



# SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Class  
of 1963

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

## China ... Two Perspectives

by LaVonne (Bolstad) Johnson & Bernadette (Stone) Barrett

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Two of your classmates (and probably more) have traveled to China and would like to share our perspectives of the country with the largest population in the world. Following is an article by LaVonne, with my perspective following. Hope you enjoy and we would love to hear more from other "world traveler's."*

*Bernadette*



### FROM LAVONNE

My first and most memorable trip to mainland China was in May, 1989, when my husband, Richard, delivered a series of lectures about his monsoon research. The Chinese believe that good fortune returns to those who treat distant visitors well. This cultural belief resulted in an invitation to me to join my husband. Our arrival in Beijing overlapped with another foreign visitor – Mikhail Gorbachev, a hero to the thousands of students demonstrating for democracy in Tianamen Square. Gorbachev's concepts of perestroika (government restructuring) and glasnost (political openness) inspired continued enthusiasm for demonstrators. For days we watched endless crowds of students marching, bicycling and trucking to the Square. One evening, while on our way to a past emperor's favorite restaurant for Peking duck, our car was stalled in the midst of a crowd of student demonstrators. With car windows down because of the heat, a young student noticed we were foreigners being escorted by Chinese. He leaned in and said "hello." I was shocked because the demonstrators were entirely peaceful, unlike

my memories of some demonstrators in our country.

When Richard was not lecturing, we were shown various sites in the Beijing area. We were not able to go to the Forbidden City because it is adjacent to Tianamen Square. As an alternative, we went to the Summer Palace, a retreat built to house the Imperial Court during Beijing's hot summer months. Today it is used as a resort. We were told that masses of young Chinese men built the Summer Palace. By digging a large (5-10 square miles) lake, the young men obtained soil to form a hillside where several buildings still stand. Our host, Min Dong, informed us that many young men died while building the Palace due to strenuous labor and inadequate diet. My thoughts briefly returned to the masses of student protesters, largely young Chinese men, who wanted a more equitable form of government. We toured the historic court buildings and posed for a photo, wearing traditional garb of an emperor and empress for the picture. A group of Chinese gathered and laughed at the sight of Americans wearing the traditional clothing of Chinese royalty.

Our next visit included historical and religious landmarks. The Temple of Heaven is the most famous temple in China. Past emperors would spend one night in prayer and fasting for a good harvest. We were curious about current religious beliefs in China. "Few people" we were told, "have any religious belief." Some older people regard Buddhism as their religion and Buddhism is reflected in their culture's strong sense of family, respect for elders, and a strict code of morality that is practiced in China.

Rain dampened our ascent of the Great Wall, but not our spirits. We climbed steep, slippery wet steps that were built for smaller Chinese feet. Chinese tradition is that if you can climb the Great Wall you are a good person; if you cannot climb the Wall, you are not a good person. Fortunately, we climbed the wall to a lookout point where

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the Wall can be viewed as it disappears into distant terrain.

Not far from the Great Wall are the Ming Tombs, an area where thirteen of the sixteen Ming emperors are buried. Coffins of an emperor and his empress were on display with his throne and personal items including a decorative vase and articles of clothing. These items would be significant for their next life. We were told that masses of young Chinese men built the tombs. Expecting to again hear that they died from exhaustion and poor diet, we were surprised and horrified to hear that they had been killed in order to keep the burial location a secret.

The next day was Sunday, and we were told to relax on our own time. We were instructed not to venture more than a few blocks from our hotel, not to stand in one place for more than 5-10 minutes, and not to join any group of three or more people – Beijing was under martial law. We learned students were being hospitalized as a result of hunger strikes; a meeting between student leaders and Li Peng resulted in both sides taking a stronger stand; students had stopped military trucks from entering the Square; older Chinese lay in the streets to block military trucks from entering the Square; and foreign journalists were asked to leave China. We wondered what was being reported at home. We turned the television on in our room and watched beautiful Chinese opera. China, it appeared, was doing very well.

On Sunday evening we were informed that we would not be going to Nanjing because student demonstrations had cropped up in other parts of China and transportation to Nanjing was not possible. We flew to Guangzhou (formerly Canton) where Richard met with scientists and lectured. I was escorted to an open market to see where Chinese people purchase some of their food. Monkeys, puppies, kittens, rabbits, and snakes could be purchased and once bought, live animals were dropped into boiling water and then skinned. The subtropical climate was considerably more uncomfortable than northerly Beijing. Fortunately, our room was air-conditioned. At night, we dropped mosquito nets that were parasoled over our beds to keep out insects. The food, as well as the climate, was hotter than that of Beijing.

