Art Monty is enjoying retirement in Gilman- tont, NH, and Antibes, France. His health is great and he spends as much time as he can cycling. Lynne Bigelow Kribs, Beaverton, OR, writes, “I took early retirement in 2003 after 20-plus years of social work. Now I have time to see the world at leisure and enjoy my five grandchildren both here and in New Jersey.” Alberta Jones Erickson still publishes small phone books and serves on the regional school commit- tee in Groton, MA, where she raised three children. She visited her daughter in France this spring and is off to Hawaii in the fall, a long-awaited dream.

Joseph and Joan Howland Massidda in Stratham, NH, write, “Joan and I moved back to New Hamp- shire last year. I retired in 1998 from Akzo Nobel as director of sales, North America. Joan retired from specialized teaching in 1996. I started my own chemical company in 2001 and have one patent issued, two pending. Our son-in-law, Dan Alaniz, just returned from Iraq safely. Our son, Todd, is the commander of the USS Alabarn.” They have 10 grands and one great. Congratulations to Ruth Parker, who was named Hudson, NH’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 2007. Ruth has always been a cherished friend, tireless volunteer and the quintessential historian of Hudson; she was hon- ored at the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce awards dinner on March 18. Condolences to the families of Marian Ricard Harrington, Hancock, NH, Bradley Lamson, South Berwick, ME, Betty Backman Rhinehardt, Dover, NH, and Jay Worrell, Carlisle, PA. There is an “In Memoriam” obituary for Marian Ricard Harrington in this issue.

—Pat Gagne Coolidge, 80 River Rd., Rollinsford, NH 03869; jak@alumni.unh.edu

Linda Stewart Taft <lstaft@earthlink.net> enjoys life in Fearrington Village, NC. With two colleges nearby, it has many cultural opportunities. Harold M. Brown is retiring from the Kenai {AK} Superior Court; he has been a judge since 1996. Charlie Seaver retired to Keene, NH. Sandra Untermann Hoeh <suhoeh@yahoo.com>, director of community relations at Dartmouth, has enjoyed reconnecting with class- mates Ginny Gross Chase, Billie Kinney Carlson and Ellen Czaja. Ellen organized a reunion of Alpha

Class Notes

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Haiku Homer

Cor van den Heuvel ’57 says the Japanese poetry form is perfect for baseball

Back in high school, when Cor van den Heuvel ’57 played for a sandlot team in Dover, N.H., called the Comets, he’d leave his glove in the shady outfield when he came in to bat. Years later, his experience became a haiku:

in the outfield’s / late-afternoon shadows / the coolness of my glove

Van den Heuvel’s love affair with haiku started modestly. In the summer of 1961, for example, he took copies of his first haiku chapbook hitchhiking and freight-hopping cross country, trading Sun in Skull for hot dogs and potato chips, or a buck. Today, he has received international acclaim as a modern haiku master for his command of a poetry form born long ago in Japan. His latest book, Baseball Haiku, marries an art form and a sport he says are made for each other. Haiku is “a poem that records a moment of keen perception, in which nature is related to human nature,” he explains, and baseball is closely aligned to nature, played on dirt and grass over the course of three seasons.

His interest in writing began at UNH, where he planned to study science but veered off into English. John Keats’ poem “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer” and a short story by Irwin Shaw, “The Eighty-Yard Run,” influenced him to think that “the secrets of life might be found in literature rather than in science.” After graduation, he was working as a reporter for the Concord Monitor when he read an article describing a West Coast poetry Renaissance. Heading west, he heard poet Gary Snyder mention haiku at a San Francisco poetry reading. He has written haiku ever since. The year 1959 saw him reading at Café Zen in Ogunquit, Maine, perched atop a stool. He was employed as “house poet” at a Boston coffeehouse; read haiku backed by a jazz trio; worked on a fishing trawler by day and read haiku by night in a Provincetown bar. Later he married and had a career in page makeup at Newsweek for 25 years. In his parallel haiku life, he became president of the Haiku Society of America; his Haiku Anthology is now in its third edition. In 2000, he received a World Haiku Achievement Award, and in 2002, the Masaoka Shiki International Haiku Prize.

“Haiku, by its suggestiveness, makes you see the thing in front of you,” he says. “You can reach out and touch it.” As in: under the lights / hitting it out of the park / and into the night

—Clare Kittredge