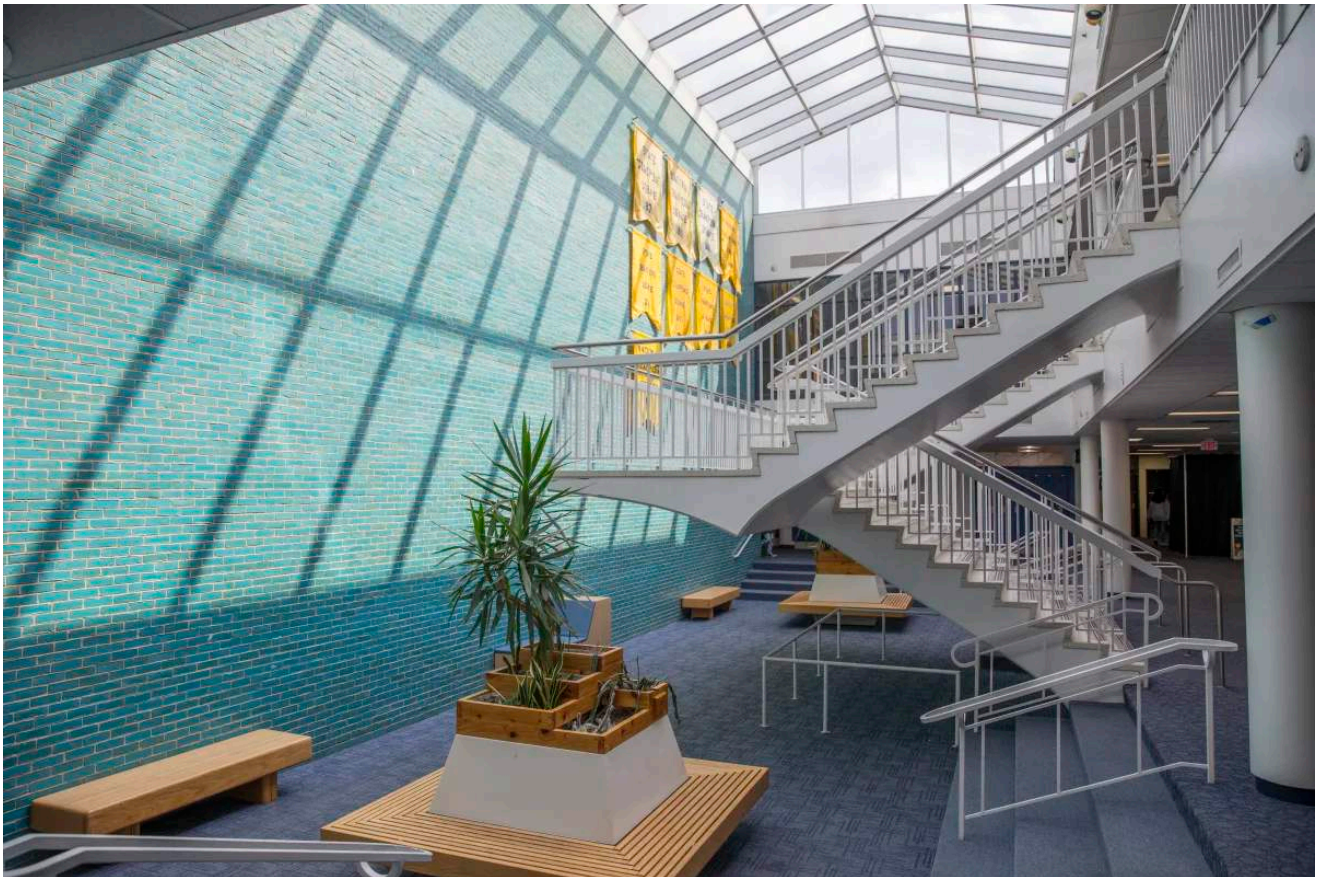


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# GBS - 1969

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## Newsletter



Welcome to our 9th *Newsletter*. As always, many thanks to those who shared their stories for this edition.

