved to Kendal at Longwood in 2010 where she continued to enjoy writing short pieces and also some poetry which was printed in the Kendal residents’ literary publication, “As You Like It”.

Dave wrote, “As you know from her memoir and from her participation in SAS reunions, BJ regarded you all as her extended family with which she identified very closely…”

Words from friends:
“Vivid memories of Yale in China days when BJ and I were kids: BJ’s father playing the cello; the puppy my father gave to BJ; the joint years at SAS filled with memories of BJ’s laugh; the visit to Changsha and Hunan – all these pictures come to mind. So do the memories I retain of BJ’s indomitable will and cheer the last time we met in Washington. I will never forget the courage with which she bore her disabilities and the unfailing care you took of her…”

Teddy Heinrichsohn, SAS ‘49

“Over the 7 decades since being schoolmates in Shanghai, our intermittent contacts with BJ at reunions only reinforced the warm memories and respect of those early days. They always left me wishing the encounters were more frequent. Her intelligence and character were always evident, and her writing wise and poignant. She linters in memory so strongly that, at a distance, it is hard to think of her as having left the stage, and we can only imagine the pain of loss to you and your family.”

Ted Stannard, SAS ‘48

Betty Barr Wang to Dave Elder, “you will know that we now surround you with our love, wherever we are in the world. From Betty in Shanghai where we first knew each other.”

Editor’s note: Once again at the Ann Arbor Reunion, we read BJ’s passage from “The Oriole’s Song” as a closing benediction. This is also read each year at SAS graduation today. I quote the last part of it here:”…At reunions in later years we picked up where we’d left off forty, then fifty years before, and though we were delighted to find out what had become of each other, we were not surprised. What we had become seemed inevitable, because we knew where each of us was coming from. SAS was our home country, the place of our full belonging. At last I had found a group that shared my origins. No longer suspended between two worlds, at SAS I fell into place.”

(In Memoriam continued on next page)
Alice M. Giffin, SAS 1932 (perhaps)
April 12, 1915 to February 27, 2017
Obituary courtesy of Keith Tennis, resident of Pilgrim Place and her executor.

Alice, the third of four children, was born to an American Baptist missionary family in Meixian, Guangdong Province. Her early years were spent on the campus of Kwang Yit Girl’s School where her father was a teacher. Later they moved to the campus of the Kwang Hit Boys’ School, founded by her father, the Rev. J. Harry Giffin. She was home schooled by her mother through the elementary grades and then went to SAS for high school. Following graduation, Alice returned to the US and studied at Duluth Junior College, then Judson College, a Southern Baptist women’s college in Merion, Alabama. She received a .A. in home economics. Then she went to the Women’s Missionary Union Training School, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, from which she received her Master of Religious Education.

Next she returned to Meixien to teach at the girls’ school where she had been as a young child. She was appointed by the Women’s American Baptist Foreign Missions Society. When China closed up, Alice went to work in the Philippines in 1952 in home and family life and women’s work. Later she became involved in mission administration there. In 1973, Alice was asked to return to mission headquarters in Valley Forge, PA and become Secretary for East Asia. She next was appointed Secretary for the Overseas Division and Associate Executive Director of the Board of International Ministries of American Baptist Churches.

Alice retired in 1983 and spent some time doing research and writing a biography of her parents entitled “The China Giffins.” She moved to Pilgrim Place, a retirement community in Claremont, CA in 1988 to join her sister, Louise, there. She died at the age of 101.

Editor’s note: Not knowing her SAS graduation date, I looked in my father’s 1924 SAS yearbook and saw a Harold Giffin in the junior class, most likely her older brother.

Arthur Samuel Gillespie, Jr. SAS ’49
November 21, 1931 to January 7, 2017
Information courtesy of Paul Gillespie, younger brother.

Arthur was born in Beijing 10 minutes before his twin brother, James, of Baptist missionaries.

After high school, Arthur went Wake Forest. Growing up, Arthur and James developed an interest in amateur radio. Both got their “ham” licenses, talked to people throughout the world, and as recently as a year ago they would get together weekly for radio chats, often using Morse code “for old times’ sake.”

Arthur met the love of his life, Faye Kilpatrick, at Mars Hill College in the early 1950’s. After they graduated from college (Arthur from Wake Forest and Faye from the Univ. of Richmond), they got married. Their wedding ceremony was informal in Faye’s home church in Newport News, VA. Paul was about 9 years old. “I remember going to gather Queen Anne’s Lace to help decorate the church and getting loaded with chiggers as a result…awful…”

Arthur and Faye made their home in Durham while Arthur was earning his Master’s in Chemistry at Duke.

