From the Editor  Mimi Gardner ’52

In my intro to the last issue of SASA News, I began with “Much of this issue is meant to entice you to Reunion 2015!” Well, it was a grand reunion indeed and many of you were there. Please enjoy the pictures and testimonies and try very hard not to miss the next one. These times together seem to grow ever more precious, especially as we speak words of remembrance and thanksgiving in the closing gathering for those no longer with us. It’s just good to be together, to catch up on life, to discuss important things, to laugh and share a glass of wine, to remember and to look ahead.

These are among the ones we remember with so much gratitude as well as sadness: Harriet Refo Locke (SAS ’50) and Peter Lusztig (SAS ’48) and Mary Schubert Shine (SAS ’49) and Jean Stannard (SAS ’41) and Girard Veenschoten (SAS ’37) and Beverly Bourne Sontheimer (SAS ’49).

Please take it all in and then sit down and write for me your thoughts, what you are working on these days, special memories of these dear people, whatever you wish and know that we alums are truly interested in what you are up to.

Carl Scovel posed a question for those who signed up for his program at the Reunion: what do you trust? And where does that trust come from? Evocative indeed! Why don’t you take that on and send me something for the next issue? mimihollister1@verizon.net or 7 Glover Square, Marblehead, MA 01945

April Trio in Shanghai

Here’s the glowing report from Crickett Kasper, SAS staff and our liaison: “Thank you for everything you did to support the SASA Alumni Lecture at SAS this year. Teddy, our students and faculty greatly enjoyed your presentations. You did a wonderful job of tailoring each session to meet the many interests of your audience, from sharing your photos and pop music to playing the piano and fielding questions on the economic trends in China and Singapore – thank you for sharing your expertise and time with us. Anne, it was great to meet your family (Senta and Calem went with her) and to hear more of your stories from your time in Shanghai. Betty, I remain impressed by how many of our faculty and staff you know. You’re famous!

“I also want to thank all of you for spending time with our administrators on and off campus. It was important to hear your thoughts on how the school can better support our alumni…”

Photo Courtesy of Betty Barr; Left to Right: T. Heinrichsohn, ’49; A. Romasco, ’51; and B. Barr, ’49
The Ties that Bind

By Betty Barr ‘49 (all reunion photos provided by Joseph Ho)

Q. What do a geneticist, a nuclear physicist, an astronomer, an artist, several business executives, a clutch of preachers and teachers - and a ballet dancer - have in common?

A. They all went to SAS in 1946 -1949. Sixty-six years later, they gathered together near Washington, DC.

On the weekend of June 19-23, 2015, the Shanghai American School Association organised a Reunion which was attended by about 30 students from the ‘40s plus 20 spouses and others. Two administrators from the present school were also present.

It is astonishing that after more than 60 years the ties are still so strong. We were scattered all over the world after leaving the school and for about the first 40 years we were busy establishing careers and families.

However, after that we began to wonder what had happened to the others. Reunions were held in such places as LA, Indianapolis, Bellingham, WA, and Orlando, FL - and even on a barge in France. In 2012, when the school celebrated its Centennial, about 20 students of earlier eras made the long trip back to Shanghai, including one 95-year-old.

At this Reunion in 2015, presentations were made about old and new Shanghai, a recently published book of poems by a participant’s father about his life’s work in Fujian Province and other topics. Former Ambassador to China Stapleton Roy, a mere Freshman when many of us were Seniors, was to have spoken but was unfortunately taken ill at the last moment. His thoughtful assessment of current Sino-American relations was shared with us by one of SASA’s Co-Presidents, Mimi Gardner, and a lively discussion ensued.

Of course, we had a Chinese Banquet of an uncountable number of courses. Most of the time, we reminisced, laughed, sang - and reminisced again.

As the ballerina said on the last evening, “I love us”. That said it all.
Editor’s note:
Chia Lun Huang, SAS 2000, sent a thank you email that I use as an outline to flesh out a bit more of this lovely time.