The website [www.gbs1969.com](http://www.gbs1969.com) will remain active and available. If you have any changes to your entry (e.g., contact information, recent photos) please send them to [rlesaar@mac.com](mailto:rlesaar@mac.com). And if you're in touch with classmates for whom there is no email address in the website Directory, please urge them to get in touch as well.

**The Pit.** This is now called *Old Pit*. There is now also a nearly identical one called, not surprisingly,... *New Pit*.

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**Bob Hawkins**

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This is a pic of grandson Beckham Pellant and his old grand-pa. He was a quarterback at Hamilton high school. He has received and accepted an offer to play at Illinois state on a football scholarship. Ironically that is where John Darden and I went to play college ball. Small world, huh.

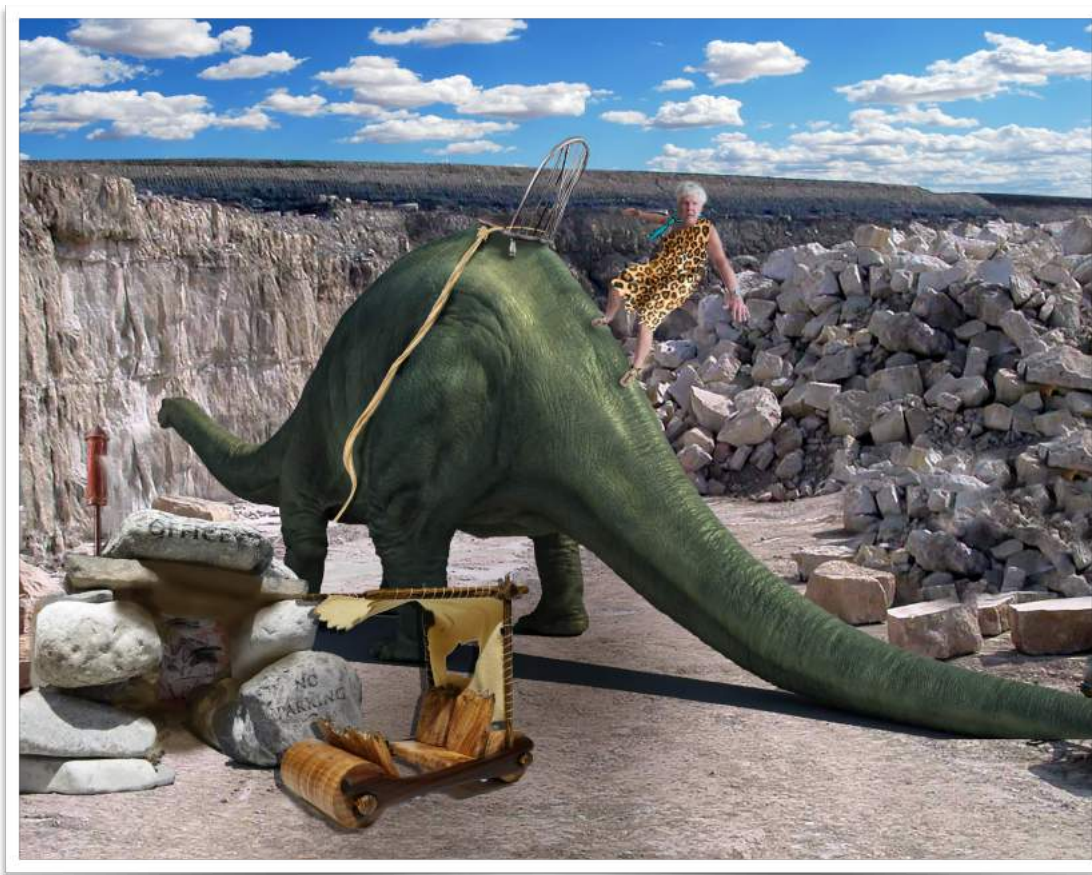




**John Sinnott**

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I can describe retirement in one word. *Yabba-dabba-doo!* Or is that three words?



