

Wayzata High School Class of 1976

50th reunion Questionnaire



Contents

Andy McConnell.....	3
Mark Simpson.....	5
Jane Gustafson Heins.....	6
Charles Allen	8
John Forde.....	10
Maggie Bowers O'Neill.....	13
Bill Doll	14
Ken Hood.....	16
Kevin Proops.....	18
David Sebold.....	20
Thomas A Egar	20
Clark Wolff	22
Kurt A Paulsen.....	23
Lori A Heino	26
Barb Paulson Keith	28
Connie Hart Steinlicht.....	30
Valerie A (Brown) Broome	31
Paul Harper	34
Diana Holmstrom Anderson	35
Debra S Wamsley	37
Lee Barrett	41
Marcy (Miller) Graham.....	43
David Boline	45
Jill Wuollet Lahti	47
Brad K Snyder.....	50
Debbie Pratschner Roehl.....	51
Dede Knoblach Boelter.....	53
Cynthia Slack Lenz	54

Peter Hawthorne.....	56
Laurie Blomquist Mazzeo.....	58
Kathy Sahotsky Simon.....	60
Alison Noble	61
Laurie Hunt Turtinen	63
Jim Olson	65
Christine Hunt Swenson	67
Tom Vettel	69
Walter R Leach	71
Greg Shallbetter	72
David Barr.....	74
Steve Martin Michalski.....	76
Sue Ann Loomis Rawlins	78
Greg Boorsma	80
Mike Hughes	82
Rick Groomes	84
Jeff Etzel	87
Tamra Lynn-Quam Paulson.....	89
Victoria Murray	91
Jeanne Schommer Deschneau.....	93
LaRae A Kunkel	95
Leeann Aronson (Kirk) Young	97
Elizabeth Walker Herrin	98
Laurel Ann Engman.....	101
Maggie Bowers O'Neill	102
Pat (PJ) Smith	104
Daniel Kevin Dorsey.....	107
Debra Hagman LaMere.....	109
Teresa (Lue) Lang Zarrin.....	110
Jon Helmrich.....	111
Deborah Endy Secrest.....	112
Diane Boucher	114
Kathy Kelley (Lecy)	116
Jill (Traw) Thomson	118
Debra Hagman LaMere.....	120
Jeff Person.....	121

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am married to Debbie Bowles. I have two children, Ian (deceased) and Meg, and two grandchildren

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Harts Cafe

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being retired so I can both spend time with family and travel.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Being Papa Mac
Traveling the world

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Anywhere!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

There are always going to be life events I would like to see changed, however, everything that has happened has brought me to where I am now. I am happy

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

John Denver. Sunshine

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Cherish family and friends.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Slowing down and making noises whenever I stand or sit.

10. What are you most proud of?

My daughter.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Travel and watching my grandkids grow.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Journaling and cataloging my life experiences

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The strange and twisted road that got me here. As a former motorcycle gypsy, the curvy roads are the most fun!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Wherever I am, I try to make someone's day just a little better. When I accomplish that, I'm happy.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

In recent years, the small class gatherings I have attended have been wonderful!

Mark Simpson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have an ex-wife who is my best friend, and a son who just became married.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Busiest, Brazil was a beautiful wild scalloped peninsula featuring 9 beaches, all with different attributes. Now it is 100% private.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

The hard won knowledge I picked up along the way.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Volunteering, playing yard games, soaking in hot springs, eat fine foods.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Faywood, NM, Loreto, BCS, Mexico, Copper Center, AK, Koh Samui, Thailand

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Lamont Cranston - "There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens", Daisy Dillman - "Mexican Nights", Rolling Stones - "It's only R'n'R"

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

That the "Keep Up With The Joneses" mentality prevalent in our society is ultimately destructive in many ways.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The aches and pains of body part betrayals.

10. What are you most proud of?

I built, improved, and maintained a Community Park over 35 years of volunteered time.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Traveling to more new places and meeting more interesting people.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

I learned from its complete absence from the halls of WHS - Be Kind To Everyone.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That Life continually throws curve balls and there are few things you can truly count on.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Ester, Alaska

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I haven't decided yet.

Jane Gustafson Heins

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Still married to Paul Heins (class of 74), we have a daughter Lindzee & son Garrett.

We also have a granddaughter Victoria and grandson Gabriel.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Wayzata as the small town we grew up in.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Not much, ha! Wisdom, retirement but mostly I never really noticed how kind people. of all ages, are to older people, it is heartwarming.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Doing anything with our kids c and grandkids! Riding with Paul on our Harley. Travel and projects.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Disney World and Italy!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

No regrets.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

I loved everything from the 60s and 70s but Color My World stands out because it was our closing song at dances.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Time passes even quicker than you were told!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Getting weak!!!

10. What are you most proud of?

My family.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Time with my family.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Be kind to others, we don't know their struggles.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

When you are young you measure by milestones, as you age you measure by moments... I've been blessed with amazing moments.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Riding on a Harley!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I've worked on every reunion, so would hate miss out on the actual event!

Charles Allen

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Son Benjamin, Daughter Kinsey Mens, Son in Law Marc Mens
Grandson Archer

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The open fields that are now housing projects

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Looking like an adult

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Watch hockey

Do taxes

Spend time with friends

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Northern Minnesota

Boundry Waters

Israel

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I could spend more time with people I care for

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

The Moody Blues

Neil Diamond

Paul Simon

Cat Stevens

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Relish interruptions

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The loss of function of many of my parts

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Watching my grandson grow

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

If you have something nice to say, say it. If you have something bad to say, shut up

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How much fun each phase has been and how most things work out so well

14. Where is your Happy Place?

In my office watching two hockey games

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

The chance to see the classmates that I don't see often, as well as the ones I get to see more frequently

John Forde

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am ecstatically happily married to a dynamo named Catherine Day. We have one child, a daughter named Kara who is a children's librarian at Hennepin county central library in downtown MPLS.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My childhood home at 1315 Ives burned to the ground in 2013.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Becoming a crop duster of joy and meaning.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel, exploring, biking and skiing. All are opportunities to deepen bonds with fellow travelers. I also play the baritone horn with the Brass Solidarity social justice band.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

SW USA

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I could take everyone from Wayzata76 for a ride in an amphibious airplane.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Steely Dan, Doobies, Eagles, ELO, Chicago, Jim Croce

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Character matters. Of course it matters! It just doesn't matter as much as we think it does. The environment that influences our decisions also matters. Most people place too much emphasis on character and not enough on the power of the situation.

Transcendence cannot be earned, purchased, rented or borrowed. But it can be stumbled across!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Losing friends to mortality

10. What are you most proud of?

The national public TV show I created, 'Mental Engineering'. We deconstructed TV commercials with humor and insight. The creators of 'The Simpson's' and 'The Daily Show' were regular guests.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

America becoming a democracy again.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Always be honest with yourself.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The longevity of my family.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

In my vehicle, the first electric van in the U.S.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Easy. I treasure human connection.

Maggie Bowers O'Neill

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

My husband Mike and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary in April 2026. We have two children Kevin & Caitlin and her husband Joe. Four beautiful grandchildren, John, Daniel, Thomas & Madeline

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being present in the moment!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Gardening, travel and spending time with family. Making memories.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

National Parks, camping and hotel Glamping anywhere.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had the confidence yesterday that I have today.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Friendships need nurturing over the years

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Takes more time to get off the floor with grandbabies than when we had our kids.

10. What are you most proud of?

Being kind, teaching life skills to young adults, but most of all my family.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Renewing friendships and sharing stories and traveling to all our bucket locations.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Being true to yourself and believing in myself.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The amazing people I have met that make up the fabric of life. Being open to continuous learning.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

The neighborhood I grew up in and my families cabin

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Life changes, reiterate making things happen not waiting for them to happen.

Bill Doll

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married, 4 children - 2 boys, 2 girls, 7 grandkids

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

as long as I have my memories nothing is really actually gone. People and Places come and go but they live on in our hearts and memories.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being responsible for my own actions and needs is both the best and worst thing about getting older. sometimes I miss those days of having little to no responsibilities besides getting my homework done.

I do like being able to tell those "When I was your age" stories with a straight face.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Ham radio, Bad Dad Jokes, Firearms/Shooting, building and fixing thongs, grandkids

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I feel blessed as most of my wishes and desires from HS have been achieved.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

three don night, Jim Croche, Pink Floyd, Alan Parsons Project, Steely Dan, Chicago
- Color my world is still the best slow dance song ...

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

I am capable of much more that I think I can do. A great lesson from Army basic training.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

forgetting I am not 30 anymore when I need to do something very physical

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids are incredible parents

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Meeting Jesus on Judgement Day

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Wet Birds Never Fly at Night

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My recliner

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

My intention is to attend but will see what life throws my way to achieve attendance.

Ken Hood

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married my college sweetheart, Mary, December 22, 1978. Eight kids, 22 grandkids. We are at peace and in love with our whole tribe. We are blessed beyond measure.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

My favorite things are time for reading and reflection.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Birdwatching (we are avid birdwatchers), genealogy, and watching (fictional) murder mysteries and cop shows. Streaming tv from 7-9pm is our version of

happy hour.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Fleetwood Mac. Hands down. And still love the tried and true Oldies. Especially the soft-pop: John Denver, Simon and Garfunkel, Elton John, The Carpenters. My Apple Music is stuck on the “Essentials” of the 60’s and 70’s. My kids grew up hearing me say *We* invented rock n roll.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

You cannot predict the path. You can only walk it as it unfolds.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids. For sure. My kids.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Getting to befriend our grandchildren as they become young adults.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

It’s ok to step out of your comfort zone and take risks.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Hiking trails in state parks. Bliss.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Attending because I’m feeling very nostalgic at this time of life. Had some serious health scares this year. Some days, deep inside, I still feel like I’m 18.

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married Lori in 1983, divorced 2003. She passed in October 2024. Two kids, Eric (1987) and Amy (1990). Eric is with Lizzy in Rochester, MN. They have 3 children, ages 6, 5 and 3. Amy and Austin Walker are in Orlando and have a 4-year-old daughter with another due in early 2026.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

So much has changed... I worked at Walt's 66 (NW corner 6 & 101) in HS and it's been gone a long time. Leeann Chin at Ridgedale (the nice restaurant).