She begins, “I wish to let you know what a pleasure it was to be able to participate in the reunion.
“The hugging and kissing at the welcome desk” – yes there was a lot of that, of course.

““The reading of B.J.’s passage.” At the welcome dinner, we read the passage from B.J. Rugh Elder’s (SAS ’51) book *The Oriole’s Song* that is read at graduation every year on the Pudong campus. It comes at the end of the chapter called “Falling Into Place”, and ends with the line: “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.”

“Jake’s passionate description of historical Shanghai;
“Betty Barr’s dedicated multimedia portrayal of today’s Shanghai (by a visit to a lively and popular park near their home)
“ The sizzling Beijing Duck and post-meal sharing;
“ Reva’s riveting tale of her imprisonment in the Philippines during the war;

“Joseph Ho’s insightful presentation and the comforting knowledge that someone will be studying and taking good care of missionary visual materials…” He is a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan. His dissertation is a compiling and description of family collections of film and photo from their time in China in the 20th century before “liberation”. He did a presentation of some of his work, became one of us in spirit and energy, and has approached the University of Michigan to host the next SASA reunion in Ann Arbor – more to come as that unfolds.
“David’s reading of his father’s descriptive poems (see the review in this issue);

“Robert Dixon’s animating puppet talk

“A group effort to continue SASA with input from Crickett Kasper, our delightful and helpful liaison person with current SAS

“A fruitful business meeting with financial report and brain-storming and talk of future reunions (See business report later in this issue)

“Reading of Stape Roy’s speech (he was quite ill with a flu bug and unable to attend at the last minute) and the lively discussion about current day China;

“Carpooling and excitedly gathering at the air and space museum near by.

“Sharing of past SAS experiences from angles of regrets, gender, race and the world - the chats, singing, remembering.

(Continued on next page)
“Carl’s introspective discussion on our life experiences…” Several of us agreed to his homework assignment of reflecting on “What do you trust and how did you come by that trust?” The responses were varied, interesting, evocative and much lively discussion ensued.

“The closing service of ‘Remembrance and Gratitude’ led by Carl” We spoke our memories of those who have died recently, especially; sang Dona Nobis Pacem and Amazing Grace; and heard Carl speak of gratitude for lives well lived,
“The passing on of well-wishes…I can’t tell you how many times I was deeply touched by the level of care and love that you have shown for life and for each other. It also showed me, that no matter where you are, what age you are or what you are, as long as you are willing, there can be a loving community that understands, that accepts and that loves you.

“I have tried to videotape every detail, only in an attempt to capture that sentiment of love, which is the rarest and the most wonderful of emotions…Thank you again for letting me be a part of this experience.”

In Memoriam

Harriet Refo Locke, 1932 to 2015, SAS 1950
Information courtesy of Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Home, Kingsport, TN

Harriet died on May 4 after a brief illness. Born in Canton, China, she came to the U.S. during her high school years. Harriet was a graduate of the College of Wooster in Ohio where she earned her B.A. in Biology and from Easter Tennessee State University, where she earned her Master’s in Education. She retired in 1992 from the Sullivan County School system after 30 years of service as a teacher. After retirement, she joined the Peace Corps to continue as an educator in Nepal from 1992-1995 and the Philippines from 1995-1997. Harriet was the first female from Tennessee to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine and ran and completed 19 marathons around the world. She trekked in the Annapurnas and the base camp at Mt. Everest while in Nepal.

Her many contributions to the community included volunteering for Meals on Wheels and the Bristol Food Pantry and serving as the co-director of Rhythm and Roots Reunion 5K run and 2Mile walk.

(Continued on next page)
She was a member of the State of Franklin Track Club, a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, a member of the Bristol Tennessee Parks and Recreation Commission and an Elder at Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church. She was preceded in death by her sister, Peggy Refo Mason.

Editor’s note:
So there are the basics about Harriet. Where to begin with more…!
My first re-connection with Harriet was at the 1989 reunion in Los Angeles. We did a morning run together. Since then she has been at just about every reunion. A memorable time was the barge trip in 2013 when there was lots of hang-out time as we poked along the canals and rivers. An added bonus on the barge trip was time with her dear friend, Wendy, whose loss of Harriet is huge! The pictures here are ones that Wendy sent.