## **Kathy Magness (was McKiernan)**

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Since the last newsletter, my life has been spent at the hospital. Not me, but my dear husband, Milton. Just two days after we returned from our amazing trip to Croatia, Greece and Turkey last fall, he was diagnosed with something called Sick Sinus.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/sick-sinus-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20377554>

Prior to all of this, he had not missed a day of running in over 38 years. As a result, his heart was super strong and healthy but the electrical system was “shot” resulting in a super low heartbeat (20-30 BPM the day I drove him to the ER), cardiac arrhythmia and atrial flutter.

So that means he, and therefore me, have spent three 3-day stays in hospitals in Houston (Methodist) and in Scottsdale (Osborne Honor Health). Along the way, he had some wicked complications (pericarditis, aortic dissection, pleural effusion and a fistula). But he has been a trouper and keeping a great attitude. He is walking 1-3 miles a day and has the latest Apple watch which is an amazing device for anyone with health issues.

Other than that, I have been working with Linda Murowchick Hopkins on the 55th Reunion in September (you must come!!), *69 Minutes* with the amazing team of Ford Colley, Linda Hopkins and Mark Maloney. I continue to teach Bible Study at my church and just finished a series on the Book of Acts. I am playing some bridge, tending my garden, caring for our dog, Sadie, doing some house redecorating and remodeling. And being a caretaker!! I have new admiration for what that takes!!

And if things continue to progress with Milton, we will be in Japan with a group of friends from April 11 to the 27th, hopefully seeing the Cherry Blossoms and enjoying the fascinating culture of that country, a favorite of ours!!

We have been blessed throughout Milton’s ordeal with great medical teams and God’s impeccable timing and care. And great friends and family!!

I can’t wait to see everyone in September. We will have a wonderful time. In the meantime, stay connected with *69 Minutes*. We hope to have at least one, if not two, more episodes before then.

**Brenda Baird**

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Here are some pix of mine taken while volunteering on the USS Midway Museum; just turned over 15 years volunteering.



Left to right, top to bottom: *Always delighted to meet a fellow volunteer who is a WWII vet. I always thank every active duty visitor for their service. The Kiss statue that was donated to the public from our ship; the ship is to the immediate right of the statue (can't see). Our wonderful USS MIDWAY Museum*

### Coleen Malany

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Greetings classmates! I missed the last deadline but will have a snippet of an update for this one. 2023 was a year of a lot of traveling: India with Kathie Magness (McKiernan); Kenya to network with new organizations in new areas while training local leaders in the distribution and financial literacy process, and Italy for two weeks with 38 pickleball friends from our community of PebbleCreek. All three were fabulous trips. I remain very involved with the local Rotary Club in Goodyear. It is a really active group and certainly “people of action.” We really are engaged in the community, especially our school districts. I love that the major focus area is youth....right in my wheelhouse!



As I write this, I am leaving in two days to go back to Kenya for another distribution and training. I received a District Grant from Rotary that will provide 75 lights to 75 families. The average family has 5 members, so that calculates to changing the lives of 375 people for the better. Better education, better productivity, better health, and better community. All because of a small 3 x 3 solar light. The impact is truly remarkable. We will also train local Rotarians in the distribution process so that the program is sustainable when we aren't there. I have also engaged with two Nairobi Clubs to write a global grant (again through Rotary) for 1,000 lights for another area in Kenya. One I visited in 2022. Our goal is to light up all of Kenya's impoverished and marginalized areas and give them hope to raise themselves out of poverty. It really is an extraordinary organization and program.

<http://wattsoflove.org>

I continue to love pickleball, golf, and a robust social life here in PebbleCreek. I look forward to our September reunion. We are so fortunate to have such hardworking members of our class. Their organization and giving of time and talent is astounding. Well done Class of '69.



## Linda Hopkins (was Murowchick)

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Wow! It's already March of 2024 - talk about time flying!