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I LIKE retirement! Still working about 10%, so not bored. I like being able to do what I want and not go to meetings.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Golf, cooking, church, Pilates. I don't love all the home repairs but they keep me busy too. I retired from soccer at 59 (played 25 years, refereed 24) and from work at 64.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Most frequently Cancun, but my favorite trip was the Amalfi Coast (Italy). Love time in Sedona AZ as well.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I was more patient at times.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Marshall Tucker, Boston, Eric Clapton, Procol Harum, Gordon Lightfoot, Chicago, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Saw Grand Funk Railroad last year!

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

I've learned a LOT since HS. Relationships, career (engineering - oil refining), priorities. We didn't really know much at 18.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Losing people (my older sister Jen in 2006, Dad in 2012, Lori in 2024). Lots of former work colleagues and bosses too. It's harder to make new friends, develop relationships. We're all scratch & dent.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids and my career.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More international travel, more time with my kids & grands, giving more to charities

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Loyalty. Long term friendships.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How fast it's gone, and how many times God has nudged me in a different direction. How many times I've moved (I've owned 11 houses).

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Home (Dallas since 2007)

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Most of my closest friends were not at the last reunion I attended (25th?) but several have said they'll go to the 50th.

David Sebold

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Life is great!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Will not be attending. Will be in
In Montana visiting family.

Thomas A Egar

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am single, never married. I have a brother, Bill Egar (WHS Class of 1973), a sister, Madonna Egar (WHS Class of 1975), and a sister, Joellen (WHS graduate. My parents, Bill and Mary Anne are now deceased.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Excelsior Amusement Park.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Senior discounts.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Drive around Lake Minnetonka. Read historical books like Undaunted Courage.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Las Vegas, New Orleans, Dallas, Chicago, New York, New York, Lake Kabetogema, Lake of the Woods, Gettysburg, DC, Roswell, Pahrump, NV, San Diego, Webster Grove, MO, etc.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had married a classmate from WHS.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Dream Weaver, The Streak.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

That I learned more than one thing since high school.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

It is harder to type.

10. What are you most proud of?

My Bachelor of Science degree from Saint John's University (graduated before the end of the 1970s), my Associate degree in Nursing (RN), my Masters in Health Administration and Doctor of Law degrees, and passing the Illinois State and Minnesota Bar Exams, and the NCLEX RN Boards. Also meeting Clinton's lawyer during Jones v. Clinton and meeting Stephen Hawking.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Writing books.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Family is everything.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The up and down nature of it. The heights and the depths.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

It is within me.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I want to see all of my old chums.

Clark Wolff

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Divorced with 2 children son Corey and daughter Aubrey

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Met Sports Center, home of Minnesota North Stars

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Retired means not having to go to work every day

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Pets , 2 dogs, 2 cats plus a stray currently

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Visit dad in New Mexico

6. 50 years later I still wish:

Should have tried out for hockey team as a goalie

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Ten Years After, Johnny Winter, Robin Trower, Ted Nugent

10. What are you most proud of?

Coaching 30 seasons of youth basketball and soccer, between 500-600 kids

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Relaxing on my deck, watching my dogs sniff around the back yard

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To see old friends

Kurt A Paulsen

1 Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married Pam Webster in 1983 and moved to Maple Grove, MN and have lived there since. Pam is a teacher in the Osseo Maple Grove school district, semi-retired, substitutes for high school and junior high school teachers in the district. I am retired from a 45 year career in printing and graphics.

We have one daughter, Anna, born in 1986, graduated from Osseo HS in 2004 and from St. Cloud State in 2008. Married Michael Thorbrogger in 2016, they live in Dayton, MN. Anna is an accountant for Winthrop & Weinstine , Mike is a heavy equipment operator for the city of Minneapolis.

In 1997, my brother Keith bought our first house in Maple Grove and has lived there since. Pam and I moved to a different house in the same neighborhood. Keith and Lynn Rehbeil have a 17 year old son, Ben, a junior at Osseo HS.

My dad passed away in 2016 while living with my mom at Summerwood Senior Homes in Plymouth, MN. She still lives there at age 94, still drives her little Ford Fusion and enjoys weekly bridge games with her friends. We have a weekly dinner with her on Sundays and I play online cribbage with her every night! She is facing serious health issues right now but is as determined as ever to go on.

Pam and I have no grandchildren but we have raised and spoiled 5 wonderful dogs! A golden retriever, Dusty, a golden retriever, Dolly, a British lab, Maya, a British lab, Mia and our current British lab, Mini.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The farm fields, woods and ponds that used to surround the neighborhood where I grew up in Plymouth, MN and where I spent countless hours exploring with my brother and friends.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Enjoying my free time during retirement, being able to do anything I want to, when I want to.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Hunting ducks and pheasants

Fishing or just being on a lake
Walks with Pam and Mini
Playing any game with Mini, especially frisbee
Listening to music
Driving and playing with my Jeeps

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Spending time with Pam and Mini at our cabin on Ann Lake in Ogilvie

Heading to South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa and outstate Minnesota for hunting and fishing with my brother and friends

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Lynyrd Skynyrd
Aerosmith
Blue Oyster Cult
UFO
Robin Trower
Led Zeppelin
Black Sabbath
ZZ Top
Johnny Winter
Little Feat

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Seeing friends and family go before me

The aches and pains I feel every day, I think I ran into the boards too many times playing hockey Lol

10. What are you most proud of?

Without question, our daughter Anna and the upbringing we gave her.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Taking day trips and overnights with Pam and Mini, visiting small towns and parks in Minnesota or wherever the Jeep leads us.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Sitting on the observation deck at our cabin with Pam and Mini on a breezy summer day, sipping a cold one.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Love to reconnect with and see my old friends, there's nothing like it!

Lori A Heino

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I'm married to John, have a 40 year old Stepdaughter, Amanda. My Mother, Father, oldest Sister, Audrey are deceased.

My Sister, Lynn Tombers, lives in

Corcoran, MN, with husband, Bill. I have 7 Niece's & Nephews, and several Great Nieces & Nephews.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My childhood home in Plymouth.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being retired, living with my husband John in the Smoky mountains, and being able to travel.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Enjoying the mountains, attending Church, working out, being with friends, visiting family, spending time with my husband and my fur baby cat, Harley.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I've been to Thailand, Amsterdam, Paris, attended a wedding in the Switzerland alps, admired the building architecture in Budapest, red mountains in Sedona, AZ, Hawaii, and more. We have a trip scheduled this year to Ireland which should be amazing. Looking forward to many more adventures.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wouldn't have sold my Mazda RX-7 when I did (lol), stayed in college to get a degree (I was close!), had children.

7 What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Too many to mention. Still think 70's music is the best ever.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Learn from your mistakes, make the most of each day as life goes by too fast.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Looking at myself in the mirror and seeing an older me, wrinkles and all.

10. What are you most proud of?

Living a good life, having a successful career, being there for family and friends.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Being a good Christian, enjoying retirement, traveling, spending time with my husband, family and friends.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Applying what I learned to life decisions.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That I've been able to get through and rebound back from the rough times calmly and with a resolve to look at life as chapters, moving forward with a positive outlook that each chapter will be new.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

At home where I feel happy, safe and secure, along with Church where I feel loved, and hopeful for the future.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

After not going to the last reunion that I could have attended, and having Stacy Kvam pass shortly thereafter, I made the decision not to miss another one.

Barb Paulson Keith

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have been married 43+ years to my husband, Art Keith. We have two daughters.
--Carissa, age 38, works as an ELL teacher in St. James MN. She is married to David Lick, a Presbyterian pastor, and they have an almost 10 year old son.
--Catherine, age 36, works at a fair trade online store and is studying to be an Art Therapist. She is married to Roman Rey, who recently got a Masters degree in Psychology. They live in Zurich Switzerland (Roman is Swiss.)

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I love being retired! I am busy with things that I choose to be busy with. When I

don't want to something, no one says I have to do it. Travel or vacation time is not limited by work hours. In my town there are a lot of opportunities for the (healthy) elderly in terms of classes or lectures, socializing, art classes, book or needlework groups as well as organizations clamoring for free labor by impassioned seniors!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

My daily walk with my BFF (we are both imports, so we make a good match), walking and camping in the woods, quilting (more towards the artsy end of quilting,) working out and playing ping pong at the local senior community center, be active in church activities, especially music and help in the tech booth. I spend a lot of time doing political organizing and activism. This is something I didn't feel comfortable doing before I was retired.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Up North MN in the Bemidji area, including Concordia Language Villages, or any state park. Paducah KY where the National Quilt Museum is located. I have lived in Sweden and love returning to visit. I need to get back there soon while my friends are still around! I also like going to Zurich to see my daughter. I prefer places that are cool. Iceland was great! I do not have as much wanderlust as my husband!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I had understood that being a JV volleyball player from the Metro meant I probably would have made the volleyball team at Bemidji State if I had tried out.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Carole King, Cat Stevens, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, Elton John

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Once you get a professional position, no one will ever care about your school grades again.

10. What are you most proud of?

Raising 2 daughters who make a positive impact in the world. Living my values.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I never really had a dream of what I wanted in life, but it makes me chuckle seeing the twists and turns life has taken to get me where I am, which is where it all comes together: the self assurance, the wisdom, the transferrable skills, passions and values being pulled together to bring meaning and joy into my life and my relationships. And working for good in the community!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Probably my sewing room, but I have "homes away from home" in my church, the local art gallery, the senior center and in the local activist community. Additionally being on our local trail where we take our daily walks brings peace to my soul (except when it is ice covered, like now.)

Connie Hart Steinlicht

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married a long time!

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Some better decision making skills, otherwise I can't think of a thing!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

Oh.....I won't say

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Hmmm... Santana, Elton John, Fleetwood Mac

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Give everyone a chance to be part of your life

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The aches and pains!

10. What are you most proud of?

The incredible 2 sons John and I brought into this world!!

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

I have recently reconnected with friends from my elementary school years and it has been great! I look forward to more fun times!

And my sister has just moved back to MN after being away for 30 years, Yeah!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

At home, in my garden, with my spouse and my animals.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I have found it is just so fun to reconnect with all of you that have touched my life in some way, whether it be from Widsten, Ridgemount, or WHS. LET'S PARTY!