I can picture her so clearly at SAS. She was a very lively, kind, funny upstairs dorm-mate (I was downstairs in the junior dorm) and a really good athlete.
Because of her amazingly healthy life-style and delightful spirit, I assumed she would live forever. Well, I guess she will in our hearts.
The eulogy by her niece’s husband says it all and so we include the whole thing here.

**Eulogy by Harriet’s Nephew**

If I had one wish for you, it might be that you had Harriet as a family member or friend. That’s because heroes enter our lives in unexpected ways, and Harriet is an unexpected hero to each of us. That may seem like exaggeration. But you can measure someone’s influence on your life by how often you bring them up in conversations—especially conversations about tenacity, quiet determination, gutsy decisions, fearless adventure, sage advice.

In our family, we often use *Aunt Harriet Parables*. Perhaps you do, too. Here are a few:

When she was 10, Aunt Harriet and her sisters were prisoners of war in China during WWII. **So, you’re complaining about how hard your childhood was?**

Aunt Harriet will go anywhere under any circumstances without any hesitation—China, India, Africa, or more terrifying still, camping across the United States with 7 young kids—in the 1960s, on bad roads, in unreliable cars with old tires and no AC, before cell phones and OnStar. **So, you’re afraid to go where?**

(Continued on next page)
Our aunt started running in her 50s—and still ran marathons in her 80s. I showed up for Strawberry Plains Half Marathon on a frigid, gray sleeting morning, thinking *I’m too old for this,* only to find Harriet, nearly 3 decades my senior, with her runner friends…laughing. I never caught up with them. *So, what is it again that you’re too old to do?*

Our aunt was the first woman in Tennessee to walk the entire 2185 mile Appalachian Trail. She is about this big. *So, what is it again that is too hard for you to do?*

Our aunt was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal at an elevation only airplanes go. Then she signed up again for the Philippines. *So, what is it again that you don’t have time to volunteer for?*

My Aunt Harriet trekked to 18,100 feet on Everest in her 60s—twice. Villagers had never seen a woman her age and revered her as an *ancient one.* She was already older than they would ever be. Lalit, our Sherpa, talked about what kind of strength it takes to attempt the summit. His assessment? She was one of the rare people who could probably do it. *So, what is it again that you’re not strong enough for?*

My sister in law says: The first time I met Aunt Harriet she had her nose pierced! I was new to the family and I was very surprised…and not sure what I had gotten myself into! *So, what is it again that you’re self-conscious about?*

My sister says: At least once a month I either *decide based on,* or tell someone, “yes, you should pack a swim suit (for that trip) because my Aunt Harriet says you should *never go anywhere without your swim suit.*” Can’t you hear her definitive tone and laugh when she said it? *So, what is it again that you’re having trouble deciding?*

My other sister says: My aunt, in her 70’s, went to Africa, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, ran a 1/2 marathon, and went on safari. When she came back, she told us that for the first time in her life she felt her age. I said that I feel her age nearly every day! I also always add the she's my hero. *So, what were the things you think are just too much to tackle all at once?*

My wife says: I thought of Harriet this morning on my run. I thought, if Harriet can do this, I can, too.

And that’s kind of what a hero is, isn’t it? Not someone who does the impossible, but rather, someone who shows us *the possible.*

**Peter Lusztig (SAS 1948) May, 1930 to January, 2014**

Information courtesy of The Vancouver Sun

Peter was born in Budapest in 1930 to Alfred and Zsuzsa Lusztig. He moved at a young age to Asia where his father practiced medicine in Shanghai and Hong Kong. In 1948, Peter came to Vancouver to attend the University of British Columbia… (the details of his life are in the article below).

In many ways, Peter was an old-fashioned man. He was unfailingly courteous, kind and respectful to everyone he met. He was a man who listened more than he spoke. Above all, Peter loved his family. He was married to Penny for nearly 53 years and had three children and four grandchildren. His family wrote that he was loved and enormously loving to us all and we will miss him more than words can ever express.

