From the Editor  Mimi Gardner
Two important calendar items in this issue:
SASA Reunion, May 7-11, 2017 and Founder’s Day at SAS, September 11-17, 2017
You must read about each one and, especially make your plans for the reunion right away. You will not want to miss it. In this most surreal of times in the U.S., it will be a joy to gather with wise scholars at the University of Michigan and with each other to ponder that other surreal homeland of ours as we knew it and as it is now. We will also have plenty of time to reconnect and to speak about plans for the future of SASA.
As you will read, Founder’s Day will be our finale of the SASA Lectures that we have offered to the school for the last 12 years. We hope many of you will be able to participate.
Other articles: John Liu’s next installment about the Loess Plateau, memorials of some truly interesting long-lived alums, and the lovely addition in Notes from You of two babies born to our SASA community – it’s all good. Enjoy! And don’t forget to update your dues.

The Shanghai American School Association

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This beautiful tree welcomes visitors to the administration building on the Puxi campus. This was a gift of the SASA members who visited the school in 2004.
Reunion 2017—Not To Be Missed!

Where – The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor
When – May 7 to 11, 2017
Our Hosts – the University and the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies (LRCCS)

We usually have interesting speakers and workshops, but this time will be most unusual and ever so rich. Here’s a taste:

It will include an academic symposium entitled China Between Worlds: The Republic, the Civil War, and the PRC through the Eyes of the Shanghai American School. Stape Roy, (SAS ‘52) and former U.S. Ambassador to China will give the keynote address. The symposium will also feature talks on topics in China – past and present – by distinguished University of Michigan faculty in History, Political Science, and Women’s Studies. It will be a melding of scholarship and our lived experiences – historical and post-1949 China to the present-day.

Some of what will be included: talks on Republican China during our time there; a forum to allow alumni to discuss and respond to faculty and students on their personal experiences against the backdrop of the Chinese Civil War, postwar Sino-US relations, and the PRC; and a panel on culture, politics and education in current China presented by LRCCS faculty affiliates and visiting scholars. These talks will be paired with panel presentations by selected SAS alumni and a diverse cohort of graduate students from Michigan and other institutions who specialize in advanced China-related topics. Among those will be our friend Joseph Ho, soon to be Dr. Joseph Ho, who has put all this together for us, Chia Lun Huang (SAS 2000), and Lou Mo, who was at the 2015 reunion also. All of this will be set up for audio recording and is also free and open to the public.

A bit more about the faculty involved:

Professor Mary Gallagher, Director of the Center for Chinese Studies, who specializes in Chinese politics, comparative politics of developing states, and law and society.
Professor Emeritus Ernest P. Young, an expert on Catholicism in late Imperial and Republican China.
Professor Charlie Bright, a historian of American politics and global history, whose grandfather was also a key administrator at SAS in the mid-1930’s.
Professor Par Cassel, whose scholarship focuses on extraterritoriality and legal systems in Qing dynasty Chinese treaty ports.
Dr. Xiaoxin Wu, an invited scholar – who is Associate Director of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco – will give a talk on higher learning and international education in contemporary China.

(Continued on next page)
All this will be housed in the beautiful Michigan League building in the heart of the University Central Campus. The top floor of the League is a comfortable and charming Inn where we will stay and just down the elevator are meeting rooms and the spacious ballroom where the symposium will be held, dining area, garden sitting area, convenience store, and café. All our meals will be catered by the University from May 8–11, free to us.

In between and after the symposium times we will have SASA gatherings for official business and conversation in the more intimate Michigan Room and, of course, there will be a final banquet hosted by the University.

Optional events:

A hosted tour of the Asia Library – one of the largest and finest collections of East Asian scholarly materials in North America – with a tea reception to follow hosted by Dr. Liangyu Fu, the Chinese Studies Librarian. The library has a special exhibit on Chinese dance from a UM scholar who traveled to China in the 1970’s to study traditional performances by ethnic minorities.

A visit to the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden – opened in 1927 and featuring up to 10,000 flowers when in full bloom.

A walking tour of historic Central Campus, featuring the history of the University and architectural highlights led by Joseph Ho.