Jim and I spent a great few weeks in Florida in February (although Chicago has had its mildest winter in years!) seeing family and friends near Bradenton and spending a few days in Naples where we were able to see Tom and Carol Beckmann and Jim & Patty Hagen! I thought it was just as if we were in high school again - and Jim Hagen is quite the cook!!

We also stopped to see Ford Colley and his wife, Mary, in Long Boat Key: I've gotten to know Ford just from working on the upcoming Reunion and '69 Minutes - and we had a fun time together.

In fact, he and Jim - both flying fanatics - are planning to go to the Oshkosh Air Show together this summer!

Kathie McKiernan Magness and I are continuing to work on the upcoming 55th Reunion (see additional info in this Newsletter and on Rick's [gbs1969.com](http://gbs1969.com) website!).

We can't wait to see you all - especially since it's only been five years since our last one (instead of longer) and because I feel more connected to some people I didn't really know well through the '69 *Minutes* video show interviews that Ford Colley, Mark Monroe, Kathie and I have been working on!! Episode #2 will be released shortly ... Please be sure to tune in!



We're looking forward to a trip to the Seattle area over the summer (I'm hoping to connect with John Hibbs!) and another river cruise on the Douro River in Portugal in October.

We've thoroughly enjoyed all the river cruises we've taken and would highly recommend them!!

Hoping to see a lot of you at the 55th Reunion September 13-15!!

## Arleigh Stein (was Ralph)

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I've sat down several times to write this missive, and have ended up setting it aside. This year has been interesting and fulfilling, however nothing truly singular has happened. We've done the post-pandemic traveling that is so typical of those who have been separated from loved ones by lockdowns and disease. Families and friends long for connection and we returned to the States a couple of times for big events as well as traveling to visit several bucket-list countries, like Norway to see the Northern Lights.



Like many in the class of '69, we are inching toward retirement or already there. My last paying employment was reading capsule endoscopies, and I am no longer doing that. My husband and I talk of going to medically underserved areas, like the outback of Australia, and working for a few months at a time, but for now, are content to attend to the underserved areas of New Zealand. Being in charge of my schedule leaves me time to fully indulge in creative endeavors. I design and make quilts, and am presently working on another project using the plentiful sea glass found here.

Two of my daughters live here in Wellington, so frequent family get-togethers are a joy. My grandsons are frequent visitors and I am content.

A short while ago, I was on a plane jetting from NZ to NYC, and 'Inkheart' was part of the inflight entertainment. It's about a father who possesses a secret ability to bring characters from books to life when he reads them aloud. The movie reminded me:

We write our own lives

We can change them

We can change our whole story, even the parts that have happened, by re-writing our memories. Or at least rewriting the emotions attached to those memories. We are not trapped in our first interpretations, or our teenage filters.

We have been given so much, and I remain serious in my dedication to Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world.

I'll end this by reminding us all how amazing it is that gliding through one's 7th decade puts a life time worth of experiences in perspective.



**Julia Hitchins (was Taylor)**

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"I Never thought I would visit, or Live in Texas" and I've been here more than 4 years.

Charlie and I are enjoying Austin, Love the city vibe so we are spending most of our time in our downtown condo. So much live music and everything is walkable from our condo. The city has kept us young (in our minds) and so far healthy. Our dog chases squirrels on the Capital grounds, without a leash. Austin is a small town.

Texans love their state and they are very friendly, they hate the Californians moving in.

I will be coming to Chicago this summer from July 23 - August 2, staying downtown.

If any of you would want to venture to the city I would love to see you, maybe meet at Greek Islands? ( <https://greekislands.net/> )