(Continued on next page)
It was in the early years of the civil rights movement and when Arthur’s church decided to turn away young African Americans who showed up for services as part of their campaign for desegregation, Arthur and some other young parishioners would stand with them in prayer at the entrance to the church in an act of protest and defiance of the decision the church had made. Arthur and Faye had three fine children, Arthur III, Mary and Becky. They lived for some years in New Mexico, where Arthur worked for the Sandi Corp., a firm known to have been actively involved in R and D of those nuclear weapons, weapons the use of which …was so unthinkable that they may actually have been the reason why years of Cold War never led to World War 3. Arthur left Sandia out of a moral conviction about those awful death-dealing weapons. As a teenager, and since, I was always intrigued (though never informed) about nuclear secrets Arthur had learned. I am convinced that he took many of those secrets with him to the grave.

Arthur later worked for Alcoa, moving the family to western Pennsylvania. For many years after that he was the lead environmentalist for the Lithium Corp., lobbying on the company’s behalf but also instructing it in best practices for operating in deference to God’s earthly creation.

He was also something of an inventor. Several of his creations were patented by companies for which he worked. One was a fine construction brick derived from the waste arising out of the lithium process.

Arthur was actively involved in a prison ministry which helped hundreds of people to reach past some very rough patches in their lives. After the reopening of China, he returned several times and he and Faye became involved in teaching English to Chinese people. He was a man of deep and sincere religious faith.

Huston Smith, SAS ’36 maybe
1919 to December, 2016
Information courtesy of Christian Century and The Boston Globe

Smith was born in Suzhou, China to Methodist missionary parents and grew up in a city then called Zang Zok. He lived in China until he was 17 and then went to Central Methodist University in Missouri and then to University of Chicago Divinity School. He was an ordained minister. His mentor in seminary was liberal theologian, Henry Nelson Wieman. He married Wieman’s daughter Kendra in 1943. Huston was the author of the popular textbook The World’s Religions, initially published in 1958 and has sold 3 million copies. “What Smith brought to the discipline of religious studies was both a deep respect for religious traditions other than his own Methodist version of Christianity and great humility about what can be known in any final way and what, by contrast, requires faith,” wrote religion journalist Bill Tammeus for Religion News Service.

(Continued on next page)
He taught philosophy for 3 years at MIT. Before that at the University of Denver and Washington University in St. Louis. After MIT, he taught at Syracuse and U. C. Berkeley. While at MIT he became part of a circle that included Harvard Professor Timothy Leary that investigated psychedelic drugs and he participated in a psychedelic research group.

He authored more than a dozen books, including an autobiography, *Tales of Wonder: Adventures chasing the Divine* and *The Soul of Christianity: Restoring the Great Tradition*. Of the latter book he wrote, “I have tried to describe a Christianity which is fully compatible with everything we now know and to indicate why Christians feel privileged to give their lives to it.” While in his early 90’s, he moved into assisted living and said in “Tales of Wonder” that he could fixate on his ailments “and be an old man in misery. Instead I forget them and wonder how I came to be so fortunate.” His last years, he added, were measured in daily moments of gratitude. “The day sings its song of small grace notes. In the bathroom or the elevator I whisper under my breath, ‘God, you are so good to me’ – 35 or 40 times a day I say it. It seems I finally have a mantra.”

**Harold Hebinger Snuggs, Jr.  SAS Faculty “49**

*February 8, 1927 to December 6, 2016*


Harold was born in Canton to missionary parents. He attended SAS as an elementary school student before WW II. He had a sister Margaret Ann (SAS ’52) and a brother John.

After growing up in China, he came to the U.S. for college and in 1948 graduated from Furman University and returned to teach Science and Math at SAS for the last year before it was closed by the Communist takeover. After teaching at SAS, he taught at the Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. Years later, he changed directions, becoming a pharmaceutical representative for Johnson & Johnson, and then in 1964 he went into the insurance business, ultimately becoming a partner with Gardner and White until his retirement in 1992.

Harold’s love for boating, camping, and traveling led to 40 years of involvement with the Boy Scouts. During his time as Scout Master, he was awarded the “Silver Beaver” award, as well as the bronze, silver and gold “Good Shepherd” awards.

He also served as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. He is missed for his spirited debates, his larger-than-life personality, and his devotion. He leaves his wife, Bettie and his daughter, Elizabeth and many grandchildren. His son, Hal, died some time ago.