Three museums within walking distance – Museum of Art with 150 years worth of collecting art from the medieval era to modern times. Kelsey Museum of Archeology featuring Greco-Roman and Egyptian artifacts, sculptures and glassware. Museum of Natural History with multi-floor displays on paleontology, zoology, geology, and biology.

A detailed schedule will be forthcoming when you sign up. You can see that this will be a richly rewarding adventure. Details of hotel registration follow and must be made by April 4 to hold the top floor entirely for us. If we overflow the League Inn, there are other accommodations nearby.

Here’s what you need to do now: call the Michigan League hotel to make your room reservation. Then email or call or write to David and Gartha Angus that you plan to come and have your room reservation (please do this as soon as possible, as it will assist Joseph and his University contacts in their in-progress planning for us). They will have follow-up materials for you. If you email or write, be sure to include your address and phone number.
How to make a reservation for Reunion 2017

Book a room at the Inn at the Michigan League as soon as possible by calling 734-764-3177 and be sure to tell them you are with the Shanghai American School Association Reunion. After April 4, they will not hold the whole floor for us so best to book now.

Rooms available that are being held for May 7-11, 2017:
8 King Rooms
2 King rooms by the elevator
Double Rooms
Rates: $145 (one person in the room) or $155 (two people in the room) per night, plus 6% Michigan Sales Tax

It is possible to add a roll-away bed in most of the rooms if several singles want to book together for an additional $10 per night per person. There is also a pull-out couch in two of the King rooms. The only rooms that have two beds are the 5 Doubles.

Not in the reserved block but available at this time is a suite that has a king bedroom, a living room with two pull-out couches and a dining area. The rate is $240 a night for one person and $10 for each additional person per night plus 6% tax.

A registration form for David Angus, our registrar, is attached. Make a copy, fill it out, and mail it to him. Separately, David’s email is davidangus@att.net. His home phone is (517) 484-4322 and cell is (517) 230-7444. Please copy me if you are emailing David about your reservation or have questions mimihollister1@verizon.net.

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Registration Form

Send to David Angus, 1240 Chester St., Lansing, MI 48912
SASA Reunion, May 7-11, 2017, Ann Arbor, MI

Name(s)

Address, email, phone:

Food allergies:

_____ Room reserved at the Inn? Do you want a roommate? _____ Do you need help finding one?

Optional events you are interested in – please check: ___ Tour of library and tea reception

____Arboretum trip   ____Campus tour with Joe Ho

Arrival plans: _____ Flying to Detroit _____ Driving _____________________ Other

Details:

The Michigan Flyer Shuttle is a good way to get to Ann Arbor transit center from the Detroit Metro Airport for $22 round trip. You can make on-line reservations at michiganflyer.com. It is then an easy 10-minute walk to the Michigan League Inn or 5 minute cab ride. Otherwise, a taxi from the airport is $50 -$65 each way.
SASA leadership and SAS administration have been in conversation for some time now about discontinuing the annual SASA Lecture at SAS. A plan has emerged that will be fleshed out in the months to come. We quote from Development and Alumni Relations Manager, Crickett Kasper’s recent email:

“It feels serendipitous that as we are discussing the final installation of the SASA Lecture, the School is considering a celebration of our history for the fall of 2017. We seek to establish a new tradition at SAS in recognition of the day the School was originally opened, September 17, 1912. We envision alumni, students, and faculty coming together to mark the occasion on an annual basis in the form of a ‘Founders’ Day Weekend.’ We would like to include SASA in our first year of this celebration and think that incorporating the final SASA Lectures is the perfect way to do it. Imbedding the idea of the lectures into the Founders’ Day Weekend may also be a nice opening to the next generation of alumni to become involved in supporting a similar program.

“In terms of how we move forward together, I request that we plan for the finale event for the lectures in the week of September 11 through 17, 2017 and begin conversations on what that might look like.”

At our end, we hope that a number of the former speakers and current SASA leadership and anyone else who is interested and able will attend this event. We will be working out with SAS administration a format for students and teachers to take advantage of the wisdom and life experiences of the guests.