Valerie A (Brown) Broome

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Husband - Michael, retired Navy, Engineer

Brothers - Elliot, Retired NY District Broker and Donald, Retired Salesman - also attended Wayzata Public Schools

2 Sons, Justin, VP Finances, Aaron - Afghanistan War Veteran, Special Ops

1 Granddaughter - Evie, accepted to Tufts and other Ivy League, also several overseas, Page for Maryland Legislation, Go Evie! or Amy Klobuchar II or RBG 2.0!

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Wayzata Theater and The Old Log Theatre

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Waking up when I want and doing whatever I want whenever I want.

Enjoying everyday the sun rises and watching my children grow and live their lives.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Meeting up with friends and family, traveling with hubby, riding in the C5 Corvette with hubby and tripping around the country in the Chevy Tahoe and now the TRD 4Runner, a little gardening, bicycling and hiking through local parks, and dabbling in creative hobbies.

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Vancouver, CAN, Santa Fe, NM, Nova Scotia, and Ocracoke, NC

6. 50 years later I still wish:

hmmm... I'm not sure I wish for anything... I'm pretty pleased with how life came out. Everything I am today was built on and grew through what I was as a child.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Robert Flack's "Killing me Softly", Marshall Tucker Band "Fly Like an Eagle"
Fleetwood Mac, Rod Stewart, Linda Rondstadt, Queen, Elton John, Eagles, Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Night and the Pips, Jackson 5,

Commodores, Jackson Brown, Bob Seger, Beatles... almost anything and everything, just not much acid/hard rock.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Be grateful for everything... Enjoy life on life's terms!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The wear and tear on the old joints!

10. What are you most proud of?

My children and grandchildren.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More travel with hubby!

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Life will give you blows, but tomorrow is another day. Keep striving for your dreams. Dreams take work. Don't give up until the miracle happens. Question everything and Do your research!

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I can't believe how good life has turned out. Thank you God!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Hubbies arms, Sunshine on my face, Riding in the car

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Life has been such that I've only been to one! Can't wait to see everyone!

Paul Harper

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am married to Teresa Welborn, we have a son named Freddie.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

I have been away from MN since 1981 so I'm not sure.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I am grateful to be in good health and having a supportive family and church community.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Hiking and biking with my family.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

This is a tough one but I have enjoyed spending time in New Mexico, Santa Fe and Abiquiu. NYC and Montreal are fun destinations. Getting to MN and out of the TX heat is always good.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Chick Correa, "Armando's Rhumba". David Bowie, "Golden Years". John Hartford's "In Tall Buildings" and "Don't Leave Your Records in the Sun".

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Hearing about friends passing.

10. What are you most proud of?

My son, Freddie.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Travelling.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

This is a tough one, it used to be going to my parent's place in Oakdale, MN but that hasn't been an option since 2016. Now it's Santa Fe.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

There's only going to be one and I'm in good health. Mostly it will be good to see everyone and celebrate that we made it this far.

Diana Holmstrom Anderson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married for 48 years (to the same guy)

We have three daughters, two live near the twin cities, one lives in Oklahoma.

The daughters have graced us with 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter, ranging in age from 17 to 7mo. Giving us a new purpose for life!!!

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My childhood home!

It was torn down and replaced with an ultra modern building.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I have the knowledge and patience to enjoy simply living life!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I love to play in dirt. Gardening!!! I have a very large veggie garden and 11 flower gardens on our 10 acre hobby farm.

The grand kids sleep overs are also very treasured times.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

The family Cabin up north is the destination for the majority of our relaxation destinations.

Visiting family in Oklahoma and Alaska are also very important.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish that I had more self confidence while in High School, I feel I missed out on a lot of opportunities.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Fly like an Eagle - Steve Miller Band

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

I can do anything I set my mind to do.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

It is hard to keep weight in check.

10. What are you most proud of?

My family!!!!

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Living life to the fullest! Traveling around the country camping and boondocking.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Don't drink and drive!

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I don't really have any surprises...I have worked hard and earned my comfortable life.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My garden!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

It will be fun to see everyone again!

Debra S Wamsley

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I'm married to the love of my life, Laura. Both of us are retired Educators. Together we raised our two kids;

Brianna (35) currently lives in Fargo with her pooch, Lady, and works at the (MN) Clay and Becker County Public Defender's office. She travels to the cities frequently to visit her beau Chris, her parents, brother/sisterinlaw and nephews, and her friends.

And Erik (32) works in IT at Travelers Insurance as a Developer. Erik is married to Hanna (40). She works with Special needs kids in District 196. They live in Rosemount and have four of the sweetest boys, Jayden (17), Jaxson (12), Max (8) and Liam (5). These younguns keep them on their toes with a multitude of sports activities ~~ basketball, football, soccer, track, baseball... I can't keep up with them.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Wally's Patio the orange hamburger joint at County Roads 6 and 101.

Nothing like the memories of flipping burgers and sticky arms from the spray of ice cream, compliments of the malt machine, and the sound of sizzling fries competing with Hotel California, LeRoy Brown and Nights in White Satin blaring over the loud speakers.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I don't feel bound by other's opinions. I relish the wisdom and insight (both my own and others) born of age and experience.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I especially love traipsing around the globe. Other favorites~~theater, women's basketball (watching~not playing), reading, movies (especially with popcorn at the Riverview Theater.) Kicking back and breaking bread with friends. Listening to music in the park, walking and biking the city.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

In 2024, I went to the Summer Olympics in Paris with Laura and her sister Marie, along with Marie's family; husband Mark, kids Braeden, then in college at Michigan, Annaliese in college at Minnesota and Colten in HS in Michigan. We rented a flat and spent six weeks there exploring and wandering Paris, the Normandy area and London. Just being a part of the city and the Olympics was incredible.

Another favorite trip was to Cuba last year. Laura and I went with MPR MarketPlace to visit Havana and surrounding areas. It was a bittersweet trip. Such a beautiful people and country. Given our current President and Administration's treatment of Cuba and its people, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit when I did. And I feel heartsick at the circumstances they are facing because of us.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I'd understood and appreciated the resources and opportunities available to me in high school. And, that I'd taken better advantage of those opportunities. If I had a do over, I'd get more involved in extracurricular activities. **Now, some of you might say I was involved in extracurricular activities. I'm referencing adult sanctioned extracurricular activities, like theater, yearbook production, band, team sports, etc...And I wish I'd taken my academics more seriously. We really were blessed with great opportunities for an excellent education at Wayzata.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

CSN&Y, Cat Stevens, Simon and Garfunkel, The Beatles, Carole King, Janis Joplin, Grateful Dead, Pink Floyd, Eagles, Jethro Tull, John Denver, Shawn Phillips

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

I have a lot to be grateful for. And things I take for granted can change on a dime, so cherish each moment.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Loss...and also, fewer firsts. Although~~careful what you ask for. Especially these days.

10. What are you most proud of?

For the sake of humility, I'm going to reframe this question into a summary of some of the things for which I'm most grateful.

I feel fortunate to have retired from a career in Higher Education at the University of Minnesota which I loved and that I was good at. Being a part of that community, surrounded by people with an inherent curiosity and interest in learning has been one of my greatest honors.

I am grateful to have survived adolescence~my kid's. And for what I didn't know at the time. Each of them matured into remarkable adults. My daughter is fierce, independent, determined and downright saucy. She lands wholly in progressive values and is unstoppable in her advocacy for underserved folks. My son is kind, gentle, wise and sensitive. He is a dedicated husband and father, and he adores his family. He is resolutely loyal to those fortunate enough to be in his orbit.

I love living openly with my beloved wife as an out, proud lesbian. Coloring outside the lines and defying many of the norms and bias' I left unquestioned as a younger person is freeing beyond description.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Continuing to wander the world, hanging with family and friends.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Don't compare your insides with other people's outsides.

You never know what others may be dealing with so default kindness.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

"The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been." Madeleine L'Engle

When I was young I thought my elders were simply the sum of who they were at that particular moment in time. Somehow, I thought when I got older, I would be a different person than who I was as a younger person. I didn't understand that as an elder, I am who I was, as a youngster. I carry all of my experiences into my advanced age...and I am still me.

And~~Hagman and I are still hanging out!!! Who'dve guessed at age 12, in Ma Peshco's Geography class that our friendship would span our lives. The opportunity we use to aspire to~~revisiting psychedelics on the front porch, while sitting in rocking chairs, at age 80 is just over the horizon. Having said that, the idea of respite in a rocking chair seems sanguine...the psychedelics, maybe not so much anymore.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anywhere with my beloved and my kids/grandkids. Outside sitting in my rocking chair on the front porch, watching people (and dogs) walk around the lake. Biking and walking around the lake.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

50 kind of seems like a big deal. An accomplishment of sorts. I'm excited to see and catch up with folks I haven't seen or talked to in a minute.

Lee Barrett

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

King of my castle but have many wonderful nieces and nephews and Great nieces and nephews!

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Freedom to do things I like, plan my day that doesn't include working anymore.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Home projects, Jack of all trades master of none was my motto. Trying to stay fit, exercise when I don't want to.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Florida for a few weeks when it is dam cold here. A drive with a couple of friends to check out a good restaurant. Europe as long as my brother-in-law is still there to make sure I don't get lost!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

As I remember we listened to a lot of Charlie Daniels, Eagles, Willy Nelson, Lynyrd Skynyrd.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

When things get confusing or complicated, break them down and only focus on 1 part first and then go to the next issue.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

I am guessing most of us our age will say the aches and pains we have now that we didn't when younger. Fortunately, mine are not too bad yet.

10. What are you most proud of?

Getting through college and staying employed in a competitive manufacturing environment as a manufacturing engineer amazed me that I was able to work with so many great people and stay employed until retirement.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Travel with friends, more pizza get-togethers with friends and classmates. Hopefully staying healthy and able to visit more fun places.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Highschool taught me how to interact with a wide variety of people which is

tough for an introvert type of personality, wrestling taught me be mental toughness and helped throughout my work and daily life.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Still amazes me that it will be 50 years since High School, still seems like yesterday.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

I don't have 1 happy place, depends on my mood, I do like solitude at home but also fun new places around town or world makes me happy.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Staying in touch with high school classmates throughout the years is the main reason I will go to the 50th.