Harold joined those of us who were in Shanghai for the Centennial Celebration of SAS in 2012 and he attended several of the reunions. In the 1949 Columbian, he is listed under “Faculty Superlatives” as the male runner-up for “hardest marker” and “strictest in class” – perhaps the sign of a new teacher trying to make a serious impression since he was only a very few years older than the seniors.

*(In Memoriam continued on next page)*
James Thoroughman, SAS ’51
1934 to February 25, 2017
Information provided by his sister, Peggy Thoroughman, SAS ’48

Jim was raised in Soochow, one of three children, where their father, a Methodists missionary, was surgeon and administrator at Soochow Hospital. Along with his sister, Peggy Thoroughman Callahan, Class of 1948, and a younger brother, Thomas, who was in elementary school at SAS. Jim was a boarding student at the school until it closed in 1949 when he and Thomas returned to the U.S. Jim graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he subsequently worked all his adult life for IBM. After retiring, he moved to Orcas Island, Washington, to be near his two children. “He loved living on Orcas,” recalled his sister, “and we loved visiting him on that beautiful island.”

Later, because of medical issues, he moved to Longmont in order to live with his daughter. “In spite of his dementia, he maintained a remarkable memory of SAS and his life in China,” Peggy recalled. “He remembered Chinese, the names of his schoolmates and all sorts of stories of dorm life. My daughter and I went out to Colorado three years ago for Jimmy’s 80th birthday and I am so grateful that I could have had that wonderful visit with him. We spent most of our time talking about China and how it impacted our lives. He remembered more than I did!”

Editor’s Note: Jim was a handsome, rather shy, very, very nice guy – high marks in the girl’s dorm assessment-of-the-boys sessions. He shared his sister’s southern charm into adulthood, as I remember from the one or two reunions that Jim attended.

Nancy Thomson Waller, SAS ’36
1919 – 2017
Information courtesy of The Daily Star of Cooperstown, NY

Nancy was a world traveler, advocate for peace, social justice and prison reform, a lifelong writer and artist. She died at age 98 in Cooperstown, NY.

She was born Anne Bigelow Thomson in Nanking. Her father, James Thomson, was a bio-chemist and head of the Chemistry Dept. at the University of Nanking. Her mother, Margaret Cook Thomson was a Smith College graduate and she taught literature at the University of Nanking. Pearl Buck was a family friend and Margaret was an adviser to her on “The Good Earth.”

(Continued on next page)
After attending Hillcrest School in Nanking, Nancy went to SAS, graduating in 1936. Huston Smith and Harriet Mills were school mates at the time. She attended Ginling College, the women’s college at Univ. of Nanking, for her freshman year. She left just months before the Nanking Massacre. She then went to Geneva College for Women in Switzerland for a year and then to Smith.

She worked for Chinese Industrial Cooperative that later merged with United China Relief. She then got an MBA in the Harvard-Radcliff Program and then worked for Time-Life in the personnel department. She hired Henry Grunwald as a copy boy, who later became managing editor of Time in 1968.

She met Julius Earl “Jerry” Waller on a blind date at Smith. They married in 1943 in Kearney, Nebraska where Jerry was stationed in the Army Air Force. Jerry went to Europe until the end of the war, returning as a Captain in 1945. They settled in Cooperstown, NY. Jerry taught at Cooperstown Academy and then later taught French and Latin and coached athletics at South Kent School in Connecticut. In South Kent, Nancy was an activist in community issues. She was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Congregational Church. They moved back to Cooperstown after Jerry retired.

During his teaching career, they spent 2 years in France in the late 1950’s and again in the late 1970’s.

“Nancy was a witty, passionate woman, interested in the world, people, politics, peace. In the last decade she read Chinese and French history among other things… Although her hearing and sight diminished, she remained well informed and fully conversant on issues of the day and regularly wrote letters to the editor, government officials and Supreme Court justices.” Every Wednesday she could be found in front of the Cooperstown Post Office protesting wars and bad politics, after the tragedy of 9/11.

She wrote a memoir entitled My Nanking Home 1918-1937 which we reviewed in the December 2010 issue of SASA News. It was published by Willow Hill Publications in 2010. In that issue we cited lifelong friend Huston Smith’s accolades for Nancy’s memoir. Interesting that they died at about the same age and in the same few months apart!

Nancy’s sister, Sydney, was also very much an activist and was married to Robert Macafee Brown – a quite famous Presbyterian minister and liberation theologian.