My favorite dish was turtle stew, a delicacy with a sweet, exotic flavor. Our hosts were gracious and the only visible images of student demonstrations were papers that were posted all over campus providing updates of the Beijing events. From Guangzhou, we went a very short distance to Hong Kong for a brief weekend on our own. Student demonstrators were visible in Hong Kong. We took a bus to Stanley Village, a favorite shopping area for foreigners. From the bus window we saw huge crowds of students peacefully singing and holding signs—they also wanted democracy. One week after our return, the Tiananmen Square massacre took place. There is a famous photo of a young Chinese student standing in front of a military tank. That photo embodies more meaning for me after being in China during this time in history.

On April 14, 2005, we attended a lecture at Colorado State University. The featured speaker was Mikhail Gorbachev, former leader of the Soviet Union. As a past recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Gorbachev was applauded several times for his view of a peaceful, interdependent world order yet to come. Following his speech, questions were asked by students from the Political Science Department. One question was of special interest to me, “Does China have any leader like you?” Gorbachev’s response was that within an historical and cultural context of a country (such as China), a leader will emerge from that country to arise to the challenge of the time. I have been to China five times and toured so many various parts of that exotic and fascinating country. Should any of you plan a trip in the future, I would love to communicate with you before your trip and compare notes. My most recent trip was to Kunming, one year ago. It is very close to Tibet. The picture of me was taken with a portion of performers who sang and danced for us at a dinner hosted by our Chinese hosts.

LaVonne

## FROM BERNADETTE

The original reason my husband and I traveled to China in the spring of 2002 was to see the controversial Yangtze River Three Gorges Dam project and the area up river before it became flooded. I definitely got more than I bargained for. Our tour started in Beijing and included Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall. Along the way, we found the people, especially the young people, to be extremely friendly. Wherever we went, they were anxious to take their picture with us as if we were their long, lost friends.

With one day of leisure in Beijing, we decided to take the local bus to the zoo. Once at the zoo, we felt like part of the exhibit since many people had never seen a Caucasian. At the zoo, and in other public places, we noticed how well the children were treated.

Our next stop was Xian to see the Terra Cotta Army of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of a unified China. There is no way to adequately describe this sight of thousands of full-sized pottery warriors, horses and chariots. The largest of the three covered “pits” is 755 feet long by 203 feet wide, and excavation is continuing.

We then flew to Chongqing where we boarded a small ship for our 3-day trip down the Yangtze River. Along the way, we stopped to take a sampan up the Daning River to view the spectacular scenery and realized that much of the area will soon be under water. We also stopped at Fengdu, the Ghost City, much of which will also be under water. A new town has already been built on higher ground on the opposite side of the river to relocate the town's people.

We’re told the young people are looking forward to the new housing and the elders do not want to move. I reflected upon our land use regulations at home where we plan for years, hold public hearings, people often appeal the leaders’ decisions, and projects are delayed or abandoned. Those opposed to the Three Gorges dam project have found themselves jailed.

We finally arrive at the site of the Three Gorges Dam, which will become the largest dam in the world and add to China’s electricity supply, as well as control some of the devastating floods that kill thousands of people and can destroy up to one third of the Country’s annual crops. The controversy includes displacement of between 1.2 and 1.9 million people (depending on who you

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# Notes From Classmates ...



## Jim Noteboom writes ...

Sharon, what a great newsletter. Thanks for all the time you've spent on it. I'm sorry I missed the mini reunion this year but will try to make it next year.

My big event this year was a trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo where I worked with the Congolese government and the U.S. Embassy to assist the Congo in professionalizing their military in order to stabilize the situation in the eastern Congo where there has been constant unrest for the last several years.

Next year I'm going back to the Congo and also travelling to Eritrea in East Africa to assist them in the development of a security strategy to deal with the conflict in that region. Then, my wife Marie and I are planning a road trip through West Africa, including Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Ghana as tourists. Should be interesting. But most of the time I continue representing the Warm Springs Indians as a tribal attorney.

I particularly enjoyed the article on Dave Johnson and Gary Allen. Keep up the good work.

*Jim Noteboom*

## Anne (Holweger) and Bob Jones write ...



Dear '63 Classmates,

Here's our donation toward keeping the Newsletter alive and a note to all who remember us. As many of you are, so are we retired. After 30 or more years teaching, both Anne (Holweger) and I retired in 2000. Since then it's been a whirlwind of activities.