So, dear alums and friends out there, it would be good to get an idea of who would like to join us for this grand finale. If you think it is a possibility for you, please let me know. Let the list begin! Mimihollister1@verizon.net, 781-910-2376 7 Glover Square, Marblehead, MA 01945.

A Bit of History thanks to Betty Barr Wang, SAS ’49

The series was founded by a group of alumni who visited the school in 2004. Their names are on the stone at the foot of the tree, as shown on the front page of this issue. They donated a sum of money which covered the first lecture. Since then, the lectures have been sponsored jointly by SASA and SAS.

The initial intention was to have lectures about China given by Chinese people because we felt the school in our day had not paid enough attention to Chinese language and history. It was difficult, however, to find Chinese lecturers who could speak in English. Only four of the fourteen speakers so far have been Chinese. The focus changed to inviting alumni themselves to speak about their careers, some as lectures to a large auditorium group. Later on most of them did short talks followed by Q&A and a discussion, usually in a classroom. One outstanding speaker was Walter Nance in 2009. After his lecture, a school official said to me quietly, “I think several geneticists were born today”. Betty, as our Shanghai representative of SASA, has attended nearly all the lectures, as have Teddy Heinrichsohn (SAS ’49) and several times Anne Romasco (SAS ’51).
Human History in the Loess Plateau

The Loess Plateau is in the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River in northwestern China. The area is almost completely circumscribed in the south by a huge bend in Yellow River that flows east from the high northern Tibetan Plateau. The area of the plateau is 640,000 km, about the size of France. The plateau stretches across parts of seven different Chinese provinces: Qinghai autonomous region, Gansu, Nin Xia autonomous region, inner Mongolia autonomous region, Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Henan.

There is fossil evidence in the Shaanxi Natural History Museum suggesting that bands of humans or their ancestors were roaming in the area of the Loess Plateau about 1.5 million years ago. The area resembles in many ways the area in Ethiopia where the first fossil remains of humans were found. There is evidence that at that time, the forest cover was of climax height and enormous expanse. The grasslands stretching north to Siberia are still among the most magnificent on Earth.

The majority of geographers believe that the civilization in the Loess Plateau was the second place on Earth after Mesopotamia where settled agriculture emerged. The Yellow River stemming from the northern Himalayas was once known as the “Mother river” because all the various tribes in the region developed along its banks. It was in this fertile plain where many early tribes vied for ascendance. In the north, the plain’s tribes included nomadic Mongols, Kazakhs, Kirgiz, and Xianbei. In the south, the Han built a more elaborate sedentary society that eventually was able to surpass the migratory tribes to become the dominant ethnic group in the region.

The Han continues to flourish, eventually building a great empire of many dynasties that shared the city of Xian, in the very heart of the Loess Plateau, as their capital. An example of the magnificence of their civilization can still be seen today at the excavated terracotta army site, the ceremonial guard for the first Emperor of the Qin dynasty. Situated on the trade routes to the ancient civilizations of Persia and Egypt, the Chinese civilization in this region thrived long before European cultures began to emerge. The descendants of the early civilization of this region are today’s largest ethnic group.

In China, Shen Nong was the semi-mythical emperor said to be the originator of both agriculture and Chinese traditional medicine. Shen is credited with personally tasting all plants to see if they were edible or had healing properties. Mythical dynasties were replaced with real dynasties with elaborate palaces, great wealth, and power.

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It may have been unlikely that the rulers and the ruled of the time could imagine that this powerful civilization could fail, but by 1,000 years ago the powerful and the privileged had left the region. The capital of later dynasties was moved to Beijing and the Loess Plateau became a place of legend, of poverty, and eventually became known as China’s sorrow (due to almost 3000 major flooding and drought events over the past two millennia. Niu and Harris, 1996)

While Chinese medicine and Chinese philosophy are very strong on conservation and acknowledge human existence emerging from natural systems based on the five elements – earth, water, wood, fire, and metal – the daily reality in China for thousands of years has been much less respectful to nature. Chinese historical and literacy records are well maintained and numerous and document evidence of deforestation to build palaces, to expand agriculture, and to reduce the risk of surprise attack from the nomadic warrior tribes in the north. In hindsight, it is possible to see what happened to this region: deforestation on a large scale. Without these forests, the powdery loess geological soils were exposed to wind and water erosion, with clearly evident results.