Sterling Hegnauer Whitener, SAS ‘38
1922 – January, 2017

Information and photo courtesy of Greensboro, NC obituaries

Sterling was born of missionary parents in China. He died at the age of 95 in his home at Friends Homes West in Greensboro, NC in January, 2017. As recounted in his 2013 book, In the Shadow of the Pagoda, Dr. Whitener’s love of China and his life growing up during the pre war years helped to form his passionate personality. He thrived at the Kuling American School and then SAS. He went on to Catawba College in Salisbury, NC, graduating in 1942, and then Yale Divinity School in 1945.

(Continued on next page)
He married Barbara Brown and went back to China in 1946. In 1949 they moved to Hong Kong, where they served for 15 years, working with the church and government agencies to resettle refugees flooding out of China. On a furlough in 1963-65, he earned a Masters in Social Work from the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Catawba College.

Returning to the U.S. permanently in 1967, he forged a national reputation for developing an accredited social work program at Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC. He also became a gerontology specialist and undertook consulting as a proponent of Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

He and Barbara had 6 children, a warm family life together, and Sterling enjoyed gardening, hiking near their vacation cottage in Bowling Rock, NC, and traveling the world, including 10 trips back to China. He retired in 1987, and in 1994 he and Barbara were in the very first cohort of residents at the newly built Friends Homes West in Greensboro.

Daniel Smith Williams, SAS ’36
1920-2016

Information courtesy of Robert Sheeks and Gerald A. Meehl

Dan was born in Louisville, KY and traveled to China with his Baptist missionary parents as a pre-teen. His father became the mission’s treasurer and business manager. In the 1930’s Dan was a student at SAS where he first met fellow American schoolmates and later to be life-long friends, George and Bob Sheeks. Both families resided in the French Concession not far from SAS.

In 1936 the Williams family left China to return to the US for a furlough, returning in 1938 until 1941. Mrs. Williams and Dan’s sister left just before Pearl Harbor. Mr. Williams stayed on and was interned by the Japanese and then repatriated in a prisoner exchange in 1943 via the Swedish ship, Gripsholm.

Through this time Dan was in college at the University of Alabama, graduating with a B.A. in 1941 and an MBA in 1942. At the recommendation of Bob Sheeks, who was already in the Navy language training program, both Dan Williams and George Sheeks were recruited into the US Navy by Commander Albert Hindmarsh to be Japanese Language Officers (JLO’s). They were sent to the Navy Japanese Language School at the Univ. of Colorado in Boulder for the training which they completed in 1943. To be a commissioned officer, Dan elected to serve in the US Marine Corps and was assigned to the Marine Fourth Division. During the war Dan had active JLO duty in the Pacific and participated in the Marine invasions of Roi-Namur in Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands, the invasions of Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas Islands, and in the invasion of Iwo Jima. He and Bob Sheeks, who was in the Second Marine Division, both served as Marine Corps JLO’s at the same time on Saipan and Tinian during those
After WWII, Dan worked for American Express first in New York City and then in San Francisco. He and his wife, Jan, then decided to reside permanently in the Bay area and work professionally in the field of securities investment. He eventually became a Vice President at Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc. and then subsequently was an Investment counselor at Morgan Stanley in San Francisco. The Williams family lived in Marin County where Dan and Jan raised their two daughters. They were near the Bob Sheeks family home in Belvedere and often visited to swim in the lagoon there. In retirement they moved to the Smith Ranch Homes, a lovely retirement community in San Rafael where they lived for many years in good health. Jan died in 2015 and Dan followed in 2016.

There is a detailed account of Dan’s experiences in this book called *Pacific War Stories* by Smith and Meehl.

Editor’s Note: We so enjoyed Dan’s company during the 2010 trip to Shanghai, sharing breakfasts at Old House Inn where we all had rooms. Dan was good about staying in touch after that and there have been periodic updates in SASA News about his activities. He and Bob Sheeks returned to China quite often over the years.

William Chu, SAS ’57
1939-2017

Information courtesy of Christine Chu

Bill Chu was born in Chongquing during the Sino-Japanese war and spent his early years in a Chinese army field hospital with his father, his mother who was a nurse at the hospital, and younger brother. The Chu family struggled to survive those war years which eventually came to an end. His father had been an influential business man which enabled the family to escape to a number of different cities in Asia and then they finally ended up in Shanghai, living at the Peace Hotel on the Bund. As the first Asian to graduate from the Wharton School of Business, Chu’s father wanted his sons to follow suit and pursue a career in business. He decided they needed to learn English so enrolled them in grade school at SAS, where they studied from 1948-49. His father had wisely converted most of the family savings into gold before the local currency became worthless. When Bill was 11 years old the family fled communist China to the US with the intention of building a new life.

