

May, June & Maybe Even July 2020 Newsletter

Love in the time of ... part III

Northern Outpost, MayDay + 6. Too many times we started this thing and backed up and ran it over again in our mind until that cat was pretty flat. And now the polar vortex is apparently roaring this way. We are prepared, tack tires are still on the car—bring it! But for now, the sun is shining, the daffys are trumpeting at a double fortè, and ninety-one (yes, 91! by golly) pink tulips are out there on Federal Street flashing everybody that comes by. Outrageous. But riots in the flower beds are not altogether a bad thing. However, May is ridiculous enough without two kinds of peril. Thing is, now that we're in full blown crazy—and can't do anything about it, Henry—the storms and the virus only pile on the drama. So what do we do after the initial fun wears off? Hang wallpaper? We wanted more pictures, stories, whatever you've got going—from inane blithering to genius. You did not disappoint, in either direction.

But we will start with the most inspired story of all from Russ Sparenberg. A few have heard about what happened to Russ a couple of years ago, but not many have seen the video. It's about his coming back from two months in a coma—an "event" as he describes it in doctor-speak, but we get it. Read on:

Dear AHS-63 classmates,

Some of you may have already seen the video about my event three years ago. This little narrative may fill in some blanks.

The event occurred in December of 2016 and the acute part lasted several months. I spent two months in the neuro-ICU initially. Part of that time I was intubated and on a respirator. I also had a feeding tube placed through my abdominal wall for nutrition. Then I was in in-patient rehab for two weeks and outpatient rehab five days a week for another two months. I owe my life to the doctors and nurses in the hospital. I owe my recovery to the physical, occupational and speech therapists.

I am very fortunate to only have some vision problems in my left eye as permanent sequelae. Family support is so important at a time like this and my wife, Sam, was my rock and spokesperson through this whole time.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me.

Russ Sparenberg
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FOOTNOTES, sorta ...

The idea of "defeating" the virus with a little homemade fun found a true genesis (and no doubt hasty exodus) in a special challenge. A few clever souls (PUN ALERT) bared their soles (you were warned) in solidarity over **no pedicures in**



the time of ... and we asked them to flaunt it in pictures as a proof of their civic pride. And they DID. We couldn't believe it. SOLEly in the spirit of promoting fun, we are eternally grateful (we're pretty sure we're grateful) to those who toed the line (we hear choking sounds) and sent in pics of their unpedicured pinkies. You will see these patriotic piggies littered throughout the text below.

Ferocious thanks to Susan Roberts for coming up with the idea—whose gorgeous size10s are pictured here—and then for magnificently goading

others into showing theirs. We decided to call it THE PIGGIE PROJECT: "DE-FEETING" THE VIRUS BY STANDING UP FOR STAYING PUT!!!!... (insert your wild applause HERE). We are soooo supremely pleased.

And now, here are the many fantastic things y'all sent in to entertain us all ... thanks, and thanks, and thanks. You guys are really good. Q

Terry

Thanks so much for keeping up with the class of 63. It never fails to amaze me what our class is doing. We

must have had the most complex, interesting and diverse class ever. *[AGREE!]*

I never thought I liked to garden particularly but when you have nowhere to go, the garden has become very enjoyable. Same goes for cooking. Learning to bake with heritage flour grown and milled in central Texas. Thanks again for "herding" our class. We are going to wish we are where you are in a couple of months. *[No kidding! Come on up whenever they give us the all clear ... probably sometime next year? sigh]*

Sidney Brient Lock

sidneyandbill@aol.com

From Richard Flournoy:

Finally found a use for all of those "Purple Bags"....



[Purple bags ..ohhh...got it]

Terry,

I'm "sheltering in place" here in far south Austin. Blessed to have a job that I love and that I can work from home. Technology these days is amazing. My two sons are living with me and the youngest one (William Scott) is doing the grocery shopping and whatever it takes to keep us afloat. A lot of the restaurants are still open for takeout and El Arroyo even has take out Margaritas. Never thought I would live to see that day. *[OH WOW...REALLY??? we could be inspired to make the 2,098.7 mile trip for that.]*

Peggy Ann Carter Scott peggy@fsi-inc.com

From Franklin Mendez:



I was out feeding my deer last weekend and noticed that the cactus in West Texas are blooming. *[we love love love that!]*

Franklin

Loyal Forever

Franklin G. "Frank" Mendez (fmendezdesign@hotmail.com)

Dear Terry,

OK, I'm willing to cooperate! *[we just love it when you say that!]*

Here at 8500 feet in Colorado we have our first daffodils, but we also have loads of snow. Two feet a week ago and much is still lingering on the ground. But happily it's warm enough today and there's no snow on the roads that I'm going bicycling on my ultra-weird recumbent bicycle.