*Photo Courtesy of Alex Waterhouse Hayward*

(Continued on next page)
1955, he began his finance career at the BC Electric Company from which he was recruited to join the Finance Division at UBC. After several years of teaching he entered the PhD program in finance at Stanford, graduating in 1965. He was asked to be Chair of the Finance Division at UBC in 1968 and became Dean of Faculty in 1977 until 1991, returned to teaching and retired in 1995.

As Chair of the Finance Group and Dean, Peter led the faculty to become one of the top business schools in the country. He established the first Advisory Council of a Business School in Canada, established an internationally recognized PhD program and assisted Shanghai Jiao Tong University in launching business courses alongside their engineering courses.

Peter felt strongly that faculty contribute to the community that they lived in and he practiced what he preached. Early in his career he accepted an appointment to the BC Royal Commission on Automobile Insurance. He was appointed to a number of Boards: CANFOR, ICBC, Royal Sun Alliance, Vancouver General Hospital and its Foundation, Tree Island Industries, ROINS Financial Holdings, Healthcare Benefit Trust, Arts Umbrella and the Vancouver Board of Trade. He served as sole commissioner of the BC Commission of Inquiry into the Tree Fruit Industry and chaired the Federal/Provincial Asia Pacific Initiative. Shortly before retiring, the federal government appointed Peter as Federal Commissioner to the BC Treaty Commission for 4 consecutive 2-year terms.

Through all he did in his life, Peter inspired those of us who knew him to be better scholars and citizens. But it was in how he lived his life that he inspired us to be better people. He cared about how his colleagues were doing, was quick to find ways to help us with whatever life put in front of us, and encouraged us in all that we did. We will truly miss him. The BC flag on campus was lowered on February 6, 2014, in remembrance.

Editor’s note: I can picture Peter’s lean, smiling presence on the SAS campus, even as a lowly 8th grader. I welcome memories and comments about Peter from you who knew him well to include in the next SASA news. He surely had a distinguished career.

(Obits Continued on next page)
Marjorie Jean Stannard (SAS ’41), January 1924 to June 2015
Information and pictures courtesy of Ted Stannard (SAS ’48)

Jean was born in Hollywood in 1924 and died in Fresno, CA in June, 2015. She was 91 years young. At age six, Jean boarded a steamship for China with her medical missionary parents and siblings. She went to school in Peking, was homeschooled in Ningpo and then spent her four years of high school at SAS.

Six months before Pearl Harbor, Jean sailed to America for college, first at the University of Redlands and then U.C. Berkeley and finally the University of Washington for a B.A. in Far Eastern Studies. After a stint in university relations and editing on the Redlands Daily Facts, she returned to China in 1947 to work at the American Baptist mission hospital in Shaoxing where the family was stationed. When the family left on furlough in 1948, Jean stayed in Shanghai, working first for the U.S. aid agency and then as a code clerk for the U.S. Consulate. In 1949, as the Red Army marched into Shanghai, she and the other consular employees were trapped in the building for three days by crossfire between the Nationalist and Communist armies. After one burst of fire when she was away from her desk, Jean returned to find a hole in the desk front, another in the back of her chair, and a hot spent bullet on the floor. When the consulate closed, Jean transferred to Indonesia just at the end of its war for independence from Holland. In 1950 she went to Trieste for a year and then home to California for good.

She lived in Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo, working for the Division of Highways, the California Highway Patrol and then as a court reporter. She continued in that career in Fresno where she then stayed for life. She loved to travel all over the world, was a voracious reader as a child and continued throughout her life, enjoyed sending magazine and newspaper clippings of interest to family and friends. She believed that email was no substitute for letters on paper in an envelope with stamp, actively used her IBM Selectric typewriter, respected and enjoyed the individuality of friends and strangers, loved nature and her cat, Sabre, and drove her white pick-up truck until her last illness.

