



*GHS*

*Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'*  
*National 'n' International*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition...01 July 2003*

Jane **BENJAMIN** Sheen . St. Thomas . VI  
[jbsheen@islands.vi](mailto:jbsheen@islands.vi)



The life of Jane -- I came to St. Thomas in the summer of 1967 (the year after I graduated from UConn) to visit, and basically never went home. In my early years I did a lot of sailing, worked on charter boats and did boat deliveries (working as crew on boats that were being brought down here from the states or vice versa). I even did one Atlantic crossing. I met my first husband here and we did chartering and deliveries together. He eventually got into ocean racing and was all over the world, which did not bode well for the success of the marriage. Eventually, I settled down a bit and started

teaching in the public school system. Before I knew it I had spent 25 years and qualified for an early retirement offer. I worked as an elementary classroom teacher and as a reading specialist (after I dragged my family to CA for a year to powerhouse through a Masters program at CalPoly) and did some part time teaching at the local college. I loved teaching and turned out to be pretty good at it. I miss working with the

kids, but do not miss the craziness of working for the local government. I currently work part time doing research in the land records for a title insurance company.

With the rest of my time I cater to my passion for local history (no thanks to Mr. Ainley and his boring American History class). We have a collection of old Virgin Islands postcards, prints, maps and books, and even some old mahogany West Indian furniture. I also am involved with the local Historic Trust and I keep my hand in with regard to education by doing some volunteer parent workshops.

My husband (#2), Michael, is a shipwright and has a business doing boat building and repair. Naturally we spend a fair bit of time on the water. We have two children (Michaela, 26 and Toby, 22) who were adopted as infants. The kids are biracial (black/white/hispanic and black/white) so this has been a good place to raise them. They both live on their own on the Island and are busy doing the "finding themselves" thing - still!

The Virgin Islands is an unbelievably beautiful, crazy, fun, often frustrating, frequently challenging, sometimes frightening (I've been through 3 major hurricanes), and wonderful place to live. It is a far cry from Greenwich, but I always knew I marched to the beat of a different drummer

Marion J. **HOPKINS** Engstrom . Tucson . AZ  
[marionjhopkins@aol.com](mailto:marionjhopkins@aol.com)



Big Mac, Mayor of 1962 class.

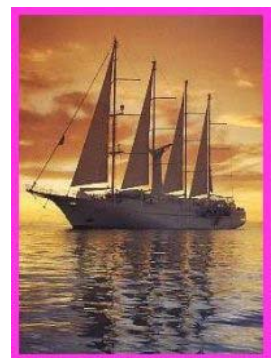
During my 35 years at QANTAS I was able to achieve a position of Director of Marketing and Distribution the Americas. I started with the airlines cuz I couldn't type and there was not much else I could do. I was hired with BOAC, now British Airways as a file clerk in New York. I joined Qantas as a ticket agent 4 years later, after which I was transferred to San Francisco as a convention sales rep.

As I still held a British Passport I was given job projects throughout the US, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, London, Canada, Fiji, and Hawaii. I lasted only 1 week in Japan. I think a female twice their height did not create an acceptable working environment.

My last project was relocating the San Francisco Telephone Sales Office of 236 staff to Tucson, AZ. I was a brunette when I started and ended up a highlighted blond. Or should we say "color it gray." I retired 2 years ago due to health reasons, but was able to maintain my travel benefits.

Because of this we are able to leave in two weeks on a month's cruise (sails up without motor) from Dover England, where I was born, to France, Belgium, Scotland's Orkney Islands, Norway, Sweden, Copenhagen on through the North Sea and Baltic to St. Petersburg Russia, blah blah blah. . This is a small vessel with 140 cabins designed by Jacques Cousteau, for the South Pacific. This will be our 5th cruise on the Wind Star and our first vacation in some time. My mobility has improved, but once I'm onboard who cares. As long as the crew can bring me food and libation, as the Aussie's would say "I'll be right mate."

Oh, I forgot to say I have the best/mate/husband anyone would want. He's put up with me for 23 years, so you know he's either insane or special. His name is Lars Engstrom.



Marianne **McLEOD** Adams . Morrison . CO  
[maggie500@aol.com](mailto:maggie500@aol.com)

I was born in Sweden and was adopted in 1950 by an American family living and working in Arabia. In 1957, my father was transferred to the New York office of Aramco and that's how I showed up at Greenwich High! After my education in the US was completed, I went back to Saudi Arabia to work as a legal secretary for the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) in Dhahran. That was 1964.