Over millennia, as the plateau declined, the exploitation of nature continued until all the forests were cut down. At first, the soil was rich with organic material from generations of trees, plants, and perennial grasses, but much of the fertility was worn away quite rapidly. Surrounded by nature in a degraded state, the remaining population had to work hard to make a living.

After the establishment of the People’s Republic, the area was hit hard once again with an ill-conceived plan to settle semi-nomadic pastoralists in the area. This led to the ranging of large numbers of goats and sheep within a one day walk from their pens, and led the already devastated landscape to become essentially bare.

When a culture is ignorant of certain fundamental truths of how natural ecosystems function, then the cultural constructs they produce are inherently flawed. These practices can then be passed from generation to generation and can become enshrined as dogma. So the seed of destruction are repeatedly reinforced and the cycle of poverty and ecological degradation continues until inevitably the ecosystem can no longer compensate and collapses, along with the fate of the civilization.

On the other hand, if a civilization comes to realize that the survival and sustainability are dependent on functional ecosystems and aligns its behavior to what the Earth’s ecological system needs to naturally regulate the atmosphere, hydrological cycle, soil fertility, biodiversity, weather and climate, then that civilization will have reached a new level of collective consciousness. From this perspective, we can safeguard the survival of myriad forms of life, as well as protecting those parts of human civilization that we can be rightly proud of, such as our growing scientific knowledge, our tolerance of cultural diversity, and protection of all forms of life, including humanity. This study suggests that while we are facing our greatest challenge, we are also closer than we have ever been before to envisioning and creating a fair and functional society in harmony with the natural systems we depend on for life.

_In the next installment, John will explore “Restoration: Theory and Practice.” Stay tuned._
Notes From You

Don Ady, SAS ’51, writes, “My sister Carolyn Ady Simonson, SAS 1944, had her 90th birthday on July 9, in Tacoma, WA. Many family members attended, including me, my daughter and my brother Robert, SAS 1945. Carolyn and Bob and I are members of SASA. Carolyn and Bob attended SAS briefly before WWII... They were sent home to the US before the war to camp out with an aunt in Omaha. At 90, Carolyn still does a little bit of driving, shopping and housekeeping. The photo shows Carolyn and my brother Bob in the maroon sweater and me at the grand event in a rented clubhouse.

Ronald Koo, SAS ’49 writes, “It is wonderful to read the lengthy email of SASA News and look at the photo of Betty Barr, looking in excellent health, with George. Our last trip to Shanghai was in May. My wife, Sandra, and I could not get used to the high humidity so took a short trip of 6 days to Hangzhou.
“My oldest son, Kenneth, and his wife relocated from Hong Kong to Shanghai more than two years ago. He is the Deputy General Manager of Citigroup and also the Citi Orient Securities Company, a joint venture between Citigroup and 49 Chinese government enterprises. Hopefully I will make my next trip to Shanghai in early November and look forward to seeing all of you.”

We will surely hope that you can come to the next reunion in Ann Arbor in May.

Joseph Ho, host of the 2017 Reunion and friend of SASA. Many of us enjoyed time with Joe at the last reunion in D.C. “Jing and I are delighted to share that our son, James Zhiyuan Ho came into the world on September 27, weighing 9 pounds, 4.5 ounces and was 22.5 inches long. All are doing well. Sister Jane is absolutely thrilled that her little brother is finally here and has had a wonderful time talking with him, playing with his little hands and feet, and generally admiring him whenever she can.”

Both Photos Courtesy of Joseph Ho

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Betty Barr Wang, SAS ’49 wrote in early October, “One piece of news from here is that our former administration building on Hengshan Lu (Avenue Petain) is now undergoing radical renovation/reconstruction. So far, the dormer windows are still recognizable, as is the cupola, but a lot seems to be going on. The row of restaurants which in recent years occupied our former hockey field, opposite the church, has disappeared and in their place is a long white wall.” Hmm!

Crickett Kasper, our SAS link, also gave birth this year. “In regards to my transition to motherhood, I am not sure words can sum up the joy. (The picture will have to do.) Magnes was born in Baltimore in June and he is now happily living and thriving in Shanghai.”