Marcy (Miller) Graham

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

One son, one daughter-in-law, no grandkids, one dog.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The A&W Rootbeer stand by Wayzata Bay. I always stopped there on my bike for a rootbeer float after swimming all day at Wayzata Bay. One Saturday afternoon when I stopped there after swimming at the beach, I chatted with the governor of MN, Wendell Anderson, who was there with his kids.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Retirement and no work schedule!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I keep busy by playing my trumpet in 5 bands! I also still do a lot of biking and swimming every week.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

My favorite local travel destination is going to all the wineries in Fredericksburg, TX.

I loved my cruise around Iceland last year and saw gorgeous waterfalls and fjords.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

1. "I'm Hooked on a Feeling" by BJ Thomas
 2. Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass
-

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

No matter how much money you have, it is always nice to have more!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

More medical issues and bills.

10. What are you most proud of?

Graduated at the top of my class with an MBA.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

I plan going on more vacations to our national parks.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Have perseverance and persistence to go after what makes me happy.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I realize How much control I don't have over the events in my life

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Playing my trumpet in bands, riding my bike, swimming.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Too busy playing my trumpet in bands.

David Boline

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Polly and I have been married 46 years and have raised two children, Katie and Jake. Jake has a daughter, Isabelle (8), and Katie has three children, Avery (11), Ella (9), and Logan (5).

2 What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The old A&W, the Q Petroleum where I worked, the old Muni, Harts Café, and the Ole Piper Inn.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Watching our children grow into really exceptional adults, being a grandparent, and being able to travel just about any time we want.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Family tree research, photography, music, and anything related to my family.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I love the BWCA. Just about anywhere in Europe hits the spot too!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I had known how great we all had it growing up and going to school. It's sadly so much different for kids today...

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Beatles, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Outlaws, Yes, Pink Floyd, Allman Brothers, Little Feat, 10 Years After, Joe Walsh, and so many more. We had the best bands making some of the greatest music of all time when we were growing up!

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

It's okay to say no, and it doesn't hurt to slow down and enjoy everything a bit more along the way.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The loss of friends and family first and foremost And all the aches and pains that seem to pop up out of nowhere and never really going away! What's up with that?

10. What are you most proud of?

My family (I bet I'm the only one who answers it this way ;)).

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Watching the grandchildren grow up and more travel while we can still get around.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

To listen.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How gosh dang incredibly fast we got to this point!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anything and anywhere with family.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

This ought to be a big one and I want to see as many classmates as are able to make the trek. We had a great class (verified by a number of our teachers) and it's always fun to cross paths with everyone.

Jill Wuollet Lahti

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am married to the same guy for 49 years. We have 9 sons, each one has 3 sisters. Only one of the sons has spent a few years in jail, but we're proud of him!! He was a deputy!! 😂😂 Half of our kids live in Colorado, one in Texas, one in Kentucky, one in Alaska, one in Montana and two in Minnesota. We have 10 granddaughters and 8 grandsons. I retired after working as a "Lunch Lady" for 14 years. I worked at East Middle School, West Middle School and then Gleason Lake Elementary School. My mom is 94 and still spry and keeps us in line! I still live in the district. A block from where I lived as a kid. Got a lot of plumbers in the family. Girls are all in medical field. All 12 kids are Wayzata Grads. A few are known out in Aspen as the "Jordashian Bros."

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Band. We had the best times, the most amazing sounds and memories from concerts of the talents of our peers... what magic!!! But I also think of the kids that I left behind, now that I'm retired, I hope they're safe, I hope they're fed, I hope they stay kind and I hope life is kind to them.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Pretending to be wiser. I think of how much wiser my dad was....

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Read, enjoy my grandkids, FaceTime with the grandkids, travel, tease my mom, sew, play the piano, listen to music, do puzzles, talk to my kids(my boys always call when they have a drive between jobs!)

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Colorado, Glenwood Springs area. One year, my mom and I flew into Denver and took the train to Glenwood Springs. It was so beautiful and fun!! I'm going to Alaska for the first time ,soon. So, I guess I will find out if I like Alaska or not!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

Everyone were still close by

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Chicago

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

The value of being kind to one another. We really have a nice group of people. Even when I look back, I think of how welcoming and kind and for the most part, non judgmental, our class was. And Freedom is not free.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Seeing people suffer. That hurts the most.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids and grandkids and my sister and her son. The fact that I'm the mother of 4 Veterans.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Continued happiness and contentment.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

To listen. Have compassion and empathy. Be helpful, be a team player.. Teamwork makes the dream work!!

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How simple it is to be happy and how much work it is to be discontent.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

With my people.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Because the thought of many of the people brought back such HAPPY,FUN,WONDERFUL MEMORIES. And just to see them and let them know that no matter what curve ball life has thrown their way, that's okay. Stick the glove out catch it, cuz we're all here to cheer you on!!!

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married 50 years

2 children.

One married in SLC

One married in Northfield

No grandkids yet !

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Still feel young. Time to travel !

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Orienteering!

Biking, golfing

Outdoors in general

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Italy, Spain

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Just keep moving and doing !

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Gray hair

10. What are you most proud of?

My family!

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Continue to meet people and stay active

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Every day is a new adventure

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Any forest !

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To reconnect

Debbie Pratschner Roehl

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have been married to my husband, Greg, for 47 years. We have 3 sons, 3 daughters in laws and 8 grandchildren (6 boys and 2 girls). Our oldest grandson just completed his first year of college at Morris University. Our youngest grandson just finished kindergarten.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Enjoyed spending time at the "BACK 40" at Medina Ballroom

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Watching our boys grow up and have families of their own. Very proud of all of

them.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel, reading, hiking, gardening, and just spending time outside

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Europe (Austria, Switzerland, and Germany), Greece, Ireland and any time at the lake!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I would have been more involved in High School

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Eagles

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Appreciation for what I have

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Gray hair and minor aches and pains!

10. What are you most proud of?

My Family

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More travel and time spent with family and friends

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How much I appreciate things as I get older and how much I enjoy traveling

14. Where is your Happy Place?

At home in my sun porch

Dede Knoblach Boelter

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Hi! Married 47 years to Mark. We live in Brooklyn Park. Retired from Meshbeshier & Spence in 2021 after 43 years as a legal assistant. Mark retired in 2024 after 45 years owning Maple Grove Auto Service. Nowadays we enjoy our family, traveling and golf.

Our oldest is Matt (39). Married to Amy for 10 years with one child, Skylar, who is six. Matt is a Client Care Coordinator with Home Instead and Amy is a Sr. Program Manager for Diversity in Research at Abbott. Skylar is a joy and looking forward to first grade at Maranatha Christian Academy.

Our youngest is Tiffany (36). Married to Brian for 13 years. Tiffany is the Director of Avian Care at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. Brian is a Paramedic with Mayo Clinic.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

- * Retirement. I have no idea how I got things done while working full time
 - * Traveling with our kids and grandchild.
-

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Anything with our granddaughter. Travel. Cooking/Baking. Golf. Gardening.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Favorite places I have visited so far have been Peru/Machu Picchu, Banff, Iceland, Italy, Alaska, Hawaii, Germany, all National Parks. Looking forward to Japan in April

6. 50 years later I still wish:

We can all live in peace.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Queen

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

My body wearing out.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Many more years with my family.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To see people I haven't seen in years.

Cynthia Slack Lenz

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Husband Dave. Three boys and partners. 6 grands. One Whippet.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Lutsen Resort

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

More freedom.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Puzzles: Jigsaw, NYT crossword, Squaredle among others.

Knitting

Agate hunting and spying Lake Superior ore ships

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

North Shore

Scotland

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I knew more Wayzata grads.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Too many.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life is good.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Pain

10. What are you most proud of?

My family.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Retirement

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Hmmm

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I ended up returning to the Twin Cities.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

North Shore

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Interested, but not sure I'll be in town.

Peter Hawthorne

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Rebecca (married 44 years), adult "kids" Katharine, John, Elisabeth all in their 30's married or with partners. Two grandkids, girl and boy, ages 2 3/4 and 4 months.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Bridgeman's

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Time with family and friends¹

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Time with family and friends! Travel, hiking, cycling, live music and theater.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Southeast Asia, Mediterranean, Hawaii, Northern California, Pacific Northwest.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I would have had more fun (and still studied).

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Chicago, Doobie Brothers, Jackson Browne, Steely Dan.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Listen well - seek to understand and be understood.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

What was the question?

10. What are you most proud of?

My family.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Engaging with family and friends.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Everyone matters.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Seeing, experiencing, and living across the world.

14 Where is your Happy Place?

With family and friends.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

So look forward to catching up with classmates!

Laurie Blomquist Mazzeo

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married since 1989. Two sons, 33 and 31. One living in MN and the other in LA. When we retired we returned to Minnesota to be closer to my sisters and their extended families.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I enjoy reading, walking, riding my e-bike, kayaking, working out, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

When we lived in California for 16 years I loved our driving trips to National Parks. We visited the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Arches, Zion, Bryce, Sequoia, the Oregon Coast, Crater Lake, etc. I loved hiking and exploring them all!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I didn't sweat the small stuff!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

John Denver. My husband has over 1,000 ALBUMS and teases me constantly about this. My music exposure has definitely improved since then!

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Grace costs you nothing.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Realizing that there's not as much time left as there used to be.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

When Sue Jewell made us learn the difference between to/too/two, their/they're, it's/its, your/you're, etc. Many times this knowledge has made me think that I am smarter than some people.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I am surprised that, after thinking Wayzata was the center of the universe, living in South Florida, Boise, Idaho and Southern, California made me just as happy. Surprised that I returned to Minnesota in retirement because I hate being cold!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Several of us made a pact at the 49th reunion that we'd show up for the 50th, God willing.

Kathy Sahotsky Simon

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

My husband is Dave Simon. We have 3 sons - 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being retired and the freedom it gives me.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel - reading - gardening - trying new things.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

2 of my boys live out of state. The youngest is in Ausitn Texas - I love Austin. The oldest is in Cheyenne Wyoming - that is where all the grandchildren are - I love the mountains. I have not been to Europe - that is on the bucket list.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Nothing . I have out lived both of my parents and I am glad that I have the privilege of having made it to 68 years old

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How fast it went . I hear about someone who is 70 years old and think "Whoa"

then I realize that 70 is only 2 years away.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

The beach / ocean

Alison Noble

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Never married, no children. I have spent the past 6 years taking care of my parents. Mom passed last year, but Dad still lives with me.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Colonial Drive In. Good times....