I met my husband, Charles Adams, a native of Louisiana, in Dhahran and we spent 35 years (different years for each of us and not consecutive) there before retiring in 1994. We have two children, both born in Saudi and currently living in San Diego.

Living the life of an expatriate was exciting in many ways - especially all the traveling! But Charles and I both agree that one of the most memorable times for us was the Gulf War. We were privileged to entertain US troops in our homes; and what fine young men and women they were ... and are today.



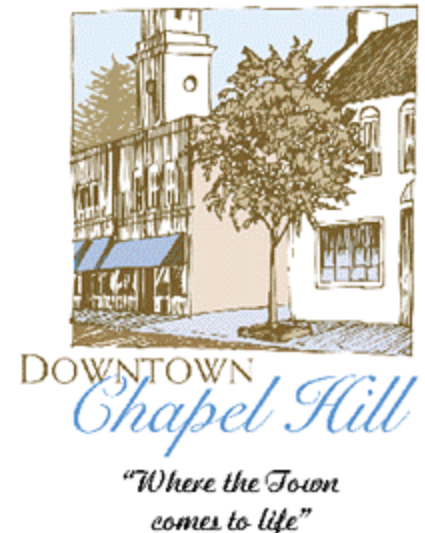
Greenwich High School.

Early on in the war, there were no facilities for laundry or bathing, etc.; no place for the troops to go to relax, watch a movie .... So, when we had troops come to our home, we showed them the showers, did their laundry, gave them a home cooked meal, let them relax watching TV or swimming in the pool, and most meaningful of all, let them use our telephone to call their loved ones in the US. Many expatriates in our communities entertained their troops, whatever their nationality.

Since retiring, we've rescued two wonderful dogs and have finally settled in Colorado. Gunnie is a Shep/Rottie mix and Sarge is a Shep who knows! They are about 8 years old. Now that our kids are grown up and gone, these pups are the lights of our lives. That's Charles with the dogs.... We love it here. My passion these days are quilting - and most of it is for charities. While my teenage years are not the favorite time in my life, I do have fond memories of

Sheila **RICE** Evans . Chapel Hill . NC  
[sheilarevans@yahoo.com](mailto:sheilarevans@yahoo.com)

Ok here goes. Hi from Sheila Rice Evans. What have I been doing for the past 40 years. Well Nursing for a start. Never stopped doing that and am still a nursing supervisor working in the home. Family life--married a year after graduating from Duke and had a family of 3 kids--2 boys and a girl who are grown and as of Monday I have 3 grandchildren. But in between I got divorced and remarried to a Professor of biology from the University of North Carolina--that is where I have been living (Chapel Hill, NC) for the past 30 years. I get together with a group from GHS every 10 years or so and we just saw each other this year. That was great. So that is my news. Sheila



Gerry and Freya **SHERMAN** . The Villages . FL  
[gerrysherman@yahoo.com](mailto:gerrysherman@yahoo.com)



When I went to UConn, my plan was to become a college English instructor. But then President Kennedy was assassinated and, as a knee jerk reaction, I joined the Peace Corps and was sent to the island of Mindanao in the Philippines where for two years I trained teachers to teach English and Math. It was a priceless, life changing experience in so many ways. After coming back to the States and teaching for a year, I went back to Mindanao and married Freya Jongko, a local girl I fell in love with during my tour. Freya and I have two grown boys, Dov and Mika, and have been married for 34 wonderful years.

For the next twenty years Freya worked in hospitals as a Medical Technologist and I worked in mental health centers in Connecticut, Guam and North Carolina. I went back to UConn and picked up a Master's in social work and, for the first ten years I liked the work and probably did some good; the second ten years, however, was like serving time in prison. Then, in

1989, I decided to try the business world and went to work as a District Manager for AFLAC (OK . . . I can hear all of you quacking now). AFLAC turned out to be a great move and, after working hard for ten years, Freya and I were able to retire to a wonderful community in central Florida called The Villages. We now spend all our time with sports, dancing, going to and performing in shows, singing in the chorus and lots of other activities too numerous to mention. My main vehicle is now a Vespa scooter and Freya drives around all day on a golf cart. We're so active that I'm now within 5 pounds of my weight in high school! And Freya has discovered a real gift for tap, jazz and Irish dancing. We both are avid pickleball players (kinda like tennis) and came in fourth in the National Championships last April! We've had a good life and have a lot to be thankful for. Although I hope the best is still ahead of us.