**Richard (Dick) Russell**

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Well life goes on here in the sunny south. I'm still living just outside of Ft. Smith, AR and am now retired due to the health issues. The great part of retirement is that I get to see my boys (Scott-42, Chris-38 & Nathaniel-26) much more AND my 4 grandchildren (Taylor, Katie Beth, Jeremiah & Isaac)! After attending The Univ. of Tulsa, I spent many years in the jewelry industry and then later in the auto business. After getting advanced jewelry degrees from The Gemological Institute of America I was afforded the opportunity to travel quite a bit and at one point I even came back north to manage the Zales store at Orland Park. After six months there I went back to Tulsa in another div of Zales. An opportunity to pursue a future in the wholesale and importing end of the industry came up and it was a wonderful time for me traveling throughout the US providing retailers and manufacturers with their diamond and colored stone needs. Eventually after years in that end of the industry I wanted to slow down a bit and spend more time at home. Coincidentally while I was in a jewelry store helping a customer, he said that while he didn't want to 'steal' another stores employee but if I ever thought about changing jobs, to come see him before I made a decision. He owned a Lincoln/Mercury dealership, and I did go to talk with him. So that led me to spending the last dozen or so years in the auto business until retirement in March of 2021.

Much of my time now is taken with managing my health issues. As many of you know, since 2006, I have had five diagnoses of cancer. However, after completing the harsh chemo 5-FU treatments in August of 2021, a scan in October showed NO active disease! Obviously I rejoiced as not only was the pancreatic cancer gone but also the liver cancer was gone as well.

Considering that this liver cancer is nonoperable and usually not curable this was considered somewhat of a miracle. Regular monthly treatments for managing it continued. This past August after some not-so-great bloodwork a biopsy was called for and then pathology confirmed that the liver cancer had returned. We'll continue treatment and pray fervently. By the time this is read, I will have had my 78<sup>th</sup> treatment on March 6. In view of everything I am now also taking a new treatment that is best described as 'liquid radiation.' Side effects are not as harsh as the Chemo was and the previous test results have shown a great success rate. So I am hopeful that this will be a great option for me.

I think of our class of '69 often and keep and cherish the kind card of 'Courage, Strength & Hope' that was signed by so many at the 50th reunion. It means so very much, thank you for the words of encouragement. My special thanks to Kathy McKiernan Magness for sending it to me. Needless to say, I have informed my Oncologist that this year he better not put a restriction on me concerning the reunion!

When I'm not making trips to a Dr. or Mercy Hospital, I am trying to keep busy and stay away from a 'pity party.' Since The Lord has decided to fight this battle and keep me around despite the 5% chance of survival when I came off the operating table in Dec. 2020, I am using my experience to try and encourage others and families to realize Cancer and Death are NOT spelled the same! I'm continuing with a book about this journey that has been requested by a division of Thomas Nelson Publishing. Right now, all are leaning toward 'Don't Let The Journey Define You' as a title. Additionally, I was contacted by a movie production company to make a film about the journey. We had started filming the week before I got the news about diagnosis #6. Filming halted for obvious reasons, but we should start again very soon. Having Ministerial Credentials has allowed me to speak to some congregations about what's gone on and to please focus on the blessings that we have in our lives and how we many times miss the blessings or take them for granted.

I am so thankful for these newsletters and all the work gone into by so many to keep our class connected. It has given me the opportunity to reach out to several classmates. I stay in touch with Mark Maloney on a fairly regular basis and have also talked with Jim Siwy. Pam Jenkins (Fig) and I connected and were able to reminisce about our 'fake date' to Hackney's for an Ad in the '69 Etruscan! I hope that this provides an opportunity to connect with others. There is such a myriad of talent and success that has come out of the GBS class of 1969 and it is so great to read the stories of my classmates that verify this.

Well, the good news for all is that I believe I have rambled on long enough, so I will close here. If anyone is so inclined, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Blessings to all!!

