

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we are shining a spotlight on one of our members in order for us to all get to know a little bit more about each other. This month, the spotlight shines on Mary Huber.



Mary has been a member of SISC since 1997 and was sponsored by Dee Sarno. In these past 20+ years, Mary has been on just about every committee, has served on the Board and is a Past President. Mary started a Public Relations Committee in order to centralize information for committees about press releases and where to send them. You can thank her for the list we currently use! Mary was instrumental in spearheading our Global Initiative, a very big part of our Awards and Fund Distribution each year. Mary is proud to have brought in members Jovanka Harrison, Janet Foster, and Joan Disare. Mary is currently on the Secret Gardens Committee, which she has chaired in the past.

## Mary after completing the hike along Hadrian's Wall in England.

Mary is a native mid-westerner, having grown up in Wisconsin with seven older brothers. She was married for 40 years to Bruce Harding and has five adult step-children and ten grandchildren who fondly call her Mary Angel. (...we know why!) She is also expecting her first great grandchild!

You may not know that Mary was a Dominican nun for eight years. She says it was wonderful to be part of a community of splendid women, who taught and cared for the less fortunate. Mary attended college while part of the convent and then taught High School English as Sr. Elizabeth Ann. She left the convent and began a new career at Cornell University. She received her Master's degree in Communications and for ten years trained the Department of Social Services about the changes in law regarding preventing child abuse and domestic violence. Her territory included NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



Mary with Granddaughter, Tiffany

When Mary moved to Saratoga County in 1985, she began working for the NYS Department of Health. She ran the NYS Self Help Clearing House, helping communities develop programs for self-help. She then worked with children with special needs, training parents to work with the professional community. This included facilitating a mediation structure and teaching them about advocates. Mary worked for the State for 22 years, retiring in 2007.

If you haven't caught your breath yet, Mary does even more! Mary's love for travel inspired her and her partner to start their company, Edventures, a boutique tour company that combines learning and travel. ([www.goedventures.com](http://www.goedventures.com)) They are celebrating its 20th year of operation. Mary and her partner travel to various destinations, creating itineraries, meeting with guides, and creating a travel experience to be featured. They run two or three trips per year. While on the Board of the Saratoga Arts Council, she offered this idea for a fundraiser: Edventures would make a donation back to the Arts Council from tickets purchased by members. To date, Edventures has raised almost \$100,000 for the Arts Council! A similar giveback program is in place for our club with Edventures donating a total of \$4400 to SISC. Mary has traveled personally and with Edventures to many European countries, Egypt, Morocco, China, Croatia, and has done an African Safari-sleeping in tents (and not the Glamping kind!). Domestically, she has also traveled to many states and National parks.



**Mary with her business partner, also named Mary, after hiking in the Alps**



**Mary with great niece, Jeanette, and her children**

Mary's love for the arts spills over into her daily life as well. She is a self-described "ballet maniac" and attends SPAC for many performances of dance, opera, and classical music. Additionally, she loves to cross-country ski and regularly attends the Saratoga YMCA. She likes to stay fit for her work, whether it be lifting bags or climbing mountains. Because of her travels, Mary says she has universal taste in food. She particularly enjoys Chinese, Japanese, and Italian food.

Mary says she has a lucky life and she is grateful. We can say SISC is lucky to have Mary and we are grateful for all she does for our club! If you haven't yet met Mary, do yourself a favor and enjoy some time with her!

*Submitted by Marie Buckley Hoffman, Past-President*