Yes, I did have to shovel the snow to get the bike out of the bike shed. Here in the mountains above Boulder, CO we are "Staying at Home" except for groceries and exercise, and there are few people on the roads, so we can ride bikes up and down mountains to our heart's content and not endanger our 74 year-old lungs with the current unfriendly virus.

Other quarantine activities include finishing a new CD that's been on the middle and back burners for a decade. It's about time!

There's the Rocky Mountain West Report! *[EXCELLENT reporting! Carry on out there]*

Bonnie Bonnie Carol

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From Ted Parrish:



"How's this? Quarantining in the fishing room.--" *[Amazing! you fish with those? ...waitwait, where're the FISH?]*

From Kathy Shive Matthews:

Hi Terry,

Loved your video — ringing the bell looked like lots of fun. And hearing it after the experience likely now means even more than just hearing the lovely tones! *[Ha.Steeple bells will never be the same, any way you look at it!]*

Crazy busy — working at home and don't really have a video worth sharing (and can't think of one to generate!), but how about a "poem".....without attribution???

Thanks for getting us "moving" and thinking of other things than what we must do as we live with COVID-19 and anticipate its long-term impacts in retirement! Hope you are well and continue to enjoy each new delight in

the change of seasons! *[It quit snowing! it's actually spring!]*

Best, as always,

Kathy

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These formally painted and really cute toes have been abandoned due to the COVID19 virus. I will repost them when they have had some “summer lovin” at the nail parlor. Love to all “shut-ins”. Camey Spaulding Stewart



Life in the Time of COVID-19

The virus emerged,
Seeking its place:
Without eye or ear,
No way to see / hear,
Replication as its only task,
And now to stop it, only a mask.

The world is now reeling,

With myriad feelings:
Loved ones are lost.
Our world is tossed
Into deep chaos,
Awaiting more loss.

We see a new Earth,
Seek sources of mirth,
And try to rejoice,
And each raise our voice
To the times foregone
As we look toward dawn.

[Kathy Shive Matthews, you are the cats whiskas, and thanks for this!]



Cathy Foust Seddon spends time in the garden, literally...

[sigh ...we wish we looked like we were 35..]

Terry,

Wow, what can I say: Motivator-In-Chief Extraordinaire!! (you are elected!!) *[We are flattered beyond beyond ...so when do we get the big bucks?]* In fact, if only you would take over the podium at our nightly political rally to apply your same strength to help out our poor Doctors who try again and again to walk-back what our fearless leader has just made up!! *[uhoh, we are in trubbbble...]*

I'm looking forward to seeing what the others come up with, of course, but for me I'm just too boring and pedantic (read dull, in this case) to be even mildly interesting—like on the phone this afternoon with our Elections Office in Norfolk, VA about our (still) upcoming state/local government election on May 5th, that the Virginia Senate failed to stop in yesterday's vote—hopefully, you saw on national news all the craziness in the streets of Richmond with the protestors yelling to open the state back up with hardly any of them socially distancing or wearing any facial/hand protection!! (I run one of city's polling places.) *[Even tho' the gov was able to postpone the specials from the 5th to the 19th, we are still amazed at the Senate down there.]*

CLAUDIA'S PIGGIES!!

[uh oh...is it fair if she took off the polish? we need a ruling on this!]



Your video and picture were super—only wish you had had a “Wanted-Dead Alive” placard across your chest in the picture!! I might try to “Photoshop” it!! I think you certainly have been transformed into a real “Heller”. [Yep, *looks like I'm finally living up to it!!*]

BTW, sorry to read about the 38F temperature and sorry also to see no trees popping out in the background of your quaint village!! [You oughta see how prissy all the cherry trees are NOW!]

Please stay Safe and Healthy, but still have a Great Day!!! [Doing! you too, GM]

GM Ziller Jr

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From Mike Martin

I am going to the liquor store. Don't want to run out of wine! (You should have seen the look on my house cleaner's face when she volunteered to bring it all in from my truck ... and then saw how much was there!)

Mike mikemww@cableone.net



From Joe Max Harper

By the way we are told to keep washing our hands. Can we take showers yet?

Hey, I'm here all week!

Joe Max

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[Joe Max, you are a sweet funny guy and one of my heroes!]

From Bill Engle:

I'm a motion addict; this is my fix.