Landing in America during the McCarthy era, the Chu family suffered from the acute anti-communist suspicions of the time and a all-inclusive anti-Asian sentiment. US Border Control in San Francisco confiscated the family gold and passports and handed them a certificate that could be exchanged for their possessions once they became US citizens. They were considered suspect by the CIA and FBI. Their first line of defense was to learn the language. Then they avoided banding together with the Chinese community and sought to integrate into the American mainstream.

(Continued on next page)
Bill’s high school years were difficult but he overcame them and went on to Ohio State and obtained a certificate from the Wharton School of Business. He started a career at ABC-TV in production and went on to work in various roles in media before going on to Wall St. for over 30 years. Bill and Christine were married for 35 years and raised four children. He long tried to return to China to visit but could never get a visa because his birth certificate had been lost during the war. At some point he decided to contact SAS to inquire whether they kept any old documents that might support his story. Cindy Easton, our former wonderful SAS liaison person, was able to find a picture of Bill in the 1948 Columbian, which was the document he needed to prove his connection to Shanghai and helped him secure a visa.

Ruth’s Record

Published by Earnshaw Books, available as a Kindle version on Amazon
By Ruth Hill Barr

Editor’s review:
When Ruth Barr died in Scotland in 1990, her daughter, Betty Barr Wang, (SAS ’49) found a diary and 3 notebooks of her mother’s from just the war years, 1941 to 1945. Betty was about 9 years old in 1941 and had not known of her mother’s diary. Because they were interned by the Japanese in Lunghwa Camp during much of that time, writing in the diary must have been a dangerous and therefore secretive activity. Betty decided to publish the diary and went to work on it. The book is quite in tact – very little editing – and is a day-by-day account of the anxious build-up of the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, when residents carried on with life and tea parties and theater events until they could no longer in the old, elegant way. And then the internment years, day by day. The Shanghai Daily carried a review of the book and an interview with Betty in January.

“Between 1942 and 1945, the Lunghwa camp housed nearly 2000 Europeans and Americans who tried their best to build a ‘community within confinement’ and keep life as normal as possible for their children. Betty’s father took charge of the community’s kitchen and her mother taught in the school. The community also maintained a library of books and phonograph records.”

(Continued on next page)
In the interview, Betty said, “The adults knew what was coming and had time to prepare. As a child, life went on quite normally…My mother was always very optimistic and well-organized and she continued like that in the camp.”

“The diary also contains poignant moments that adults in the camp kept from their children…”

‘There is no place in this camp to go to weep,’ Ruth wrote.

On another interesting note, they were detained in the same block as J.B. Ballard, author of ‘Empire of the Sun’. He was known as Jamie and was in the same school class as Betty’s brother Dick. She doesn’t remember ever talking with him as a young girl but her mother “recounts stimulating conversations with his father.”

Betty and her husband, George, have written many books about their travels in China – wonderful accounts that make one want to follow along with them on their next trip. This book is quite different and a treasure about the details of life in that time and circumstance.

George also has a new book titled _Wheelbarrows to High Speed Trains – Witness to a Century._ It is being published by Old China Hand Press.

---

**Reunion 2017—A Most Remarkable Event**

*Report by Mimi Gardner ’52, Editor*

**Symposium Highlights**

The first two days included a symposium of speakers generally about China Between Worlds, the theme of the symposium. Because I learned so much and the speakers were all so interesting, I am assuming that you will find this report of interest also. Our friend Joseph Ho, very recently Dr. Joseph Ho, PhD, and Professor Par Cassel (History) were our hosts. (Joe has now secured a tenured track job teaching East Asian History at Albion College.)

*(Continued on next page)*
Here’s a taste from my notes:

**History Professor Pär Cassel** got interested in Joe’s collection of 1920’s to 1950’s photos of the missionary experience in China, leading to reflection on deeper implications of U.S.-China relations. In putting this symposium together with Joe, they drew upon a rich array of professors and students on the subject. The event was videotaped in full.

**Emeritus History Professor Ernest P. Young** sketched some of those implications. After the Opium Wars, foreigners were granted special rights and immunity, which resulted in special zones, such as the French Concession in Shanghai, where SAS was housed when we were there. The Boxer Uprising was a direct result of the privileged missionary status in China. Lots of interesting history there.

