



May 2015 Aruba Chronicle Update

The Class of 1965 enjoyed their 50th high school anniversary reunion cruise onboard the Royal Princess in April. Sailing around the beautiful Caribbean brought back fond memories of the wonderful years we all spent sailing the seas on the Grace line and growing up in Aruba. In the below photo from left to right are **Becky (Anderson)** Seaman, **Helen (Lambert)** Baur, **Linda (Meisenheimer)** Powell, **Debbie (Lewis)** Kloster, **Barbara (Ewart)** Winderman and **Ginny (Proterra)** Keblusek. **Anna Kay (Hendrickson)** Southard sadly had to cancel a few days before the cruise due to her father's illness and passing. The husbands had a chance to finally meet and get acquainted as well. Plans for the next reunion will be forthcoming, as they plan to celebrate their 70th birthdays (Yikes!) in Las Vegas in 2017.



Small World - **Buddy Normandt** ('61) and Grace reported in from Summerville, SC, a few miles outside of Charleston. Buddy learned in mid-May that he has a cousin whose husband graduated with **Greg Denton** ('67). Greg worked with Fluor; he and Buddy kept up for a few years, but Buddy took early retirement and went to work for a new company and lost touch with him. Grace and buddy were married in October 2004 – and he says he is ‘happier than I’ve ever been as an adult.’ Below is picture of Isla, Buddy’s mom, with grandchildren and great grandchildren in 2000. She passed away in 2005.



Susan (Mantyla) Giachero ('75)[57-66] had an unpleasant visit to Aruba this spring. “Spent 2 nights of what was to be 7 in Aruba. Rented a bungalow in colony and was literally afraid to stay longer. Wild dogs barked all night and roamed streets

eating dead dogs. Squatters living in run down bungalows. Burglar alarms sounding and going unanswered. Witnessed a man peering in windows. Halfway house residents roaming streets. No other people were around to talk to. Felt very vulnerable although bungalow 72 was well maintained. Extremely disappointed as this was a trip I had anticipated for years and was really looking forward to it. Did have a wonderful Sunday morning worship experience at the church. So glad we went there as otherwise I would have had no happy memories from this 2 day trip.”

Piet van Ogtrop's ('56) oldest of 3 daughters, Kristin van Ogtrop, is the editor of Real Simple and writes a column in Time Magazine.

Memorials

Wendy Fox Liversidge, November 14, 1950 – August 13, 2014. Wendy was the daughter of Bill and Bessie Fox, and she moved to Aruba with them and her sister Bonnie in 1951 when just a few months old. Like others in her class, she left Aruba to finish high school. She graduated from Fryeburg Academy in Fryeburg ME and then attended Marjorie Webster Junior College in Washington DC. In 1970 she married Horace Liversidge. They lived in West Chester PA until 1980, when they moved with their two sons, Preston and Jamie, to Newburyport MA. Until their divorce, Wendy and Horace owned Preston Imports, an equestrian-oriented business located at The Tannery in Newburyport. Wendy is survived by her two sons, two grandchildren whom she cherished dearly, and her sister. Her friend Beth spoke the following at her memorial service: I would like to pay tribute today to my old and sweet friend Wendy who I found wondrous, for she was simple yet elegant, determined and courageous, beyond what she ever realized. She touched my life and I think the lives of many others with her caring friendship, her contagious good humor and her fresh energetic spirit. Through Wendy we formed a sisterhood of caring in this lovely community. If by loving her we become the custodians of her values and her memory we are the most fortunate. She is a cherished friend who has gone on too soon for my liking. I believe she told me in her strong clear voice that it was time for her to go. She led a good yet challenging life here and has finished her course. I wish her well and let her go 'til we shall meet again on our path.

Isla Johnson Normandt Graham died peacefully March 20, 2005 at age 96 following an active and fulfilling life. She was born in Pickens County December 15, 1908 and resided in Greenville and Columbia prior to marrying and moving to the Netherlands Antilles in 1946. She and her husband, Clyde G. Normandt, returned to the States and ultimately Columbia SC in 1971. Prior to 1940, she worked for the SC Adjutant General. Following her marriage to Mr. Normandt, she became a homemaker, mother, and grandmother. She was a lifetime Methodist and worked as church Secretary at Buncombe Street UMC in Greenville and Whaley Street UMC in Columbia. She was an active volunteer and was highly recognized by RSVP and other service groups. She was also lovingly involved in the lives of her six grandchildren and great grandchildren, and was fondly known by all of them as “Nannie.” Following the death of Mr. Normandt in 1971, she resided at Christopher Towers in Columbia. She was very active in the Towers community where she met Guilbert Graham. She later moved to Quail Creek to be near her daughter and family, and in 1996 she and Mr. Graham married and resided at the Presbyterian Home of South Carolina. Isla was a member of the Loyal Workers Sunday School Class at Mt. Hebron UMC. She will be remembered for her wit and adventuresome nature, her noted ability to work crossword puzzles, her love of family, and her commitment to her church. Mrs. Graham is predeceased by her parents, Bradley Sevier Johnson and Berma Dodd Johnson; her sisters Irene J. Thruston, Nita Belle Johnson, and Sara J. Bates; her niece Jane Bates; and by Mr. Normandt and Mr. Graham. She is survived by a brother, Bernard S. Johnson; by her son, Gerald S. Normandt (gnormandt@yahoo.com) and wife Grace; daughter Caroline N. Seigler and husband Jim; grandchildren Leigh S. Resnick (Bruce); Jerry Shipton (Tammy); Wendy Normandt; Scott Normandt; Mindy Seigler; Melissa Seigler; three great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.