Elizabeth Young Roulac, SAS 1933 turned 100 on September 6, 2016. “Smith Ranch, the retirement community where I live, had a nice celebration for me. They gave me 100 roses and served champagne for everybody. A group of friends made a generous donation in my honor to the college scholarship fund for the employee’s children. My youngest son hosted a lovely part a few days later attended by my four children, three grandchildren, a cousin and many nieces and nephews and their families. “Except for my limited vision, I am doing well and keep active with many activities at Smith Ranch such as yoga, tai chi, lectures and local excursions.”

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Richard Kim, SAS 1946 emailed about his friends: “Marvin and Olof Lindstedt, as well as their younger brothers, Roy and Carl, all attended SAS during WWII years. Olof and Ted Hale and I were classmates. Their mother, Margaret, was recruited to teach English when SAS became the Shanghai American Private School following the outbreak of WWII in December, 1941. I have been trying to reconnect with Marvin Lindstedt with whom I was in regular communication until it suddenly stopped. I was saddened to learn that he died in 2012. “I was prompted to hasten my search for the Lindstedt family after reconnecting with the William Hale family recently. Marge Hale read a piece in the SASA News by my brother, Art, about our dog Raffie – a dog we adopted from the Hale family when they were interned. Their other dog, Jerry, was adopted by the Lindstedt family. Marge just turned 90 this past week. Her daughter, June, and I have been communicating and are making arrangements to meet in October when we are East…” “I thought this story about the Lindstedts might be of interest to you and readers of the SASA News…” History buffs, look on-line at https://www.bethel.edu/publications-archive/trail-markers/past-issues/2008/december/missionary-work. Indeed, it is a fascinating history of a family and a time – precursor to and ending in our time at SAS.

In Memoriam

Lars Marwin Lindstedt, SAS 1943 (we think),
Information and picture courtesy of Pioneer Press and Legacy
Marv died in Minneapolis in April 2012 at the age of 87. He was a career Baptist missionary in the Philippines from 1953 to 1989. After retirement, he continued his services in the Russian and Filipino communities in the Minneapolis area. Please see the article about the Lindstedt family for a fascinating and little known to me segment of the history of our time in China, referenced in “Notes from You” under Richard Kim.

Information courtesy of Kathleen Megan of The Hartford Courant and Trinity College

John Bard McNulty, a retired Trinity College professor, died at the age of 99 in his Glastonbury, CT home in September, 2015. He authored the book “Older than the Nation,” the official history of The Courant. An editorial called him the newspaper’s “Boswell,” and said the “distinguished English professor made the newspaper’s early history utterly fascinating.” McNulty, known as Bard, was one of four sons of Episcopal missionaries in Mokanshan and Suzhou.

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He graduated from SAS in 1934 as class scribe, president of the boys’ dorm council, business manager and staff of the Nooze (as the Sh’am was then known), active in soccer and track, and played Gobbo in “The Merchant of Venice” - the first ever Shakespeare play attempted at SAS. The senior class prophecy predicted that he would, over time, grow up to resemble comedian Eddie Cantor.
He came to the U.S. to continue his education at Trinity College, Columbia University and Yale.

“His interests were eclectic. He was founder of the Glastonbury Square Dance Club and led the move to create Glastonbury’s first historic district. He also was a world expert on the Bayeux Tapestry and gave presentations on it in Europe and the U.S.

“‘He enjoyed history and art and gardening and birds and hiking and canoeing – all sorts of stuff,’ said his son, Henry B. McNulty.

“Besides the Courant history, Bard wrote several other books including “Modes of Literature”; “The Correspondence of Thomas Cole and Daniel Wadsworth”; “Connecticut Observed”; and “John Warner Barber’s Views of Connecticut Towns.” In addition to knowing Latin and ancient Greek, he knew Wu, a Chinese dialect, German and French. He was fluent in Middle English and knew enough Old English that he could read “Beowulf” in the original. His son, Henry, has vivid memories “of our home absolutely jammed with bound copies of The Courant” while the project of writing its history was underway. That was “a labor of love and he got a big kick out of it.” He continued to read The Courant, despite failing eyesight, with a screen magnifier. “He literally read The Courant until the day before he died,” Henry said.
In 1942, Bard married The Courant’s society editor, Marjorie Grant, his wife for the next 60 years. She preceded him in death in 2002.
He leaves a son and daughter, three grandchildren, and two great grand-daughters.