479/561-1533

[rrussell5951@yahoo.com](mailto:rrussell5951@yahoo.com)

FB: Richard Russell (the one with the Cubs Emblem)

**Beverly Rautenberg**

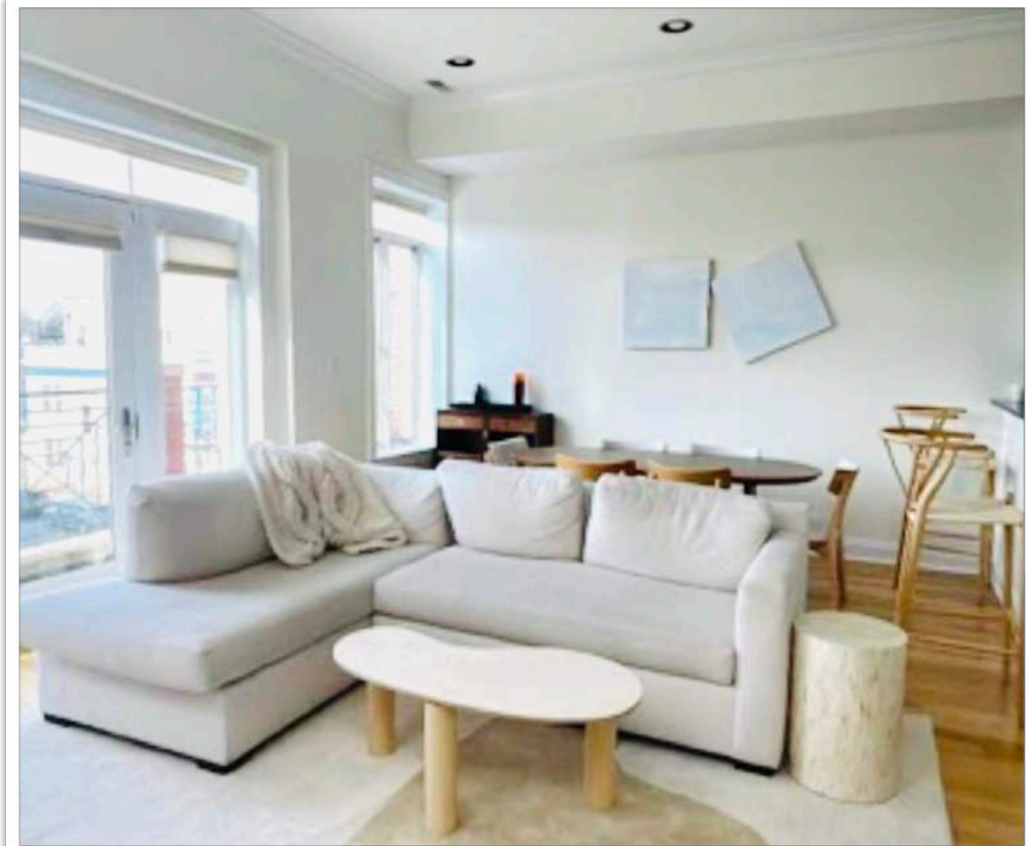
[brautenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:brautenberg@hotmail.com)

Hello!! Hope You are all doing well and looking forward to our upcoming 55th GBS Reunion!! (Seems like we just had our 50th!!!).

I have been 'crazy-busy' with my Art - creating new pieces and exhibiting in the U.S. and abroad - with shows in New York City, Athens, Greece and London. Most recently, my Work was in a group exhibition on Minimalism, with four other Chicago-area Artists, at the Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University. Here are a few pic's...



Since our last newsletter in October, I installed a large-scale commissioned Work that I created for a client's gorgeous townhome here in Chicago...