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Love this retirement schedule!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Anything to do with American History; museums, homes, battlefields. I am thrilled to be in Virginia during this 250th anniversary year! I do a lot of reading.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I could go to Scotland every year. My bucket list is to visit all the State Capitol buildings. Sidelined for the moment, but I've visited 16 so far!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had had better college counseling. I went to a liberal arts college but may have

gone a different route if additional options had been presented.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Lynyrd Skynyrd, BTO, Billy Joel, John Cougar, Jim Croce, Dan Fogelberg, Carole King, Carly Simon

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Nobody is ever really paying a great deal of attention to you.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

I just don't have the energy that I used to.

10. What are you most proud of?

Quitting smoking.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Traveling. Would like to do an Alaskan cruise and go through the Panama Canal. See the remaining 34 State Capitol Buildings!

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

It's important to always do your best.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

You can plan all you want, then God laughs.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Home.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

This will probably be my last. So many classmates are no longer with us, I am grateful to be able to attend. It gives me a long-delayed return to MN to catch up with old friends.

Laurie Hunt Turtinen

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married with three fabulous kids that have terrific partners but that apparently aren't in any hurry to make me a grandmother

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Cherished no, but I do miss A & W

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

You can so no relatively guilt free

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel, spend time with family and friends, go to the beach and dine on a patio

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Ireland, Spain and Portugal - there are always things to love

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had thick hair

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Queen and Aerosmith

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life is complicated

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Sleep patterns

10. What are you most proud of?

That my children are very decent humans

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Travel and time with my family and friends

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Good friends are invaluable

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Time passes too quickly

14. Where is your Happy Place?

The beach

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Jim Olson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married for 43 years to Sue Carlson (Olson) from our class. We have three kids, Melissa (mom is Pauline Pulju), Jen, and Brian. Melissa and Jen are both attorneys and Jen is now a judge. Brian is a supervisor for a work comp company. They are all married..... to attorneys. Not sure where I went wrong 😊. Melissa and Jen each have two kids, a boy and a girl for each. No kids for Brian yet.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Not sure. Paradise Ballroom in Waconia was fun. Did a lot of things I wasn't supposed to at the sand pits.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Watching the kids grow up and do well.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Time with family, time outside, time at the beach, time with friends, time on the boat.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

We enjoy road trips and have driven all over the country. Rode to Banff on my motorcycle a few years ago and that was an incredible trip. We now split our time between the twin cities and Palm Coast Florida where we have a house. Loved Europe when we traveled there as well.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I should have spent more time going to high school.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Oh boy, where do I start. Jerry Jeff Walker, Taj Mahal. Bob Dylan, Aerosmith, Lynyrd Skynyrd, John Prine, Grateful Dead and so many more.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Don't sweat the small stuff

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Aches

10. What are you most proud of?

Children and grandchildren. They have all done well..... in spite of us.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Watching the kids and grandkids continue to grow and do well.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

There are no throw away kids that deserve to be given up on.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

What a long strange trip it's been. Never ever thought I would go into law enforcement and eventually retire as Sheriff in Carver County.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Fun to see old friends and do some reminiscing.

Christine Hunt Swenson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I was married to Paul Swenson, class of 1977 for 14 years & the divorced. We have two sons, Sean, age 36 & Alex, age 34. Sean works for the city of Pequot Lakes & Alex works for a marine restoration company in FL.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Bridgeman's. I have happy memories of going there before/after football games & eating huge ice cream peppermint Bon Bon sundaes with my friends.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Spending time with cherished friends I've made in my 34 year career of being a SPED teacher for high school & 18-21 year old students who haven't graduated yet & chose to come to a Transition Program to learn how to live as independently as possible based on their circumstances. I love getting together yearly with Cindy Moritz Mann, Kathy Norling Mathews & Diane Laurent Morris when I come "home" yearly in Aug. I live in Florida

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I like to travel, cruise, spend time with family & friends. I also love to scrapbook & Diamond Art in my free time. I also volunteer at my church & local school.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I'd love to go to Australia, Spain & Portugal as well as go on a Mediterranean cruise.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I was at my high school weight. 😊

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

John Denver, Chicago, two of my first concerts!!

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Cherish every moment with people. You never know what surprises tomorrow holds.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Wrinkled skin.

10. What are you most proud of?

My two sons & how happy they are in life. I'm proud of retiring early from teaching in Anoka-Hennepin School District to move to FL to take care of my Mom who was in her third year of a 7 year Alzheimer's journey. She passed away in 2019. My Dad also was diagnosed with Alzheimer's while Mom was still alive & he succumbed to the disease in 2022. I gave up my career, son's, friends, home to start a new life in FL as a caregiver. I wouldn't change having that extra 1-1 time with my parents.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More traveling, good health, continued friendships & love.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Be true to yourself. Take care of you so you can help others.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I always thought I would retire & work for Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. I did retire & go to FL but not to Disney to work. I frequented Disney when I could based on my parent's health. I still do Disney cruises & was just in CA in April & went to Disneyland's 70th anniversary celebration at their two parks °o°

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anything Disney or cruising as well as spending time with family and friends. I also love Diamond Art, well, obsessed really.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To be able to catch up with long, lost friends & share many stories with laughter.

Tom Vettel

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married to Lynn (Davidson, Class of '74) for 46 years. Three adult children: Anne - 38, Blake - 35, Jackson - 33. Six grandchildren: Kate - 10, Emma - 8, Russell - 4, Sophie - 3, Charlie - 1, Calvin - 1. We live in Wayzata in the summer and Scottsdale in the winter.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

A&W Root Beer drive-in.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Having a close relationship with our family and friends.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel, family time, outdoor sports.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Tulip season in the Netherlands.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I could play lead guitar in a blues band.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Southern rock was my thing.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

You never stop learning.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Remembering what the least favorite thing about getting older is.

10. What are you most proud of?

Lifetime Wayzata kid with a family that has deep Wayzata roots.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Remembering what to look forward to in the future

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

You're not as smart as you might think.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

It has gone so fast.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Right here in good old Wayzata.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

You gotta go, whether you want to or not.

Walter R Leach

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I am single

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

I miss my parents

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I don't have to worry about getting up for work. I'm retired.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I'd like to go up to my Cabin

I'd like to work in a vegetable garden

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Go out and visit friends in North Dakota and relatives in Montana

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Aches and pains

10. What are you most proud of?

My health

That I have a cabin to go to for relaxation

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My Cabin Up North

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Cause I like to see a bunch of faces of people I went to school with

Greg Shallbetter

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Two daughters. Four grandchildren.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Family.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Boating, hunting, fishing, family time.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Alaska, England, Florida.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I was 50 years younger.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Bob Seger, Journey, Hall and Oats, Aerosmith, many more.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Work hard, family and life-long friends are very important.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Getting older.

10. What are you most proud of?

My family and my business.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Living long with my wife and family.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Do what you love to do. Stay true to real friends and your family comes first.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How much i have enjoyed life.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anywhere that i am with my family.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I won't have a chance to attend the 100th.

David Barr

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married Patty 38 years ago, it's been awesome. We had 5 kids, have 3 left. 2 grand kids and another due in December.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Our cabin in Wisconsin

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Still being able to do the things I love.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Mountain biking, snow skiing, disc golf, BWCA trips, going to the mountains.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Ski resorts, BWCA

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had more money to spend.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, Frank Zappa, Beatles, Pink Floyd

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Never stop learning.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Getting harder to find people who are interested/ able to go on adventures.

10. What are you most proud of?

My family

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Better replacement knees.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Only smoke good weed.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Every day is a surprise. Also how some of my closest friends are from high school.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

BWCA or being in the mountains

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Because of Dave Boline

Steve Martin Michalski

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

My wife, Mary Davis Michalski, and I married in 2004. As we got married late in life, our children have been cats, currently Emi, a 12-year-old Burmese, and Edwin, an 8-year-old Bombay, both raised as kittens. My father passed away in 2004, and my mother passed away in 2022. My three sisters are still living, two are married. I have 3 nephews and 1 niece.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The Hotel Sofitel, the site of my first date with my wife and the venue of many memorable lunches after visiting Fort Snelling cemetery.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Having more time to do things I want to do, a little greater financial freedom without the stress of work, and opportunities to meet others, part of the reason for attending the 50th Wayzata High School reunion.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Everything Italian! My favorite pastime is studying the Italian language, which keeps my brain active with recall. But I have incorporated Italian in my other passionate interests, kayaking, biking, walking, traveling, classical music performed on period instruments, antic collecting (especially for the tabletop), history, wine and cuisine. My wife and I especially enjoy entertaining small groups at our residence with great food and wine, a beautiful antic Italian table setting and scintillating conversation, a perfect evening for us.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

My wife and I have enjoyed many great travel adventures to Europe, such as Germany, France, Ireland, England, Scotland, Spain, Greece and Turkey, but our favorite place in the world is Italy, a place we even considered living in during the harsh Minnesota winters. My favorite lifetime weekend so far was in Venice celebrating my 60th birthday during the holy week in 2018 with each day bringing many indelible adventures within this incredible and unique city.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

One word, LOSS! Loss of family members, loss of friends, loss of classmates, loss of instructors, loss of pets, and eventually, but not now, potential loss of skills, thinking, mobility etc. that come with aging during this life journey.

10. What are you most proud of?

I am proud of many achievements, such as graduating summa cum laude at the U of M, managing the wine program at Lord Fletcher's as the sommelier, and my marriage. But I have to say my 2 PLIDA certificates in the Italian language in 2023 (A2) and 2024 (B1) are a special source of pride because they are the only certificates I have earned without taking a class and demonstrate the skill set, I have acquired through my education, discipline, hard work and determination to obtain them.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The number of changes I see on this life journey, the ability to continue to navigate these changes with flexibility and creativity and the resourcefulness to overcome obstacles, such as attending this reunion.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My happy place is paddling on the water in my kayak while listening to classical music on period instruments, enjoying the surprises of nature, taking on the challenges of nature (wind, waves and possibly rain or snow showers) and taking notes in Italian during the adventure.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Long overdue! My first Wayzata High School reunion! John Forde helped break the ice to attend by being extremely persistent to get me to attend a 2024 Beacon Heights reunion. But I also gained an understanding of the need for community and socialization at this stage of my life with lifestyle coaching and seminars.