Mary Ellen Kelhofer Wright, SAS 1937, 1920 to 2016
Information courtesy of Walnut Hill United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX and son, Douglas Wright

Mary Ellen was a saint on earth – ask anyone who knew her. After fighting the good fight, she departed this earth on August 16th at the age of 96.
Mary Ellen was born in 1920 in Shanghai where her parents, Ernest and Mary Braun Kelhofer, were missionary educators for 40 years. In 1937, after graduating from Shanghai American School, Mary Ellen came to Denton, Texas and attended Texas State College for Women (now TWU). After graduation she worked for IBM for 10 years as a systems representative. In 1944 she married Harry W. Wright, Jr. In 1950 the two built one of the first homes in what would become the Midway Hollow Neighborhood, raising three children there. Mary Ellen left IBM to become a fulltime mom. Harry died unexpectedly in 1962. In 1966, Mary Ellen went to work with the School of Business at Southern Methodist University – 4 years as an Instructor in Statistics, 6 years as Coordinator of Academic Advising for undergraduate students.

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While at SMU she received several awards, including the President’s “M” Award and the Hawkins award, reserved for a parent who has been the primary support of her children and who has served the SMU community well. One of the most cherished memories from time at SMU occurred in 1986 when she returned to China for 6 weeks for the first “SMU-in-China” program. She retired from SMU in 1991.

Mary Ellen was very active in the programs and activities of Walnut Hill United Methodist church, with a special interest in missions. In 1999 she traveled with her church group on a mission trip to Honduras.

Other interest included the SMU Staff Retirees Association, The Midway Hollow Neighborhood Association and her favorite, volunteer tutoring at Burnet Elementary School. Her sister, Ann, and brothers, William, Paul and Art preceded Mary Ellen in death.

Susan Myers Richardson, (SAS 1941) 1924 to 2016

courtesy of The Villager and Crawford Mortuary in Nashville, TN

Susan M. Richardson was born in 1924 in Taizhou, China, a small village in Jiangsu Province, the first child of Presbyterian missionaries Robert Price Richardson and Agnes Rowland Richardson. Her formal schooling began at SAS where she began her life as an active thespian. She was also a cheerleader, President of the Girl’s Athletic Council and President of the Student Senate. She finished her final year of high school in the US, graduating from Rosemary Hall in Connecticut and then on to Agnes Scott College in Georgia.

Susan was a talented athlete in swimming, diving and tennis. Her life-long love of baseball must certainly have begun with the diamond her father set up in their yard in Taizhou. She also took flying lessons and flew small prop planes.

Susan’s theatrical career began with a job as the business manager for the Augusta Players. From there she moved to New York City where she lived on Bank St. in the West Village in a basement apartment she referred to as the “troll house.” During her more than 50 years there, she produced several off-Broadway plays, including “The Death of a Well Loved Boy” at St. Mark’s Playhouse; “A Scent of Flowers” at the Martinique Theater; “One Night Stands of a Noisy Passenger” at the Actors’ Playhouse; and Tom Stoppard’s “The Real Inspector Hound” at Theater Four. She also produced the tour of “In White America” and a horror film “Dear Dead Delilah” with Agnes Moorhead and Will Geer.

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For 15 summers Susan was the business manager for the Caravan Theater Company at the Dorset Playhouse in Vermont with her dear friends, the Carmichaels. She even acted when called into service, playing Christopher Robin in “Winnie the Pooh” in the 1960’s. The summer theater in Dorset was where she designed and implemented a box office system that a number of New York Off Broadway houses continued to use until the advent of computer systems. Susan was also a picture framer and opened her first shop in the basement of 80 St. Marks Place where she became fast friends with Howard Otway, who owned the revival house upstairs known as “Theater 80 St. Marks.” She became the bookkeeper and monthly program designer for the theater, as well as hostess for the theater’s charming sub rosa New Year’s parties.