Anne taught elementary and special ed, but was most seriously involved in union activities as Oregon Education Association Vice-President for five years. She still stays involved with education as a commissioner on Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (the governor's board on teacher



licensure). I was forever haunted by the specter of Amanda J. Anderson and taught/coached high school speech and debate. I'm still involved in speech activities as a director of one of the main events at the National Speech Tournament each year.

I'm sorry, Larry, but we didn't go the bored route to retirement (Spring 2004 News). You will hardly ever find us at home these days — our cat calls us guests in his house, but then I guess that's the way all cats think. When we retired from teaching we knew that we had to break the Fall-Back-to-School habit and finally create a real life.

So, we headed to Scotland for about a month (Sept., 2000). We picked Scotland because it's the home of golf and single malt whisky. We now spend one or two months in Scotland every year (spring is nice, fall is better, the tourists are there in the summer) playing golf, visiting distilleries and castles (and figuring out how to beat US Customs and bring back more than the allotted bottles of the Water of Life). I've written a book on Out-of-the-Way Golf and Pubs in Scotland (published Feb. this year) and Anne helped mightily with the research. Two years ago I sub-mitted an article to Historic Scotland Magazine (Edinburgh). They liked it and asked me to continue with a quarterly column about Historic Scotland sites from a foreign prospective. Some of the assignments have been tough to take — go to Historic Scotland sites and take pictures of the best views in Scotland!

We traveled with union activities and my speech teams all over the States. Now, we are beginning to travel further afield. And, if we aren't traveling, don't bother to look for us at home — first try the golf course. We are both such fixtures at Arrowhead CC in Molalla that they keep trying to give us the course; the pro will say, "The first tee is yours."

It is so nice to catch up with many of you from the good old days. In our high school years, the only thing I knew was working on debate cases. We'd love to get together with you at reunions, but so far we've been in

Scotland each time a recent one has come along. If any of you want information about traveling to Scotland or Ireland, count on us as an eager resource. Stay well and happy. Slainte Mhor!

*Bob and Anne Jones*



## Glen Johnson writes ...

I was able to open the PDF fall issue with ease today using an email copy forwarded to me from Craig Hobbs. Yep, we're in frequent contact. I have

no idea why I couldn't open the one you sent Sharon, but there are indeed mysteries in life especially with computers. What a remarkable issue and so informative. It is catching on! Many thanks to you all.

Please pass my message on to Bernie with thanks for her fine editorship and for so eloquently and sensitively sharing her experiences with an aging mother. Susan and I have experienced this journey too and gave all our energies to it, to return some of that love they gave us along the way. And the fine article about Chuck by Kathy brought a deep sigh and tear. I will send her a note of appreciation.

Have a very nice holiday and New Year. Thanks again and very best wishes.

p.s. Since Lark created the frozen banana, I can definitely come up with a few scenarios for "the rest of the story."

*Glen*



## Lark Brandt writes ...

I'd love to do a little article about Pies for Peace and I'll get a couple of photos

too. Thanks for the "pr" or is it "pie r"? I'll get going on that. Here's a hot tip for you about *Carol Boers Markt*: she and her dog and cat were chosen Pet Heroes of the year for their work at OHSU doing pet-assisted therapy. She might write a little something about pet-assisted therapy and volunteering opportunities, since so many of us are retired now and maybe looking for a good place to plug in.

*Lark Brandt*

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## Notes From Classmates ...

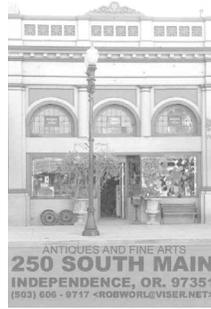
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### Rob Worral writes ...

After retiring as a science teacher at South Salem High School, Rob and Linda opened an antique and fine arts gallery, 250 South Main, located in the heart of historic Independence, Oregon. It is a shop with a business name and address that are the same. "We didn't want to limit our service options to a single business name," owners Rob and Linda Worral explained to curious patrons. The eclectic "antique shop and art gallery" is housed in the 1914 Farmer's State Bank building, a Renaissance revival building carefully restored in 1995-1996. The Independence business site was chosen for its proximity to other antique shops and art galleries. Old town feeling, small town friendliness and closeness to home were prime considerations. The art gallery

features 15 Willamette Valley artists whose work includes jewelry, paintings, pastels, pottery, art glass, and sculpture. Linda brings over 30 years of experience as a goldsmith to her jewelry design offerings. She will custom create jewelry for customers using their diamonds or gems. Special art exhibits which highlight individuals, mediums, or topic change every three months. The antique gallery portion of the store features lamps, furniture, cut glass, tools, toys and other Americana. Rob has been a collector most of his adult life. The extensive collection of antiques from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries reflects his interest in the items that people used in every day life. Rob hopes that his '63 classmates will come visit during business hours of 10-5 daily, closed Thursdays, and 11-5 on Sundays. Call 503-606-9717 or get reconnected with Rob at [robworl@viser.net](mailto:robworl@viser.net).