[uhhhh...we're pretty much in heart attack mode here, Bill ... that's some kinda hot fix]



Greetings from Sandestin, FL. Debbie and I were graced with our fifth grandchild about two months ago, and attached are pics of the critter and family taken during this pandemic pandemonium. The lad's name is mine, Richard Barlow Adams, with a "II" after it, and one of the pics has him flying the colors of West Point (Army), where Burke Bishop and I were appointed only 57 years ago, thereafter destined for Vietnam, as were too many of our Maroon '63 classmates. In this current "cell" time, I'm making good headway on two historical novels that speak to our piece of history and what we ask of the men and women who serve us in harm's way, "*Sông Bé*" and "*Charlie's Ashes.*" Prayers for all and for our nation as we move on, keepin on.

Rich Adams

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A shaggy dog story, and a little more, from From Emily Eichelberger Harrell: The dog groomer places are opening up in Oklahoma today. We may have to go up there! And I may have to get them to cut mine also and hope I don't come back to Texas with a schnauzer haircut!

We snuck in two short bluebonnet trips. We can't pass April without seeing them! That is essential!

I am recovering from a spinal surgery mishap which left me not being able to walk. *[Good gracious heavens ... we are thinking of you Emily!]* Am doing heavy duty therapy

and can walk slowly with the walker. I have a wonderful husband and precious friends and family who are helping me through. And I read a lot. I hope the book Educated is on everyone's list.

My best, Emily Eichelberger Harrell

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[We are stunned that this happened to you, Emily, and wish you well in recovery!]



"Susan Roberts insisted I do this. These are my feet."

[oooo but take look at those calves!]

From Jimmy "The Hermit" Raup [PART I ...]

I went to a small dinner party on March 14. This party had been scheduled for weeks, and virus concerns were not scary yet. I decided I could not cancel because the hosts are great friends. Two handshakes, two hugs at the party, no social distancing, and when I got home, I said "Jim, that was f***ing stupid." My home-based isolation started March 15, and except for beer and food-to-go runs to four craft breweries I want to help, and 2-3 exercise walks every day in the neighborhood, I have stayed home. I intend to stay here and to stay away from people, including my kids, until Fauci or some other health care professional I trust says I am safe to re-enter life.

BREAKER BREAKER FROM LBK (Linda Burk Kemp)
...is this PERFECT or WHAT?

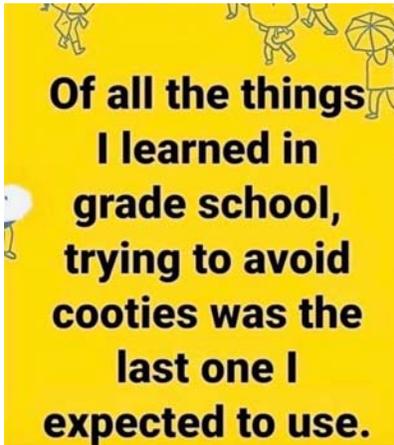


Jimmy "The Hermit" [Part II ...]

Besides reading voraciously (I go from book to book to....) and taking care of my old dog Bowie, I have done a couple of house projects which have been fun. The first involves art, and the topic is Negro League baseball. This project was inspired by my visit to the Negro League Museum in Kansas City with a married couple from Kansas I met on my cruise to Cuba in Jan 2019. I stayed a week with them in Eudora, Kansas in December, and our trip trip to the Museum was part of my visit. I could tell a long story But will make it much shorter: I have acquired or am acquiring commissioned originals or non-original prints of Satchel Paige, Buck O'Neil, and Jackie Robinson in 1945, which was his only year in the Negro League. I had an O'Neil autographed ball from a chance meeting in spring training in Florida, and my Kansas friend (the husband) made a fabulous shadow box to display the ball and other O'Neil and Negro League artifacts. There is another story (always, Jim) in our meeting O'Neil. I have put the Negro League art I have and the shadow box in my LR, which required rearranging to other places the art already there. The art project presently is on hold; I need another person with expertise and a tall ladder to finish the rearranging of the remaining two paintings, and I am waiting for two original Negro League paintings and one print to be completed and sent to me.

ANOTHER breakerbreaker from LBK

[we like how this works!]



Jimmy "The Hermit" Raup [PART III]

The second project involves photos from my trips. I am a point and click digital photographer and have thousands of photos saved on my hard drive and grouped by trip. Most of my photos are routine and boring, but every now and then, I find one which is a WOW! I have been looking for the wows, printing them on photo paper, buying frames at Michael's, framing them here, and putting them on my walls. I have been sort of an amateur curator in this and try to have the photos loosely grouped by trip more than by subject so they are not scattered haphazardly around the house. This project has the added benefit of taking me back mentally to some very happy times. No one else may like what I have done with these photos, but I like it, and when is anybody else going to see it? This project is coming to a close eventually because of limited wall space and a lack of WOWs, not to mention added difficulty in getting frames from Michael's, but I have had a lot of fun doing it.