Sue Ann Loomis Rawlins

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married to Steve with two adult kids: Lisa 35, married with two girls, and David 32, not married. I'm retired from teaching English as a Second Language to adults in Hopkins for 21 years. My husband is semi-retired, meaning that he's working IT as a contractor and can take breaks in between gigs.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

I'm not sure if it's gone or not, but the A&W drive in.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Wisdom!!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

cooking, singing in a neighborhood choir, bicycling the lakes, art museums, theatre, taking classes at the UofM

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I've traveled quite a bit because hubby worked for Northwest Airlines and then Delta and we still have the flight benefit. I'd have to say the UK is at the top because he has family there. I've been to the Netherlands quite a bit. Paris is of course lovely, and Japan was exciting. NYC and Chicago are great for a weekend.

Sorry to say I'm anti-Florida right now. I'd go to CA for warm weather if need be. Right now it all sounds too exhausting! Yikes I must be getting old...

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Earth Wind and Fire

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

You can't make a living in the arts!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Less energy.

10. What are you most proud of?

My family and my teaching career

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Time with grandchildren

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Be nice to people

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I'm deeply rooted in the Twin Cities. Never even considered moving.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Lake Harriet, Minnehaha Creek

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I want to see everyone!

Greg Boorsma

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married to William Linmark 2017, but we've been together since 1995. We have lived in Honolulu, New Orleans and Minneapolis. William is an artist and I am retired from a 34 year flight attendant career with Northwest and Delta Air Lines.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Some of you might understand this. Growing up we had horses (usually 4) and a 3 stall barn and 5 acre pasture behind our house on County Road 24. For winter feeding my dad built a manger next to the barn and we had a 200-300 stack of hay bales there. In the winter months, at dusk or full darkness, I fed corn to the horses in the barn. Then I went outside and spread a couple of bales of hay in the manger. No matter the temperature, I would sit within the protection and warmth of the hay stack while the horses came outside and over to feed at the manger. Total peace, quiet and joy. There was a love between me and those beautiful animals and nothing else to think about for a few peaceful moments.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Retirement. Being retired gives me the time to do anything I want, whenever I want. It allows for travel, relaxation, attending events, or just doing nothing sometimes. I didn't plan to retire when I did. The Covid pandemic presented me with a one-time opportunity to take an enhanced retirement package and I'm really glad I did. No regrets!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Biking, walking, reading, exploring places in the Twin Cities area. We also do lots

of travel to many places around the world.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Paris and other cities in France. Rome and Barcelona. Singapore and Bangkok. Honolulu, Tucson, Bigfork, Montana. I have loved New Orleans since I was a child and had the good fortune to live there in 1996-97. My career as a flight attendant took me to at least a hundred cities around the country and the globe. I used to think I was a resident of Amsterdam! One of my favorite vacations are transatlantic cruises, from Rome to Florida. I've done 3 and those weeks at sea are probably the most relaxed I have ever been.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Lynyrd Skynyrd--Free Bird
Bachman Turner Overdrive--You Ain't Seen Nothin Yet
John Denver--Rocky Mountain High
Fleetwood Mac--Rhiannon
Doobie Brothers--Black Water
Elton John--Philadelphia Freedom
Eagles--Lyin Eyes
America--Sister Golden Hair
Ozark Mountain Daredevils--Jackie Blue
Harry Chapin--Cat's In the Cradle

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Body parts wearing out! Hip replacement, rotator cuff and shoulder fix. Various medications--too many! While these are least favorites, it certainly beats the alternative. We are fortunate to have these healthcare opportunities available to us.

10. What are you most proud of?

I'm proud of living 68 (so far) productive years. The jobs I've had have always been in sales and/or customer service. Basically all of the work I've done has been to help people make their business better, make their travels better, put smiles

on faces.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

I look forward to more of the same. I love the time I spend every year in Hawaii, visiting mom in Montana or Tucson, and vacation trips wherever they take us. Hopefully we will continue to visit with friends and family for many years to come.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Two teachers taught me different things that have made my life better. Sue Jewell taught me to be nice to everyone. Everyone! And to read books. All sorts of books. Grace Gamradt (McGarvie) taught how to take notes and budget your time, and also how to look at both sides of an issue. Both of these lessons have been put to use my entire life.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anytime that I am walking around or within or to the top of Diamond Head Crater in Honolulu is a very happy day. I have a lot of happy places, but Diamond Head is very special.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I have a core group of Wayzata HS friends that I stay in touch with. The reunion is a chance to see many of them again, but also to reconnect (hopefully) with some of my friends that I haven't seen in decades. I know we won't look the same or remember things the same way, but maybe reconnecting will happen and lead to renewed friendships and get togethers.

Mike Hughes

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married 41 years
Three children
Three grandchildren

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Less stress in daily life. Working was a drag!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Golf
Hunting
Fishing
Time with grands

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Alaska
Montana
Wherever the kids live. SD, ND, MO

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I HAD HAIR!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Tommy Bolin
Frank zappa
Deep purple
Aerosmith

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

The day you think you know it all is the first day you are in trouble

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Pain

10. What are you most proud of?

My family. We are blessed

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More golf and travel while we still have all our original parts

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Choose friends wisely

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Never thought I would make it to this age

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Black hills of SD

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Figured that anyone that was pissed at me should hopefully be over it by now!

Rick Groomes

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

My wife and I have a son and a daughter. My daughter and son-in-law have two

young children, boy and girl. My immediate family all live on town, including my brother. My wife and I are very blessed.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The old quaint downtown of Wayzata and the little cottages in the surrounding neighborhoods.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being wiser, but smart enough to know I still need work! 😂

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Travel with my wife. Read history. Play rock'n roll. Play with electric trains. Spend too much time on YouTube. Basically I'm still 12 years old.....

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Love going to France. Thank you Mr. Frogs to France! Visiting family and friends wherever they are. ❤️

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had played football all three years. There's a lot more, but I'll stop there....

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

I'm still a huge Stone's and Beatles fan. But now appreciate a wider variety of music from that era.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Listen first, talk later. Still working on it!

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Where do I start.....managing all the aches and pains and looking at my grandfather every morning in the mirror!!!

10. What are you most proud of?

Raising two wonderful kids!

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Watching my grandkids grow.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Be open to new ideas experiences. Be respectful and kind. Work hard.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Somehow I managed to stay employed. 😂

14. Where is your Happy Place?

With my family. At church. In my basement workshop. At my volunteer gig. Oddly enough at my old boxing gym.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Meet old friends and make new ones. As the years go by the cliques die away and our circle of friends grows.

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have a blended family. Remarried my sweet Stephanie in 2003. So four kids, four great grand kids.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

A lot of old downtown Wayzata. For some reason the A&W is really talking to me right now !??

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Wisdom and not caring about what others think about damn near everything ! For me it's the beautiful gift we get for letting go of our youth and energy.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

We have a cabin in NW Wisconsin near Superior and that's my happy place. I've done woodworking most all my life, we bought an 1890's house in Delano and I've been updating, but would like to be freed up create more fun less intense work. Being outdoors. Motorcycling but not as much anymore

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Europe, been to France, England, Italy, Spain, Amsterdam.
USA road trips as well.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

Don't think about that one much.... Maybe loved ones back who have passed but not sure that's what they would want ???

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Santana, Marshall Tucker, so many more. I have 10,000 songs on my iTunes account, I can listen to just about anything except rap !

It grates on my ears, and my failing hearing doesn't understand a dang word of it! I'm blessed to have a 1881 barn in walking distance that has live music monthly. I still enjoy live music so much but my failing geezer hearing kinda limits that.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

We should all be easier on and kinder to ourselves

Patience is a keeper! Practice it often, it greases the skids of life.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Energy has gone to hell !

But I love how I can see the world better now!

10. What are you most proud of?

Surviving great losses of people I care about and having a loving, thriving (most days) marriage and living with my best friend !

Surviving those dark moments that nobody understands, that only you know.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Good health

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

How could I be where I am now without an education.

We are all results of the sum of all our life's experiences, good, bad, loss, but especially good lovin.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How hard it can be at times...

Having someone to walk with you in it and that supports it takes is priceless.

How our elders and society and the education system don't really say or show how the failures and losses are times to learn and grow from and not that you're screw up, which was/is the general message.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Lake cabin in Cornucopia, Wis

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To see old friends, reconnect and count my blessings.

Tamra Lynn-Quam Paulson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have been married to Brad for 46 years (yikes)! We have four fabulous children; Ben (Courtney), Nick (Emily), Katie, Jon (Jessi). We are additionally blessed with 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from 17 to 3 years old. We are lucky that they live within an hour drive and get to see them frequently.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

I don't think I have one..

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Claiming wisdom from my life experiences and learning to let go more often.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I enjoy spending time at a family lake cabin, reading, and connecting with friends.

My favorite time is with my grandchildren, who bless me everyday. Fro the past 3 summers, I have hosted a Grandma camp at the lake with 5 of my grandkids - exhausting but the memory making is so worth it!

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

We have traveled to Zihuatenajo, Mexico for several years in the winter - stayed at the same place- same staff and with Brad's elderly parents. It is a favorite destination. Last summer, we took a Viking Cruise on the Danube River - it was fabulous and would do it again in a heartbeat. Most religiously,we spend time at the lake, which is about family and relaxation.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

John Denver, Carole King, Cat Stevens - I was the mellow music person. Though there was that one concert I went to and can't remember who it was 🤔😬 😊

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life hasn't turned out quite how I expected but what I know is that every experience, relationship, job/career and place I have lived have taught me something important that moved me forward to the next place. My life has not been perfect and I sure wish I had a little more money for retirement but I have been blessed with a good life.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

The aches and pains. I wish I had taken better care of my body over the years.

10. What are you most proud of?

My children and grandchildren! I am also grateful to have been in careers where I have been able to make a difference. The work I do/did matters to the students with whom I worked.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Figuring out what things that I have missed doing during my working years, and how I can write my story even as I retire to participate in the things that matter to me and make the time I need to have happy senior years.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Sometimes telling the truth, though the right thing to do, doesn't always turn out best.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

The challenges that everyone faces and somehow gets through. No one's life goes exactly as planned or hoped for - When I graduated, I thought I knew it all and had it all together. Everyday since then has proven that I don't. 🤔 And I say that with a chuckle.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

The lake

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I have connected with people from our class on Facebook and been in awe of the amazing people from our class, what they have accomplished, what they have overcome and how they willing to share the pain, joy and life lessons. These are people I look forward to connecting with at the reunion.