She was predeceased by her parents and two Alaskan brothers, David and John. Siblings Ted, Dorothy and Marian and their spouses are still with us, along with three generations beyond.

(Obits continued on next page)
Mary Schubert Shine, 1931 to 2015, SAS 1949
Information courtesy of ObitsforLife.com

Mary was born in Glendale, CA in 1931. She grew up in China with her sister Lois (SAS 1948) as a child of Methodist missionaries. The family lived in Jiangxi Province until Mary was 11, when her mother passed away. Her father remarried and they had another child named Esther. After Chinese Liberation, she returned to the U.S. with her family.

For college, Mary received her Bachelor’s Degree in Education and then went on to Western Oregon State for a Master’s and a teaching certificate. Over many years she taught grade school in Butte Falls, Coos Bay, Bandon, and finally in Hillsboro, Oregon where she taught first grade for 27 years. She especially enjoyed working with children who had dyslexia and various learning disabilities. In the 1950’s Mary was involved with Billy Graham Revival Ministries.

In 1967, Mary and Paul Shine were married at the Assembly of God Church in Aloha, Oregon. They had two daughters. Mary enjoyed baking for her family and sewing dance costumes for her daughters’ many dance recitals. Mary’s extended family lives in California and Indiana. She was especially close to her niece, Dr. Amelia Pryor, from San Francisco and enjoyed writing her letters when she was a child and more recently to Amelia’s daughter, Emily, who was also born in China.

Mary always considered China to be her home and loved to return for visits, taking various grandchildren with her, and to talk about her experiences in China to anyone who would listen. One grandson became fluent in Mandarin and teaches English in China.

Mary and Paul loved to travel around the country by Amtrak. They were also garage sale buffs and collected antique toasters and elephant figurines. Mary survived breast cancer, was active in the local Senior Center, and would recite Amazing Grace to her grandson-caregiver, Joseph, every night. Her husband Paul died in 2004.

Editor’s Note: I have such a strong mental picture of Mary at SAS – a quiet, precise way of speaking and always with a twinkle in her dark eyes. Any other notes about her are welcomed for the next SASA News.

(Obits continued on next page)
Girard Veenschoten, MD., MPH, 1919 to 2015, SAS 1937
Information from Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, MI

Girard was born in Amoy, China of Reformed Church missionary parents, Henry and Stella. Home-schooled until age 12, he attended and graduated with diplomas from Shanghai American School and Hope College in Holland, MI. He went on to a Degree in Medicine from Wayne State University in Detroit and later earned a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan. During his medical school years, all students had to serve in the Armed Services. He became an Army Medical Officer and served on the island of Eniwetok in the South Pacific and was finally discharged with the rank of Captain. He married Cora Munzer and began medical practice in Moses Lake, WA and later in several Michigan communities. His wife, Cora died during that time. Several years later he met and married Madeline Lucas, a widow with a daughter and two sons. They lived for a number of years in Battle Creek where he served in the Veterans Hospital and was a dedicated physician.

After retirement, he and Madeline moved to Friendship Village in Kalamazoo. They were married for 38 cherished years until she died in 2009. His sister, Elin Veenschoten Moerland (SAS ’48) died in 2013. His other sister, Joann Veenschoten Hill (SAS ’41), wrote about him for this obituary. She particularly appreciated the year 1936-37 when they both were boarders at SAS – she a lowly 8th grader and he a graduating Senior. He took her very much under wing. During her 3rd year at Wayne State, he introduced her to Jack Hill, a fellow medical school classmate! Jack and Gary’s friendship has deepened over the 70 years of his marriage to Joann. She said that Gary was an outstanding brother. He enjoyed pets always and had a bird-feeder platform outside his office-space window. History, classical music, the fine arts, literature were among his many interests. When two of his nephews were studying harpsichord in Amsterdam, he spent several months nearby with them. He used his computer not only to actively communicate with family and friends, but to record some of his personal history and memories of his early years in China.