Act three of Susan’s career found her keeping the books under the sign “Wise Men Fish Here” for Andres Brown at the iconic Gotham Books.

In 2012, Ms. Richardson left New York to spend the last four years of her life with family in Nashville, where she died on August 14, 2016. She leaves behind her brother, Gen. (Ret.) William Rowland Richardson and his wife and a sister-in-law.

Elizabeth Freeman Little Shippee (SAS 1937) 1920 to 2016
Information courtesy of the Greenwich Times

Elizabeth Shippee died peacefully at home on July 12, 2016 in her 96th year. Born November 10, 1920 in Central Falls, RI, she was a 64-year resident of Greenwich who proudly voted in the 2016 Connecticut Primary Election and celebrated the enfranchisement of women that went into effect the year she was born.

Elizabeth’s early life was spent in China where her father Lester Knox Little was Inspector General of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service. She lived in various coastal cities including Amoy (Xiamen), Canton (Guangzhou) and Shanghai, graduating from SAS in 1937. In the Columbian of 1937, the following “Last Will and Testament” was posted by Betty: “I, Betty Little, do leave my beautiful legs to all SAS track stars.” Her “Prophecy” was as follows: “1947 (10 years later) Betty Little is Molyneux’s foremost model.” (We presume this was a clothing store.) She was on the A team in field hockey.

After SAS she spent a year at school outside of Geneva, Switzerland and saw first-hand the Nazi build-up to the war before entering Wellesley College. She graduated from Wellesley in 1942 with a degree in Ancient Greek. She was remained an enthusiastic field hockey and tennis player in school.

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Fluent in Mandarin and other dialects, Elizabeth loved China and returned after WWII with her husband, Nathan. Daughter Elizabeth was born in Shanghai in 1946. The family left China in 1948 as the Nationalist Government was falling to the Communists. Elizabeth and her family, now including her sons Robert and Richard, moved from Pawtucket, RI to Greenwich in 1952. Her son Arthur was born in Greenwich in 1957. Raising four children in Greenwich Public Schools was her mission and her passion – no school assignment went back without a grammar check and proof reading. Her love of languages was lifelong and her ability to complete the London Times Cryptic Crossword was astonishing. For six decades she was an active member of many civic, church, college and arts organizations. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother, a volunteer for the Greenwich Library and the Bruce Museum, active with the Southern Connecticut Wellesley Club and AAUW and a faithful alto choir member at Second Congregational and First Presbyterian churches and in the Greenwich Choral Society. It was chiefly as a board member of the Greenwich Symphony that she made her greatest contribution. She was largely responsible for building the orchestra’s subscription base to a level that allowed it to sustain a series of professional performances at the Aldeburgh Festival and Canterbury Cathedral in England and at Carnegie Hall.

Elizabeth was an avid gardener – tomatoes were a specialty – and believed there was no lovelier green space on earth than her Greenwich backyard. Her tulip tree, her sycamore, her redwood, ash and dogwood were friends, as sere her ten thousand daffodils, Virginia bluebells and wood anemone. To her, home in Greenwich was peace and quiet, serenity and sanctuary.

She is survived by her four children and their spouses, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Here are some excerpts from a “News and Updates” page in the most recent issue of The Eagle Review, a very attractive quarterly publication from the school:

**Founder’s Day**
Did you know SAS first opened its doors on September 17, 1912? The first 38 students were welcomed from missionary families. Soon to follow were business, consular and military service youngsters. By the 1920’s, over 500 students from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade were in attendance. Now it is the largest and most established international school in China with over 3000 students from 46 countries and over 400 teachers from 27 countries. We can’t wait to celebrate that history on Founder’s Day next year.

Another highlight: “When you attend Shanghai American School you become part of the SAS family. That connection does not end when a student moves to a new city or graduates from one of our campuses. Once you become an SAS student you become an Eagle for life.”

If you go to the SAS website and click on the “SAS History” link, you will see a slide show of Teddy Heinrichsohn’s black and white snapshots of SAS life in our time. Nice touch!
If possible, go green with SASA News! Get it online or through your e-mail.