Victoria Murray

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married to Mark Semmens, we've been together for this wild ride called Life, for 35 years!

We have two amazing sons, Nathan and Nolan, who are my pride and joy.

I also share two adult Step-kids, Shannon and Nick, four adult Step-Grandkids, Gage, Raylee, Cody and Cole, and two Step-Great-Grandkids, Kinsley and Luke.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

I miss Wayzata the way it was when we were in Junior/Senior High School. The combination of quaintness and fun is now gone, replaced by luxury and ostentatious money. The charm is missing, which is really sad. It was an amazing environment to grow up in during the time we did, I'm glad I have many happy memories from the way it was!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Spending time with our rescue animals! Our furry family members currently consist of two horses, three dogs and a cat, and they fill our hearts and home with love and constant entertainment!

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Favorite vacation was aboard my Sister and Brother-in-law's yacht, Tolly. We cruised up the Inside Passage of the western coast of Canada. Spectacular beauty and wildlife. A dream vacation, would love to go again!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Wow, we were so lucky to have so many epic songs and bands in our era!
Favorite song - Brandy by Looking Glass.
Favorite bands - Santana, Jethro Tull, Grand Funk Railroad, Pink Floyd, Crosby Stills, Nash and Young, Simon and Garfunkel, Eagles, Chicago, Uriah Heep, ZZ Top, Three Dog Night, Deep Purple, Elton John, Linda Ronstadt, John Denver, and so many others!

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

That life can change in an instant, and leave the best laid plans forever altered, but sometimes that change is exactly where life needed to go!

10. What are you most proud of?

Handling some of the most difficult things life threw my way in an optimistic and responsible way.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Seeing my family grow and thrive into and through their adulthood, and watching them manifest their dreams into reality.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My Happy Place is definitely being in my House!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

It's a big Milestone, best shared with the people that you went to school with 50 years ago!

Jeanne Schommer Deschneau

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I married another member from high school, Peter Deschneau
We were married 32 years and lived in Wayzata for the first 27 years until we moved to Plymouth. We had 2 children, a daughter, Haeley and a son, Corey. We don't have any grandkids as yet. Unfortunately, Peter passed away in October of 2022.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The outdoor movie theater where medina Target is now located.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Is there anything fun about getting older?? Please enlighten me...

5. What are your favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I recently went to Spain and Portugal this past June. It was a great trip, I especially loved Portugal, the coast and the food. I prefer Portugal to Spain. When our kids were younger, my best friend and next door neighbor won a trip to Greece and 9 neighboring Islands. We sailed on a 58 ft yacht for 2 weeks. All expenses paid. It was a trip of a lifetime, except Pete didn't want to go, so he stayed home with our kids. His loss.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I had gone to college earlier than I did. I went to Normandale Community college for Nursing after I was married and started a family. I wished I had gone right after high school. My career path would have been a lot different.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

The Eagles for sure. Crosby, Stills and Nash, Credence Clearwater Revival. The Beatles

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

High school clicks never die...

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Wishing I had done some traveling overseas sooner, unfortunately Pete was not a person who liked to travel.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids. Although they were born with a hereditary disease, Myotonic Dystrophy, they continue to be strong, and forge ahead. We take 1 day at a time and weather the good with the bad.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

More European travel God willing.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Be kind, if you can be anything, be kind, it goes a long way. How you treat people says a lot about yourself.

Also, get a good education because it's a necessity for life, if you want to be successful.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I wish I had a crystal ball because I'd do things differently. I would have taken more chances, Been less concerned about money and scrimping every hard earned dollar.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Erinciera, Portugal. The coastal area there was so peaceful, the people were kind and laid back. The food extremely good. It felt like time stood still.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I decided kind of last minute to attend. After I looked at the deceased list, I realized that many of the people I'd like to visit with are no longer with us, and many others are not attending for one reason or another. It'll probably be the last one I attend though.

LaRae A Kunkel

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

My husband is Brian. I have 3 children, Brandon, Angela and Jordan. I have 2 grandsons and one on the way.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My parents house.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Being retired and having grandkids.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I like to spend time with the family at our cabin.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I would have gotten my bachelor's degree.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Billie Joel, America, Beach Boys

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Not being able to do all the physical things I did in the past.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Spending time with my grandkids and the birth of new grandkids

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How quick time passes you by

14 Where is your Happy Place?

Our family cabin

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Hoping to reconnect with old friends

Leeann Aronson (Kirk) Young

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I married in 1991 to Art. We have 2 sweet cats and two wonderful daughters! My oldest is Kalie (95') who is married, no children but has lots of pets! Brittany (97') is a newlywed as of Aug. 2025. They have 2 cats and 2 dogs and plan on children in the near future! Both of our son-in-laws are great guys!

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The A&W Drive Inn that I worked at as a carhop in Wayzata with the Barker twins! Loved the owners, John & Carol! It was such fun working there!!

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

The fact that I don't have to work a job anymore and now have more time to enjoy friends and the things I love to do! Also to be able to travel more. We both retired in 2017.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Getting together with friends for dinner or a special event, gardening/flowers, group crafting with friends, scrapbooking, game night with our kids, travel, love to watch TV Series.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Anywhere warm! Cabo, St. Maarten, Barbados, Cruises!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

David Bowie, Tears For Fears, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Robert Palmer, Dire Straits, Bob Welch, Boz Scaggs, Talking Heads, Queen, Aerosmith, Fleetwood Mac, Eagles, U2, Duran Duran, Journey, The Police, The Cars, Average White Band, The Commodores, Neil Young, Pablo Cruise, Peter Frampton, Pointer Sisters

10. What are you most proud of?

My husband, my daughters and my son-in-laws!

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Grandchildren!!

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That I survived my dysfunctional family upbringing!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

River Falls, WI

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Because my gal pals Jeanne, Teri and Nancy are going to the reunion!

Elizabeth Walker Herrin

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I was married to Carl Potter who I met in grad school at the University of Wisconsin Madison. We were married 18 years and had 2 children, Julia (38) and then we adopted a child from China, Ryan (29). Carl died from a brain tumor in 2002. I was blessed to meet another wonderful man, Mark Herrin who I married in 2016. He has 2 boys, Brad (40) and Ben (38). We have 2 adorable grandchildren, Madeleine (6) who is Julia and her husband Kevin's daughter, and Lincoln (4) who is Brad and his wife Anna's son.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I love being retired, sleeping in, having my morning coffee on the deck and being able to set my own schedule and living life at a more relaxed pace. I love having the freedom to travel.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I started playing pickleball when I retired and loved it, but hurt my arm and then tore a tendon in my ankle and have decided not to risk any more injuries so have sadly given that up. I enjoy biking, gardening, reading, traveling and redecorating whatever I can! I love spending time with my husband, children and grandchildren .

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Hilton Head Island, SC. My family and Mark's have been vacationing there for over 35 years and we have continued the tradition! We now have a condo there and enjoy going there in the off season. We love cruising, traveling in Europe (especially France!) and are exploring new destinations. Iceland is a new favorite! Hoping to return to China next year with my child Ryan for an adoption reunion with the other adoptees we travelled with.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

All the aches and pains, and difficulty doing things as easily as I once did!

10. What are you most proud of?

My family first and foremost. I am also proud that I somehow managed to survive the devastating loss of my first husband and manage as a single mom of 2 with a crazy 60 hr a week management job. I was a speech language pathologist/director of rehab and although what I did isn't always recognized, I am proud of the fact that I was able to improve the quality of life for many by helping to improve communication and the ability to eat and swallow for many. I set up one of the first radiologic procedures to better assess swallowing disorders here in Cincinnati that resulted in helping a lot of people and lead to a teaching position at the University of Cincinnati.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

I look forward to watching our children and grandchildren grow and mature, to spending more time with them and to do more travelling while we are able.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

That friends made way back then continue to this day even when we are far away and don't see each other often!

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That I was able to survive a devastating loss and continue on despite some really difficult times to have a happy and fulfilling life.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Hilton Head Island, SC and anywhere in France!

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To catch up with and spend time with friends I haven't seen for so long, to touch base with others from our class and to visit Minnesota in the summertime!

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I don't have my own children, yet I have many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and, more recently, great-grand nieces and nephews. I feel very fortunate to be able to have such a large, extended family to enjoy.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Retirement, and time to explore new things!

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

I love all things outdoors including gardening, walking, visiting gardens and walks in the woods and prairies.

I love my part-time work at the Arboretum working with Children's Education programs.

I love sharing picture books with kids.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Anywhere to visit family!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

John Denver, Carole King.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

I'm braver than I think I am.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Imagining how little time I have left to discover new things to enjoy, and watch my youngest family member grow up.

10. What are you most proud of?

My teaching career, and all the people I met and nurtured along the way.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Learning! I'm always curious. Can't wait to find out what's next for me.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

I never considered being a teacher. The life of being a teacher has brought me so many of the things I enjoy most in my life.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Anywhere outside! My own back yard, the Arboretum are tops among my favorite outdoor places.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Some of my high school friends convinced me to join them.

Maggie Bowers O'Neill

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married to Mike since 1986, have a son Kevin, daughter Caitlin, son-in-law Joe and four beautiful grandchildren, John 7, Danny 6, Tommy 4 1/2, Madeline 19 months. The little loves of our lives

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My parents cabin on Rice Lake, near Paynesville, MN . We sold it a few years ago.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Taking the time to cherish the many moments of family time together. Visiting long time classmates (mostly from 1975).

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Gardening, I have 7 beautiful gardens and a greenhouse. Love to go out there with my coffee every morning to be amazed by mother nature.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Hawaii, all time favourite trip. Next up taking grandchildren to Disney World. Nothing like seeing things through their innocent eyes!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I have no regrets, live in the moment, appreciate the little things, celebrate the big things. Very blessed!

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Oh gosh too many to list. Love music of all genres

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Listen and not talk over others. Speak the truth always.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Not as flexible as I use to be! Getting off the floor use to be just pop up. Not so much any more.

10. What are you most proud of?

My husband, children, son-in law, grandchildren. They amaze me all the time. Never too old to keep learning. Also love the work I do and the difference I make.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Retirement in a couple of years.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

True friends are a special gem.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Resiliency, lot of bumps in the road so to speak. You can do what ever you set your mind to. Positive attitude.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

In my gardens and my greenhouse.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I have not been back since 10 year reunion. Cancer diagnosis prevented me from attending the last one. Really looking forward to seeing familiar faces!