**History Professor Charles Bright** gave a very lively account of discovering his grandfather’s 70 letters written in 1937-38. He had been President of Hangchow Red Cross at the time and the letters were about the details of preparation for war. Charlie’s grandparents were Emma and Robert McMullen, Southern Presbyterian evangelists, fluent in Chinese and he was a good business manager. He had been deeply affected by WWI and was re-thinking the idea that the west was superior because it was Christian.

Here is some of what he advocated: He felt the need to separate “western” from “Christian” so that the Chinese church could be Chinese and Christian, indigenous and in control. Missionaries should move into higher education such as seminaries to train for indigenous leadership. Religion should be offered but not be required in colleges. They should educate for China’s needs, not Christian mission wishes: science and engineering, labs and libraries.

On another note, his grandfather shared living quarters in 1911 with the SAS founder and was later on the Board of SAS. In 1932, he gave out the diplomas. SAS was an American island from the beginning.

**Joseph Ho** then gave us a glimpse of his work about this history through the lens of a camera. The 1937-1945 War in China was a global event and was photographed from the beginning. When the Japanese invaded North China and also landed in Shanghai in 1937, there was a Life Magazine cover photo of a Nationalist soldier. At the Rape of Nanking, there were photos taken with a hidden camera by John McGee. Missionaries wanted to document what was going on, trying to use film as an agent of peace, exposing the violence. They even created propaganda films and trained Chinese to go out to the rural areas.

(Continued on next page)
Joe had found films by the Henke’s and Lewis’s and Scovel’s. He told the story of Dr. Scovel sending film of their family to Eastman Kodak while missionaries were under house arrest and not yet interned in 1941. It was worth a try. There was no return address on the package and Eastman Kodak just held on to it. Later, Dr. Scovel was working in Rochester, NY and decided to check on the possibility that the film had arrived. Sure enough, there it was.

We learned of a book called “War and Occupation in China” by Charles Bright and Joseph Ho published by Lehigh University Press. It is about the selection process for the Gripsholm exchange of prisoners of war.

Stapleton Roy, SAS ’52
Stape was the keynote speaker and all of it was so interesting! I will highlight a few points from my notes. The big issues for China are two: the relationship between economic and political changes since 1992 (Tien An Min) and, secondly, the Thucidides Trap of mediating between established power and new power. Are we smart enough to understand this and do it right? Will the US and China be a force for good or disaster? We saw China at its lowest and have lived to see it as a strong, emerging super power.

Stape recounted a bit of his family history in China up to 1950 and then, 29 years later in 1979, diplomatic relations were established. He was US Ambassador to China from 1991 to 1995. In 1979, Shanghai was much the same as we knew it and now has 25 million residents.

A Sketch of China Now
China now: Deng Shao Ping put China on its current development rise to a globalized economy in production, investment and technology. China holds a huge amount of American debt so has a vested interest in our success. The USSR has been internal looking rather than global. China is invested everywhere, often making management mistakes in foreign investments. They are vulnerable when growth slows down. The environment is now a political issue because pollution is so bad. Inequality is huge and they ignore market forces. In the diplomatic realm they carry much more influence now, which is linked with economics. China wants their military to be as prestigious as the rest of us. Diplomacy with their neighbors is problematic but they are learning.

Political and Social Factors
3 aspects: advanced production, an educated and intellectually creative sector and inclusion of all of the people leads to their conclusion that they don’t need political parties – a Chinese version of socialism.

Xi Jin Ping is trying to balance centralized power and plural sensibilities. The politburo is all educated now; there is a large middle class that travels and studies in the West; a very disruptive anti-corruption campaign is going on with lots of purging; military shifts from army to navy and air force; and great resistance to reform from state-owned companies. China is not the US and Chinese dominance should not be viewed like ours. (Continued on next page)
China has never dominated East Asia. There are too many other powers in the picture. China is trying to protect its interest, not dominate. It has long-term goals in economics. The US has no long-term goals – only one administration-length at a time. Most Chinese support the status quo with Taiwan – they are not happy about it but don’t know what else to do. The government system is trying to hold on without checks and balances, but the people want change.

Superlatives: China has the largest market for luxury goods; the richest people; the largest radio telescope; a bullet train that works; wind and solar power; the most internet users; the most digital shopping; the largest number of soldiers in peace-keeping operations. President Trump learned a lot from his meeting with Xi Jinping.