That is about it from hermit me at Mueller. I have watched no TV except for sports in months, and I need to get back to Netflix. If you ever want to do a FaceTime HH, I am game. I have done one, and it worked well. Drinking beer is always fun, but face to face conversation is better.

Stay safe, Doc.

We need to live through this. Jimmy

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[We will persist and we will prevail, Jimmy—hang in there, and thanks for the epic hermit report.]



Nancy Williams feet and precious cat Abbey

Susan Roberts: Hey. Your polish looks new!!

NW: Hey. March 16 —so almost 6 weeks!!

Queenie: *Sounds like a pretty good NYAAAAA to me!*

From Johnny Bode

You might want to pass this along to some of our classmates. It is the funniest corona video I have seen, and even has great country vocal with clever lyrics. *[omg omg]*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnHUo1JVuq0>

LBK just wants to know:

“Has anyone else stood on a scale recently and noticed how much more long hair weighs than short hair?”

And thanks to JoAnn Morris Matthews for rattin on Mollie Tower, who posted something pretty terrific on Facebook that we found and took a pic of and popped it right in here. Y'all can't get away with much out there, just sayin'. Nice going Mollie:

< Mollie Gregory Tower

Fun time tonight at Towers of Town Lake! We had a full building Balcony Singalong to keep our spirits up! You see me below prepared to lead part of the building as a "Song Cheerleader!" It was a patriotic song list, so I used the flags to conduct!



Special from Wade Weiler:

[WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD](#)

My wife, Bet & I wanted to share this message with the world in the midst of this pandemic (April 2020)

[click on "What a Wonderful World" and see their video!]

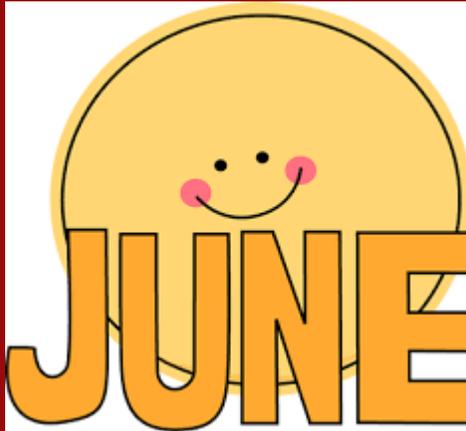


And here's something fun from Jimmy Wilson, who says "Ah, the twist. This brings back memories of AHS 63 senior parties even if it is computer generated."



- 01 Norman Winters (45) Happy 75th, Norm, Hope it's the Best Yet!
- 06 Don Gregg (45) Happy 75th Birthday, Mr. President!
- 06 Johnny Coats (45) Happiest 75th, Johnny!
- 08 Eddie Dudley (45) Hey Handsome, Happy 75th!
- 08 Kris Nelson Staton (45) Kris! Have just a Beautiful 75th!
- 12 Helen Zander (45)* ...miss you Helen
- 13 Georgia Gann Flynn (45) Georgia, Have a Fabulous 75th!

16 Pebble Stone Moss (45) Have a Beautiful Everything on your 75th, Pebble!
17 Suzanne Allen Gordon (45) Suzanne! It's Your Day! Happy 75th!
17 Rhoda Torbron Spuhler (45) Happiest 75th, Rhoda!
21 Terry Parker (45) Happy 75th, Terry!
23 Lucile Puett (45) Sweetest 75th Birthday, Lucile!
24 Robb Southerland (45) Robb, a Special Happy 75th!
24 Bill Barron (45) Have Just a Perfect 75th Birthday, Bill!
24 Jeff Rodman (44) Happy 75th LAST year, Jeff! Hope it was Perfect!
25 Wade Weiler (45) Wade, Happy Happy 75th, Bet'n Man!
27 Don Bengston (45) Don, Have a Great 75th!
29 Russ Sparenberg (45) Russ, So Glad You're Having Your 75th!!!
29 Darryl Lee (45) * ... miss you Darryl!
29 Bill Benham (45) Happy Everything on Your 75th, Bill!
30 Ted Parrish (45) Happy 75th, Mr. Blue Eyes!