SASA Membership Renewal
$15 annual fee. Make check to Charlie Way, Treasurer with “SASA dues” on the memo line. **Be sure to include your name, address, and email in a cover note and your high school graduation year.** If you are paying for more than one year, please note that. Send to: Charlie Way, 222 Highland Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225-5414
A Review
Betty Barr, SAS 1949

Have you ever thought of summarizing your life in verse? William Angus, father of our David Angus, ’50, did just that and the result has been published this year. South Fukien has a Foreword by David and an introduction by David Andrews, both of whom spent many years in bringing this project to fruition. The book is divided into five sections: Change, Unrest, War, Inflation and Communists. These headings alone provide the context of the troubled times in which the poems were written – by an American living in a rural area of southern China, not Shanghai or Beijing.

According to David Andrews, “Angus took on himself the duty to be reportorial, ‘to set things down as they were, and not as I thought people at home would like to hear them’.” (p.xlv) Andrews also comments that China was at that time “a country that was less a governed nation than a culturally bound set of disparate provinces.” (p.xxvi)

Members of SASA who, like David Angus, grew up in provinces in both south and north China will recognize in this book situations common to those in which their parents worked. In particular, they will find stories of how the faith of their parents and their converts brought them into conflict with the authorities of the time – Nationalists (KMT), “bandits”, Japanese or Communists.

Stories are the nub of this volume. What makes them so special is that they are told in verse, in everyday language accessible to all and yet, of course, chosen by the poet for maximum effect. The reader is drawn into the daily life of the characters and becomes emotionally involved with them.

Here we read about the buying and selling of daughters to be married, a common practice at the time among the poor, but one nonetheless full of pain and sadness. We also read about the gambling and drinking, especially the drinking of toasts at banquets. (“Toast Refused, p. 23)

Church life in rural areas of China is revealed as we learn about the buying and selling of land, the problematic use of village ancestral halls as churches and quarrels between congregations. Even more serious is the problem of patriotism since Christianity was seen as a foreign religion. The power of the “commanders”, i.e. the bandits, is one recurring theme. One, nicknamed the Tiger, asked the villagers to hide munitions for him (“The Tiger’s Things”, p.28). William Angus described in just a few lines how the power of another, the Fox, ebbed and flowed:

“Often troops have come in and tried to drive him out,
But he disbands his men and goes into hiding.
The county is pacified, the troops depart;
He reassembles his men, resumes control.”

(Continued on next page)
The pen portraits of the three commanders, “The Tiger, the Bull and the Fox” (pp.30-33) is one of my favorites and I chuckled when I read the Fox’s excuse for not joining the church: “I’m afraid my attendance at church would be very irregular…I mean to. But, you see, I’m so busy.” (pp.49-50)

It is difficult to describe my emotions on reading near the end of the book Angus’ report that the head of the Fox was sent to all the towns in the county so that the people could be sure that he was dead.

Besides the stories, there are several poems which might seem to be the more traditional subject matter of a poem: the beauty of nature. But even here, Angus remains rooted in rural China: “The winter crops are done,” and “The green rice shoots are ready for a planting.” (p.20)

To sum up, I cannot do better than SASA member Paul VanderMeer, ’50, and therefore I will quote him:

“Although many authors express sympathy for the Chinese, rarely, perhaps never, have so many compelling truths been compressed into so few words.”

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**An Art Gallery Addict’s Advice**

*By Jim Scovel, SAS 1948*

The fun I had at our reunion was marred slightly by not visiting the art museums in Washington—this I’d been able to do the last time we met in Virginia. Believe me, Washington has some of the most outstanding art in the country, spread from the Phillips Gallery to the Smithsonian. Which reminds me of a scene in front of the National Portrait Gallery last time I was there. A middle-aged couple. the wife cheerfully approaching the gallery entrance while her husband followed—brows knitted, hands shoved deep in his pockets, the picture of a man about to enter the dentist’s office.