Graduate Student panel: New Approaches to Modern Chinese Studies
Stephanie de Oliveira Chen (Psychology) is doing research in and writing about “Culture and Cognition: Chinese and American Comparisons”. She talked about how people think – the cultural differences. For example, with selective attention in art: Americans have a more narrow focus and Chinese a more total context. In news, Americans focus on the details of the main characters and Chinese more on the overall context. In the prediction of stock values, Americans don’t buy down and the Chinese love to buy stocks that are going down, assuming they will come up, change will occur. American thinking is more linear. Among proverbs, the Chinese like ones with contradictions that are dialectical. Americans like more logical, straight forward ones. The Chinese are more prone to compromise and the Americans to black and white. The Chinese embrace ambiguity and tolerate contradictions.

Angie Baecker (Asian Languages and Cultures) She is studying the “barefoot doctors” of the Cultural Revolution. These were young commune, from 1968 to 1976. They were celebrated as heroes in their time. Their hand-
Joe told us that Duke University has a large archive of photos.
The next session was called “Three Views on China Today: Changes and Challenges in Culture, Education and Politics”.

**Dr. Xiaoxin Wu** told us about the considerable Jesuit legacy – there were 232 Jesuits in Shanghai in 1949. The first Jesuits went to China in 1773 and were kicked out. In 1842 they came back to Shanghai, built a church, then a college, a seminary, an orphanage, workshops and an astronomical observatory. St. Ignatius Cathedral was built from 1906 to 1910. They were again sent away and their leaders jailed in the 1950’s.
Dr. Wu works for the RICCI Institute and the University of San Francisco. RICCI promotes cross-cultural understanding; preserves history by collecting and archiving books and pictures; produces publications in English, Chinese and French and catalogs of books; and offers scholarships in liberal arts studies.

A nice story – the cathedral stained glass windows were smashed during the cultural revolution. Recently two women from China came to the Univ. of San Francisco to learn stained glass restoration and replacement. They have new styles for 21st C. Jesuit sensibilities – 35 windows with 11 panels each. The windows were recently taken down and stored while the cathedral is being restored.

**Professor Wang Zheng** (History and Women’s Studies) spoke about the feminist struggle in a changing China. In 1949, 90% of women were illiterate. That was addressed with a feminist sensibility of equality from the beginning. Madame Sun Yat Sen was one of 3 top women leaders. None held Cabinet positions but a Federation of Women was set up that reached across other women’s groups and down to peasant women. Marriage laws were changed – no more arranged marriages, divorce and re-marrying was approved. There was a general equality of gender, class and ethnicity, although rural women were not as liberated. Films were made to educate toward feminism. Then there was a backlash and all that went hidden in 1976.

In 1995, a new cohort emerged with new NGO’s, Women’s Counseling Centers, graduate programs, rural organizing of women, gender training workshops, and the arts. (There has been a more recent backlash on these.) Younger women go to college and graduate school now. The one-child policy enabled families to afford education. The internet has helped feminist engagement. Women are bolder, more visible, more “in your face”. They use public spaces to demonstrate dramatically. When there is sexual harassment reported, it goes viral. The pre-modern system was essentially patriarchal. In the modern era, women will not submit anymore.

**Professor Mary Gallagher** (Political Science) spoke to the question, can law rule Chinese society? She said that there are good labor protection laws and the public is well educated on their rights. But there is little support to enforce the laws. So workers take it upon themselves to demonstrate and go on strike where conflict can sometimes ensue. There is an institutional gap between giving rights but not yet protecting rights.
We so welcomed some time with Marcel Gauthier, the Superintendent for this past year and going forward at SAS. He recounted some of the recent history of Kerry Jacobsen being let go and the huge rift that caused. Kerry had united the school and helped create the current core values:

A passion for learning  
A commitment to act with integrity and compassion  
The courage for students to live their dreams  

Richard Mueller, as interim superintendent, came in to help ferret out the problems, to build cultural confidence for the future, and to strengthen learning spaces and collaborative teaching. **The challenges now:** keeping enrollment up as ex-pats leave China and Chinese are educated to take over their jobs.

Competition from the many other private schools. They are flourishing because the Chinese want a western education. Also from “hybrid” schools that are private/public collaborations with corporations and the Chinese government.

The cumbersome bureaucracy and red tape of being a school of only foreign nationals. Many nonsensical rules; regulations change often; teachers must be from English-speaking countries. Liberal arts in a communist country is problematic to the Chinese. Being a non-profit institution is hard for the Chinese to understand.