Pat (PJ) Smith

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I was married to my beautiful wife Carol for 34 years. She passed away in 2024 after a courageous fight with cancer. Our daughter Shelby lives in Chicago, and

our son Spencer lives in Minneapolis. No Grandchildren yet. My mom died in 2020 and now I'm helping to care for my 95 year-old dad.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Shakey's Bunch-a-Lunch, Colonial Drive-In, Bridgeman's, Olson's Bakery, and Old Piper Inn.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I can enjoy doing the things I love whenever I want to.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Get together with friends, travel, ride bike, landscape and construction projects, cook, listen to music, and spend time with my kids.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I've been fortunate to travel to many wonderful places in North America and several amazing parts of the world. Some favorites are Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, France, Japan, China, Hawaii, St. Martin, Grand Cayman... My wife and I lived in Galway, Ireland for a year. I retired there and called it "Retireland".

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I still weighed the same as I did then.

7 What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Too Many! - Aerosmith (Toys in the Attic & Rocks), Kiss (Alive), Led Zeppelin (IV), UFO (Phenomenon), Deep Purple (Machine Head), Bad Company (Bad Co), ZZ Top (Fandango), Eagles (One of These Nights, Hotel California).

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

You can do almost anything if you set a goal, put your mind to it, work hard and celebrate your successes.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Harder to do things I used to do without aches pains.

10. What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of our kids and the amazing adults they've become. I'm proud of the life my wife and I had together, our successful careers and the family we created.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Stay healthy and active and hopefully have grandkids someday.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Don't take things too seriously.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Sometimes the things you think are important are not. Things don't always go as planned; you have to adapt and keep moving forward.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Home

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

It's kind of a significant milestone. It will be interesting to see who I will remember and who will remember me.

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Wife Debbie, 3 children - Emily, Meghan, and Jacqueline. 3 grandkids - Zoe, Ava, and Juliette.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The old Yankee Stadium.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Mostly, better English, i.e., "What is [sic] your favorite thing about getting older?"

Who wrote these questions?

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Golf, golf, golf and watch the Yankees or Manchester United play.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Jamaica.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I was

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Favorite Bands: The DOORS, Grateful Dead, Beatles, and Beethoven.

Favorite "songs" Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica"), Symphony No. 5, and Symphony No. 9 ("Choral").

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Read, read, and read more.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

People die.

10. What are you most proud of?

Voting twice for Barrack Obama.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

The House and Senate voting in Democrats and taking both houses at the mid-term to stop this nonsense.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Keep reading.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That Mary McGory is always my best friend.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Everywhere.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Too early to say.

Debra Hagman LaMere

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I married the love of my life, Dan LaMere 48 years ago. We are blessed with 2 daughters and 1 son, 1 grandson, 2 son-in laws an 8 month old puppy! Oh yeah, and 2 parakeets!

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

The freedom of becoming my authentic self - no need to play the game of being a grown up. Just enjoying the moments in the ways that only time would allow.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

ART! Throwing clay - paint - create. Boating with the family. Adventures with Dan!

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Switzerland and the Boundry Waters

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I would have gone to the final/last Lynyrd Skynyrd concert in St. Paul. I had tickets but did not go. :(

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Bonnie Rait - I can't make you love me. Shawn Phillips - Woman. Beatles - Here comes the sun.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life is what happens while you are making other plans!

10. What are you most proud of?

My family! My friendship/sisterhood with Deb Wamsley

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How fast it has gone thus far. It's been beyond anything I could have imagined.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To reconnect with old friends/classmates. Share memories and laughter!

Teresa (Lue) Lang Zarrin

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have been married to Simon and living in California for 36 years. We have three children in Austin, Philadelphia, and Baltimore which makes visiting grandchildren on a regular basis challenging.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

Lake Wabana, our family cabin we went to every summer and have fun with my cousins It's still there, but I don't go there anymore because it's too far.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Having perspective.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Going on walks while listening to audio books and podcasts, and keeping up with friends and family, cooking, using ChatGPT to answer questions.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I had taken academics more seriously.

10. What are you most proud of?

My family.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Cooking and doing paperwork.

Jon Helmrich

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have no family, just two distant cousins.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

I enjoyed my career, but now I enjoy having more time for my personal life even more.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Walking and hiking in local parks.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

I love hiking and sightseeing. I love taking road trips to beautiful places, especially national parks. I have been to 42 of them, and several national monuments also. I have so many favorite parks. I also enjoy Sedona, Lake Tahoe, Big Sur, Point Lobos and other places.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

There is a certain classmate that I will always wish I had gotten to know.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

I did not have any until after high school.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

I hurt more than I used to. I take no pleasure from pain.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

"The mountains are calling and I must go". As long as I am able, I will. I have felt that pull as long as I can remember.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Maybe how quickly it has gone. There is still so much I want to do.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

I am fortunate to have a very pleasant backyard.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

It will be a great opportunity to socialize.

Deborah Endy Secrest

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Married 31 years to Jon; we relocated from Chanhassen, MN in 2016 to Frisco, TX (20 miles north of Dallas) in 2015. 1 daughter, Kate, lives in San Francisco; she's an attorney at Wilson Sonsini practicing in Corporate Law.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Time to do things I love

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Traveling, Pilates, reading, volunteering, cooking, fiber arts (knitting, spinning, weaving, quilting)

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

We've had a place on Sanibel Island for almost 30 years that I absolutely love. It's seen it's ups and downs over the years, but still remains my favorite. And if I can't be there - it's mountains!

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I'd had more confidence and believed in myself more.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

All of them - BEST decade of music.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

That women need girlfriends. Find them, keep them and hold on to them for life.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Watching our parents age - and sadly pass on.

10. What are you most proud of?

Our daughter. She's such an amazing young woman and to think she's that in spite of her two parents ;)

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Finding a quiet place to spend time with my husband and live our best lives.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

People change, and almost always for the better.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That I have more control over my path than I think / thought i did / do!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

It's changed over time but right now it's on the comfy chair in our front courtyard with the fireplace going and a cup of coffee in my hand and the dog at my feet.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Ann Cousineau Robertson!!

Diane Boucher

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have 3 children and 2 granddaughters.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My childhood home.

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Having grandkids. Do what I want whenever I want.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Road trips, spending time with my family, county and state fairs, coaching Special Olympics, occasionally casino trip.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Still on my bucket list.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I could go home.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Your life's journey is not what you thought it would be.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Aches and pains.

10. What are you most proud of?

My kids.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Traveling.

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Typing class.

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

That I survived cancer.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Northern Minnesota waterfalls.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

Hope to see old friends.

Kathy Kelley (Lecy)

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I have a blended family. Was married to my 1st husband for 20 years and had 3 boys. 2cd marriage lasted 30 years (widow) and he has a boy and girl. We also have 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My house in Plymouth

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

Travel

Not working

Doing what I want

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Read

Go out with friends

Travel
Take care of the yard

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

All of them
We traveled by RV saw lots of amazing things

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I could have my family home in Plymouth

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life is hard so you must stay positive

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Not being able to do all the things I used to.

10. What are you most proud of?

I worked at the same place and retired after 45 years

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Enjoyment in every day life

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

There are rules that must be followed

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

All the amazing people I have met and places I have been

14. Where is your Happy Place?

Wherever I am

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To see everyone and celebrate life as we know it today

Jill (Traw) Thomson

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Remarried for 2nd time in 2011. Happy and sassy. No grands but step grands.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

My old house that I grew up in

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

You can get away with a lot and no one's going to check you.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Listening to music, reading, learning about new things. Nature.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Texas, NC, SF (my daughter in law moved to SF and asked if we knew anything about Haight/Ashbury area. She was renting an apartment that was previously occupied by Janus Joplin.

6. 50 years later I still wish:

Nothing comes to mind. I like how my life has evolved

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Too many. But, I just ran into an old song from J. Geils that we cranked up the volume on and everyone was going air guitar on the solo.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Listening

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Health

10. What are you most proud of?

My son Matt 

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Getting better

12. What is the most important lesson from high school that has stayed with you till now?

Don't judge people

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

Never thought I could be this old!

14. Where is your Happy Place?

My home

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

I was planning on going but my health won't allow it. So, I wish everyone else would raise a cheer up for all the people who couldn't come. Cin-cin!

Debra Hagman LaMere

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

I married the love of my life, Dan LaMere 48 years ago. We are blessed with 2 daughters and 1 son, 1 grandson, 2 son-in laws an 8 month old puppy! Oh yeah, and 2 parakeets!

3. What are your favorite things about getting older?

The freedom of becoming my authentic self - no need to play the game of being a grown up. Just enjoying the moments in the ways that only time would allow.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

ART! Throwing clay - paint - create. Boating with the family. Adventures with Dan!

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

Switzerland and the Boundry Waters

6. 50 years later I still wish:

I wish I would have gone to the final/last Lynyrd Skynyrd concert in St. Paul. I had tickets but did not go. :(

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Bonnie Rait - I can't make you love me. Shawn Phillips - Woman. Beatles - Here comes the sun.

8. If I learned one thing since high school it was:

Life is what happens while you are making other plans!

10. What are you most proud of?

My family! My friendship/sisterhood with Deb Wamsley

13. What surprises you most about your life's journey thus far?

How fast it has gone thus far. It's been beyond anything I could have imagined.

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

To reconnect with old friends/classmates. Share memories and laughter!

Jeff Person

1. Please tell us about your family, children, and grandchildren.

Two boys, both Wayzata graduates.

2. What is the spot you most cherished that is now gone?

The Gleason Lake Elementary school property and the "field" to the east.

4. What are your favorite pastimes/things you like to do?

Canoeing/Kayaking/Camping, Gardening.

5. What are you favorite travel destinations/vacations?

National Parks, Water and or Mountains.

7. What are your favorite bands/songs from high school?

Zep, Floyd, Stones.

9. What is your least favorite thing about getting older?

Physical abilities fall apart.

10. What are you most proud of?

My two sons and their incredible journey through life.

11. What do you look forward to in your future?

Downsizing.

14. Where is your Happy Place?

The "island".

15. Why did you decide to attend/not attend the 50th school reunion?

It's an important milestone.