Besides being a painter, I’m an addict in visiting art galleries; in the last 30-odd years, I think I’ve been in almost 50, all the way from the DeYoung in San Francisco to the Uffizi in Florence. And how often, it’s the same scene. For every interested art fan, there’s the bored escort, plodding along a half-step behind with occasional longing glances at the clock or the directions to the cafeteria. And it needn’t be that way.. Visiting an art museum really isn’t like getting a filling. Here are some suggestions on how to ease the pain.

*Don’t try to look at every painting in the room.* The worst single mistake you can make is to try to examine every portrait, every landscape, each pastel. Instead, try this. When you enter a particular room, walk slowly past every wall, looking casually without stopping at each picture. If one catches your eye, wait till you finish your mini-tour; then go back and stop in front of it. *Spend at least five or 10 minutes* looking at it closely. Look at the colors, the lines, see if the title makes sense.

(Continued on next page)
Use discretion with audiotapes. People tend to start listening to the tape’s account of a painting as soon as they get in front of it. I suggest it’s better to look at the painting first. Get your own impression; it’s just as important as what the experts have to say. Then listen to the tape—otherwise, you’ll find yourself playing audio-visual ping pong, listening at what the tape points out, then bouncing back to look at the painting. Try first of all to get a sustained impression of your own.

*Over-all, don’t try to spend too much time.* Personally I find that one, possibly, two hours of looking in one museum is about all I can handle.

*Don’t, by the same token, try to cover too much ground.* Most art museums are huge places; and nothing’s easier than to wear oneself out, straggling from room to room. It’s best to decide ahead of time to concentrate, say, on seeing one artist or one school of art.

*Promotions.* Every art museum or gallery spends a lot of effort ballyhooing its special exhibits—Picasso, Van Gogh, Warhol, whatever. People for some reason feel they have to be impressed by such an artist or if they’re not, it shows their ignorance. Not so. The so-called Big Names often painted ordinary—and sometimes weak—paintings. Next time you see an exhibit of a Big Name, try to pick out some that you think are not very good. Or better yet, pass up the special shows and look for a lesser-known artist whom you personally like.

Which brings up the most important point of all: *Don’t be intimidated!* I don’t know any other arena than the art world which is so thickly populated by snobs who either in writing or speaking will be happy to inform you what you should or should not like—that is, if you were smart like him or her. Keep in mind these people are promoting a particular painting, artist or a particular museum, and should be approached as you would any other salesman. There is only one attitude that counts—what you like about a painting, not what someone else tells you should like about a painting.

And good hunting on your next museum tour.

**Notes From You**

In May, **Reva Feldman Jolovitz (SAS ’49)** wrote of her visit with Janice Flanley Nelson (SAS ’49) in Beverly Hills. Reva said she is in a lovely retirement facility and Janice’s apartment has nice views and very nice amenities. She misses Ned but has made herself at home there and enjoys what it has to offer—events, lectures, etc. “Herbie and I really enjoyed our visit and were so pleased with her dwelling place. She sends her love to all.”

(Continued on next page)
Also in May, **Betty Barr Wang (SAS ’49)** once again represented SASA at the two graduation ceremonies of SAS. She presented the annual Alumni Award for Service and Integrity to Ashley Chen of the Pudong Campus and Huntington Zong Ru Wu of the Puxi Campus.

Betty also reported that Jennifer Weyburn, Deputy Superintendent, has some new ideas about inviting speakers to the school throughout the year and about organizing a kind of China Symposium at the time of the Alumni Lecture next April. Crickett Kasper spoke of this at the Reunion, with more details to come.