There is some conflict among parents between outcomes-driven ones and experience-driven ones, i.e. educate for business success vs. educate for wisdom and over-all quality of life. A demographic change in which families go overseas to have their children so they can come to an American school at a young age but English is not their primary language.

**Going forward:** SAS is the best and needs to do more to tell our story. Keep focused on the core values.

Need more attention to special needs kids and ESL. Need to figure out more financial aid. One challenge is how hard it is to get the economic truth of families.

Hiring problems because of air quality and internet struggles. Also, the Chinese rule that you have to stop working at age 60 and you have to be paid in RMB which has an unreliable exchange rate, so you take a salary drop.

**Alumni outreach:** there is much more focus now. Meetings are held here and there – in cities in the U.S.; a widely promoted gathering in Seoul this year. The Founders Week is a significant attempt to connect with our history and the future. The class of 2007 will have their 10th reunion celebration that week. There may be an attempt to connect with other international school alum associations that are China specific.
Reunion Business Meeting Notes Report by Mimi Gardner

Since this is the last large reunion, there was appreciation expressed to all those who have made SASA happen over the years, from Susan Dau in 1968 to the pre-war alums who handed things over to us in Orlando to Teddy Heinrichsohn for many years to current leadership. On-going connections will be through SASA News, perhaps regionalizing the database for local get-togethers, using Skype and ListServe and other techy things. Suggestions welcomed.

Financial matters: As noted, Jeff Gorman is our new treasurer. Future expenses will just be the cost of producing SASA News. There is currently money in the coffers to help with travel expenses if that would enable you to go to Shanghai in September for Founders Week. Please be in touch with Mimi about that: mimihollister1@verizon.net, 781-910-2376.
We are encouraged to make tax deductible donations to “Friends of SAS Foundation”. The best way is on-line with a credit card. The form for that is on the SAS website home page under “Giving”.
Those planning to attend Founders Week at SAS as of now are Ellen Styles Rajacich, Ted and Femmy Stannard, Anne Romasco, Mimi and Don Gardner, David and Gartha Angus, Teddy and Andrea Heinrichsohn, and of course Betty Barr Wang and George who live in Shanghai.

Archiving materials: SAS is creating a proper archive storage room and encourages us to send materials related to SAS for safe storage. They will pay for DHL shipping. Please be in touch with Crickett Kasper if interested: crickett.kasper@saschina.org
The Future: More details of the future of SASA will be worked out in September with the school and with younger alums. The Class of 2007 leadership will be represented at that time.

Reunion Highlights

We ate together, listened a lot to excellent speakers, conducted some official business, toured the University of Michigan campus, strolled through the Arboretum and the Peony Garden that was not fully in bloom yet but some of the Chinese tree peonies were out and exquisite, listened to “All Hail to Thee…” ringing out over the town from the Bell Tower carillon, spoke of this being the last big reunion, a closing service with shared memories of those who have died since the last reunion – especially Jake and B.J. - and sang “Kum Bayah” and “Amazing Grace”. All good!

(Continued on next page)
Jing Ho, daughter of Joseph Ho, enjoying the Peony Garden

Betty Blakney and Priscilla Gill

Jing leading the group

The Carillon Ringer holding ‘All Hail to Thee’ with Ted Stannard and Joseph Ho

Peggy Callahan and Mary Howland at the Kelsey Museum of Archeology

CLICK HERE for a link to the symposium video recording on YouTube
In that last service led by Carl Scovel, he asked me to do the prayer and before we left, he asked me to publish it in this next issue of SASA News. So here it is:

_Holy God,_

_Thank you for life – this mysterious gift that we are given for a time. Thank you that we were created to be in community, to share who we are and how we do life. Thank you for ideas and possibilities and experiences that shape us, make us aware and grateful. Thank you for the energy and intelligence and callings that have been so generously shared in these days together. Thank you for memories that we create today and all those we look back on._

There are longings and fears for our world, our neighborhoods, our families, our friends. Pour your grace on the huge concerns and the very personal prayers in our hearts, holy one. Keep us somehow tethered to your longing for the world that it be a place of goodness and well-being for all.

_Bless us in this time. Bless the tears and sorrow for those we’ve known and loved and lost from this life. Bless the memories we hold dear._

As we end our time together, we give thanks for the heritage that brought us together and ask your blessing on whatever is to come. _So be it. Amen._

If possible… Go Green with SASA News! Get it online or through your e-mail!