01 Tina Lawson Houston (45) Happiest 75th Gorgeous!
03 Georgia Gaarde Fariss (45) Happy 75th Georgia Girl!
04 John Brakebill (45) Happiest 75th Birthday John!
05 Jon Fruchter (45) Hey Jon, Have a Brilliant 75th, Just Like You!
09 Linda Slease Sadler (45) Linda! Happy Happy 75th!
09 Marsha Slease McLaurin (45) Marsha! Happy 75th, Girl!
Hey Linda & Marsha—Are y'all twin-celebrating this birthday? We want pictures!
09 Nancy Williams (45) You Deserve the Happiest Funnest Birthday EVER, Nancy!
09 Polly Coffin Swain (45) Polly! Have a Beautiful 75th, Beautiful!
10 Will Houston (45) Will, You Handsome Rascal, Happy 75th!

11 Glen Lewis (46) Glen! YOU YOUNG THANG YOU!
12 Ron Warden (44) Happiest **76th** Birthday, Ron—It's Still Special!
13 Bill Moses(45) Bill, Hope You Get Everything You Want! Happy 75th!
13 Jim Sanders (45) Jim, You Deserve the Best—Happiest 75th!
13 Gary Don Whitlock (45) Go Be Bad Just This Once, Gary Don! Happy 75th!
14 Pamela Sue Anderson Burnette (45) Happiest 75th Birthday Pamela Sue!
16 Connie Knippa Simmonds (45) Connie, You'll Never Look It, But Happy 75th!
20 David Nelson (45) Happiest 75th Birthday EVER, David!
22 John Luedecke (45) John, Hope it is Just A Great Birthday! Happy 75th!
23 Babs Becker (45) Babs, You're TOO YOUNG to be 75! Happy Birthday!
23 George Covington (45) George, Really Hope It's Your Best Day Ever! Happy 75th!
24 Sam Boyd (45) Sam! I hope Delilah pops up out of the CAKE! Happiest 75th!
26 Nancy Taylor (45) Nancy, Beautiful As Ever, Happiest 75th Birthday Girl!
29 Sherman DeBusk (45) Pretty Sure You Can Still Hold That LINE, Sherman! Happy 75th!
29 Alan Bergstrom (45) Alan! Happiest 75th Birthday, SuperMan!



01 Tom Burnette (45) Happy 75th Birthday to you Big Guy!
03 Dana McSpadden Blaylock (45) Dana! Happy75th Birthday Girl!
07 Mary Frances Mercado Guerrero (45) Mary Frances, Sweetest Ever 75th Birthday to YOU!
08 Cheryl Lucksinger Sassman (45) Cheryl, You are NOT Gonna Ever Look 75 So Celebrate!
14 Kathryn Huss (45) Kathy, Hope You Have the Happiest 75th ever!
15 Becky Brownlow Steinback (45) Happiest 75th to YOU Becky!
17 Caroline Jenkins Ragsdill (45) Caroline, Have the Super 75th You Deserve Birthday Girl!
17 Mollie Gregory Tower (45) Mollie, Sweet Bestie, Happiest 75th Birthday!
19 Bruce Lindsey (45) Hey Bruce, Go Celebrate and Make it the Best! Happy 75th!
22 Linda Burk Kemp (45) LBK, Wonder Woman, Have the Wonderfulest 75th EVER...so DO IT UP RIGHT!

22 Barbara Keller Visage (45) Hope You Have the Very Best Birthday Ever, Barbara! Happy 75th!
23 G.M. Ziller Jr. (45) GM! We're Electing YOU! Happiest 75th Birthday in the Blue Zone!
23 Saralyn White Stewart (45) Saralyn, Wonderful Woman, Have a Fabulous 75th Birthday!
23 Ralph Bailey (45) Ralph, You Deserve the Best Birthday Ever! Happy 75th!
24 Charles Taylor (45) Have a Super Birthday, Charles! Happy 75th!
26 Lucy Ross Farland (45) Beautiful Happy Lucy, Have a Gorgeous 75th Birthday, Girl!
26 Janie Penn (45) Janie, Have a Wild Red-Haired Girl Birthday, You Hear? Happy 75th!
28 Refugia Gomez (44) Refugia! I Owe You a Birthday Wish—So Happy **75th twice**, Girl!
27 Margery Kengla English (45) Margery, Happy, Wonderful, Everything on Your 75th!
28 Leslie Robinson Moeller (45) Leslie, Beautiful Birthday Girl! Have a Super 75th!
30 James Means, Jr. (45) James Means, I Bet You Can Still Out Run Them All! Happiest 75th!
31 Jeanne Richey O'Meara (45) Happiest 75th Birthday, Beautiful Girl!

LOYAL FOREVER, Y'ALL!!!

[puff, puff, pant, pant, we made it all the way to the end!]

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You are on this list because you are brilliant & still drink from the fountain of youth
known as Loyal Forever - the AHS Class of 63

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