### Kathy Highcove writes ...

I'm taking a break from cookie baking to pass the word that Carol (Boers) Markt would like to receive the SSS '63 Newsletter.

By the way, I contacted Glen Johnson and let him know that his high school annual picture was in the Nov. issue of Nostalgia Magazine published in Spokane. He promptly called the editor and ordered a copy of South Salem Pep Rally. The magazine did a big spread of the story with large photos – I probably mentioned it before – and I thought that others might want to know and try to get a copy.

The newsletter looked so good. I think you're reaching our classmates. By the way, do you know what happened to Cathy Stone?

*Cheers, Kathy*

## Thoughts From The Editor ...

### Connecting and Reconnecting

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write to the newsletter staff about where you are, what you are doing, and your letters of appreciation for the newsletter. We have heard from people who have been reconnecting with old classmates and those who have shared that they have been meeting regularly with some classmates over the years. We would like to hear from more of you! Pictures are always appreciated. If there is anything we can do to help you find someone, please let us know.

We are on the edge of the baby boomer generation, and we have much in common with our classmates. Many of us have aging parents that need our help or have already gone through that experience and have words of wisdom to share. Many of us have children and grandchildren who bring us joy and sometimes sadness. Many of us are in our retirement years. Now, what do we do with the rest of our lives? For some of us that may mean a second career, travel, volunteering, and/or mastering a hobby.

As a fairly recently retired person, I'm still trying to decide what to do with the rest of my life. Travel has always been important; however, trips taken while working were

generally limited to two weeks. Since I have spent most of my adult life in Corvallis, most of the vacations were to someplace warm, i.e. Hawaii, South Pacific, Caribbean, and Mexico. However, my husband and I did go to China in May of 2002. (See article in this issue.)

I traveled to Spain last September on a 13-day tour. You know, one of those "if it's Wednesday, it must be Barcelona". What made the trip even more interesting was that my luggage was "lost" for five days. It's amazing how you can get along with the bare necessities if you have to. My husband and I are planning to travel to Spain in September and travel independently for several weeks. It should be a challenge since neither of us speaks much Spanish. If you have traveled to Spain or Portugal, please send your travel notes and any recommendations. (I need to take a crash Spanish course!)

So, what are you doing with the "rest" of your life? Your classmates want to know.

*Bernadette Stone-Barrett*



## A Note from Sue ...

*Sue Gleckler Palmason*

I'll include a brief "thank you" for your continued support of our efforts to produce the SSS '63 newsletter. I will also suggest that, for the time being, short article submissions for the next issue will be of greater help than monetary contributions.

Please consider such topics as those suggested within this issue or perhaps a recap of your favorite SSS memory or teacher.

Don't fret about not being polished writers; we do some editing before material goes to print and, after all, we are all friends!

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## China ... Two Perspectives

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ask), as well as accusations of corruption, the safety of the project, and related concerns.

Our final stop is Shanghai, a cosmopolitan city with a strong international heritage. It is a City of contrasts. The Bund area of Shanghai has dozens of historical, colonial buildings that once housed numerous banks from Europe, the US, Russia, and Japan. Across the river is a modern district, with its tall television tower, government buildings, and amazing shopping malls that would put any I have seen in the U.S. to shame. I have never seen so many construction cranes in one place!

At the end of the trip, some of the lasting impressions were:

(1) The young Chinese people are very proud of their country and its accomplishments.

(2) Having the biggest of anything seemed to be important. When we asked our local Beijing guide, who we learned was from Tibet, what he thought about the Chinese "oc-

cupation" of Tibet, his response was that Tibet is much better off being part of China and that China knows what's best for the Tibetans.

(3) The country is growing economically. This is no surprise to anyone; but the growth rate is by leaps and bounds. We saw huge apartment and other buildings in urban areas being torn down and replaced by new modern structures. They are pouring money into infrastructure, i.e. highways, airports, high speed trains, etc.