**David Merwin (SAS ’53)** sent an interesting photo essay album of his latest (he has been on many projects in China) Habitat for Humanity project in Wuzhi Village in southeastern Sichuan last summer. We had it on display at the Reunion. It is accordion-like and folds into a purse or pocket-sized album and tells the story in chronological pictures. He wrote: “One of the highlights of the project was the almost daily presence of children – not only the children of the (households they were building) but also those from nearby households…another highlight was getting to once again work with Li Xiang, the project’s coordinator. An amazing hard working and dedicated member of Habitat China, he’s been an inspiration to me; I had worked with him earlier on other Habitat projects around Sichuan, including three that were part of the massive rebuilding effort following the May 12, 2008 earthquake.” David hopes to go back to China on another Habitat project soon with SAS students, when he is fully recovered from his knee surgery that became necessary after hiking in the Huang Long Nature Preserve after his Habitat work. He wrote: “Now I have this recurring dream – a dream in which I’m cross-country skiing and snow-camping in the backcountry of Huang Long with all the people who helped me down the mountain… the mountains range from 6,000 to 14,000 feet high and it’s blessed with some of the most beautiful scenery I’ve ever seen – lakes, rivers, waterfalls, rhododendron thickets, a great variety of wildflowers, deciduous and ever-green forests, snow-capped mountains year round.”

*(Continued on next page)*
In the April 23, 2015 issue of *The New York Review of Books*, **David Roy’s (SAS ’51)** translation of the fifth and final volume of *Chin P’ing Mei or The Plum in the Golden Vase, Vol. 5, The Dissolution* is reviewed, explained, compared, with great erudition by Perry Link. The title of the review is “The Wonderfully Elusive Chinese Novel.” The translation of all five volumes was a lifetime of work for David and he is grateful that he has been able to complete even the end notes and references of this final volume before ALS progresses further. His brother, Stape Roy, wrote that mostly David is very, very tired these days.

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**A Summary of the Business Meeting**

**June 21, 2015 Herndon Reunion**

*Excerpted from notes by Betty Barr, ’49*

**Presidents’ Report** – Anne Romasco and Mimi Gardner

Thanks to all past and present who lead, speak, edit, represent, organize reunions, and keep accounts. Current officers have agreed to continue: Mimi Gardner and Anne Romasco as Co-Chairs; Charlie Way as Treasurer, Mimi as Editor of SASA News. Anyone wishing to be a Regional Officer or on the Executive Committee on a voluntary basis would be most welcomed and should be in touch with Anne.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Charlie Way showed that with annual dues at $15, we will pretty soon run out of money. Our expenses include: the cost of creating and printing SASA News the annual $500 scholarship for each campus travel costs for Alumni Lecturers. However, SAS representative, Crickett Kasper, said they will help in various ways: particularly with the annual Alumni Lecture expenses and with establishing a way for donations to be tax deductible. More to come on that.

Teddy suggested “passing the hat” right there.

When all was said and done, the Reunion garnered an extra $1,800 plus for the coffers, so we are ok for the moment.

*(Continued on next page)*
(A later note from Treasurer, Charlie: “…for me personally, I’m budgeting $100 per year toward SASA. If we have 19 others who are so inclined, we’ll have close to a balanced budget on a recurring basis. Any amount closes our budget gap and extends the life of SASA as a contributing asset to SAS.”)

**SASA News Editor’s Report:** Mimi Gardner reported that 3 issues are produced each year. She requested articles from any and all alums about your work, your interests, your life, whatever.

**Word from SAS Staff** – Crickett Kasper: She expressed much interest in the ties with us – bridging 1949 and 1980 alums. Regional events are being held among recent alums – the start of organizing a young SASA. There will soon be a new staff person to work with the database of current grads. There are plans to digitize SAS archives at the school. A lively discussion followed with gratitude expressed for the current interest and staffing of alumni relations.

**Word from SASA Representative in Shanghai** - Betty Barr: Heartfelt thanks to SAS for its long support of SASA; its warm welcome to all SASA group visitors, especially at the Centennial celebrations in 2012; its hosting of Alumni Lecturers each year since 2005. A lively discussion followed about the lecture series. It was agreed that it should be continued and should be meaty and relevant. Crickett said that it could be part of a larger lecture series being planned by the school.

**Future Reunions:** An enthusiastic show of hands indicated that reunions should continue every two years. Joseph Ho, a PhD student at the University of Michigan and presenter at this reunion is very interested in asking the University to host the next one. More to come on that. There being no other business, the meeting ended on that happy note.
More Ties that Bind: Reunion 2015

All photos courtesy of Joseph Ho
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