(4) There is a growing middle class that embraces everything Western. While bicycles and public transportation still play a big part in the transportation system, owning a car or at least a motorized scooter is a goal of many Chinese. The Chinese government is trying to encourage continued use of bicycles by paying people to ride them. Smog is a big issue because of the coal-burning electrical plants, but auto omissions are becoming a big problem. Fast food restaurants (McDonalds, KFC, etc.) are everywhere.

(5) Young and old enjoy their leisure time with family and friends in the large, green open spaces. We saw large gatherings of

people in the early morning hours, exercising before starting their work day. The exercise ranged from various forms of martial arts to swing dancing.

Since our trip, every time I see an article about China, I am more aware of how important this country is and will become in the future of the United States. I noticed an article about China reaching out to Central and South American countries, as well as the Caribbean nations, for trade agreements. (Check your souvenirs from these countries. They may have been made in China.) I also recently read an article about obesity and alcohol abuse becoming a problem. There have been recent discussions about the demand for the world's oil and China's increased consumption. And recently, it was announced that China and India have agreed to form a "strategic partnership." Together, these two countries make up one third of the world's population. I don't know about you, but that's a little scary to me.

Be aware, China is the next superpower, and it won't take long for them to get there.

Have you traveled to China? We would love to hear your perspective.

Bernadette

## Class of '63 Turns 60!

### Come Celebrate!

# September 30-October 1, 2005

**SEPTEMBER 30:** The first celebration will be a Friday night no-host function at Magoo's in Salem. Jim Eastridge (owner of Magoo's and classmate) has once again, generously offered his establishment as a host site for this casual gathering. Time is 6:30 to 10 p.m. (or later).

**OCTOBER 1:** An outdoor potluck on Saturday for those who want an even more casual atmosphere. Barb and Ron Cross have generously agreed to open their home beginning at 5:30 p.m. **RAIN OR SHINE!**

Bring something to share for the potluck and your own beverage. There will be 60s music and a chance to catch up with all of those friends turning 60 (or who have already turned 60!).

Address is 2680 Doughton St., S • Salem, OR  
(Corner of Doughton and Candalaria Blvd.)

**HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU AT ONE  
OR BOTH OF THE FUNCTIONS!**

## ROSES TO YOU ...

ROSES AND THANK YOU to these classmates who have contributed financially to the SSSS '63 newsletter since the last issue:

Steve Stivers  
Michael & Mary Delk  
Paula (Frederick) Garlick

Roses also go to those who contributed articles and e-mail messages for this issue. We are all enjoying hearing from classmates and learning about their activities. Please consider sharing something about yourself for the next issue.

Roses to Carol Boers Markt for her dog and cat being chosen Pet Heroes of the year at OHSU.

Roses to Clark Jackson for surviving a broken neck received in a skiing accident. Did anyone see the nice article on Clark in the *Statesman Journal*?

# PIES FOR PEACE



By Lark Brandt

Pies for Peace was founded in May, 2003 to raise funds for war victims in Afghanistan and Iraq. Four women from western Washington County, Carol Woodford, Patricia Keeney, Kim Monteleone, and Lark Brandt, wanted to create something positive from the negative feelings generated by the invasions of those countries.

We settled upon Mercy Corps, a relief organization based in Portland, as the recipient of our efforts. Mercy Corps specializes in community rebuilding and had volunteers in both countries. They said that they needed money more than blankets or clothing, so we needed a way raise some cash.

In the early 1990s as a member of Friends of Imbrie Farmstead, a land-use group which successfully battled the destruction of a his-

*This photo was taken of our booth at the Medieval Fair at Pacific University, sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism. Those people love pie! We sold 32 pies in four hours. I'm the one with the doily on my head - just trying to get into the spirit of the thing!*



toric farmstead, Brandt had helped bake \$11,000 worth of pies to fight the developer. The power of pie had proved itself once and could do it again.

Kim Monteleone, wife of the assistant pastor at the United Congregational Church in Forest Grove, volunteered to set us up with baking rights in the church kitchen. Our start-up capital was donated by Fleetwear, Brandt's clothing company. The church agreed to let us sell our pies after church on Sunday, and our first event was born.

Pies for Peace now has 10 members. We have sold pies at farmers markets, community events, and at our own pie socials. Our fruit is grown in Washington County and many farmers have generously donated to the cause. We make apple, blueberry, blackberry, hazelnut, nectarine, peach, rhubarb, hazelnut-pumpkin, strawberry-rhubarb, and walnut pies. To date we have sent Mercy Corps just under \$6,000.

If you want to order a pie, call Lark at 503/640-6815.