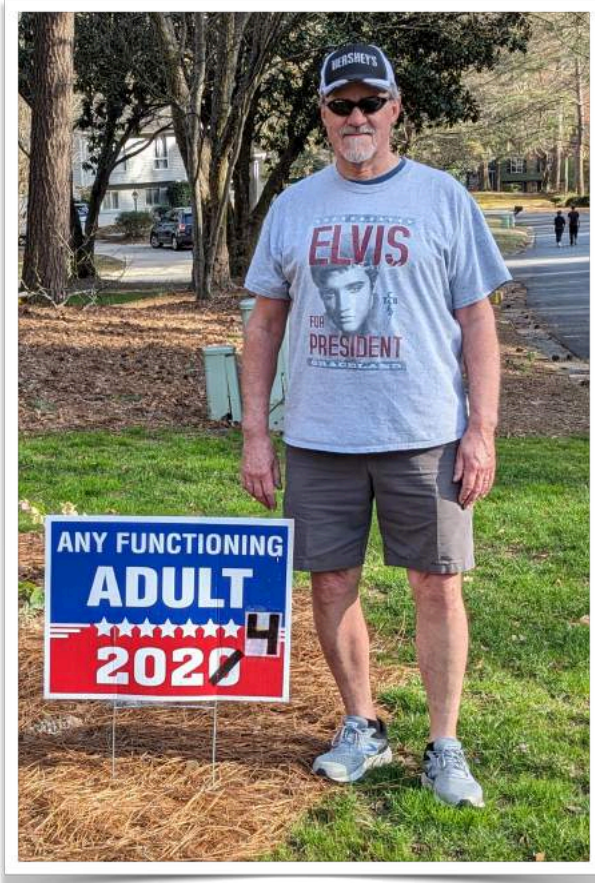


Looking forward to seeing everyone in September for our 55th!!!

## Jim Siwy

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I hope this photo adequately expresses our (Janet's and my) feelings over the past eight years. 330 million Americans and this is the best we can do for Presidential candidates? Oh well, politics is a complicated affair and generally not a fun topic for most of us.



I recommend a recent book by Arthur Brooks (2019): *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*. The author describes the dreadful polarization in this country and offers ways to get past it. Makes me think of Joe South's "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," best sung by Elvis.

I believe I understand the points of view of left/right, blue/red, progressive/conservative, however you want to put it. Here in Georgia, as you may know, we are a "battleground." Unfortunately, there isn't a purple blend. Instead we basically have anti-red and anti-blue. I imagine that's the case everywhere.

As a psychologist, I am reminded of the primitive psychological defense mechanism, "splitting," which is normal for early infant development. But in adults it takes the form of paranoia, where we project our own hostility and aggression onto others. Another recommendation: Paul Simon's "Paranoia Blues," with the refrain "whose side are you on, whose side are you on?"

I just want to say, "Everybody, get a grip!" Enough with demonizing the other side. Yes, this year we are again stuck picking between two flawed geezers, but it doesn't mean we have to hate each other. Brooks quotes Abe Lincoln's first inaugural address:

*We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory...will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*

Phew! I didn't mean to pontificate. On a happier note, let me join everyone in gratitude for the work that Linda and Kathie are doing in planning our 55th reunion. That includes the remarkable "69 Minutes" interviews. Additional shout out goes to Ford, Phil and Rob for video, audio and music production. Also to Rick and Bill for communication and cartoon production, respectively. And everyone who is participating in the interviews or behind the scenes. GBS '69 is an amazing group, don't you agree?!

As for me, I'm thriving in our colorful springtime, pollen notwithstanding. Am still working, growing. We see the grandkids whenever possible. Being a Braves fan is more fun than what rooting for the Cubbies used to be. After a four-month time out (hurt my ankle dancing at a niece's wedding in Texas) I have returned to Tai Chi classes. Yes, don't work harder; live softer. A far cry from football or rugby.

I feel sad for more losses in our class, but it makes gathering again in September all the more precious. Hope to see many of you there!

### **Mark Maloney**

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Hopefully, everyone knows a bit about what I have been up to lately – hosting interviews for *69 Minutes*.

Personally, this has been a fantastic way to catch up with some classmates whom I already knew, as well as getting to know some others with whom I was not as familiar.

After 55 years, all of us have stories to tell. I have enjoyed each and every interview.

In addition, like you, I have been watching the contributions made by Kathie McKiernan Magness and Linda Murowchick Hopkins. Even though our class is spread across the country and, indeed, the world, this is such a comfortable way to learn more about classmates as our 55th reunion nears.

Thanks to Rick Lesaar who, in addition to keeping us up to date on this site, has aided this Ongoing Communications project.

That said, the unseen “star of the show” is Ford Colley. As editor and producer, Ford spends many, many hours putting each show together, Although it is obviously a labor of love for Ford, his contributions to *69 Minutes* would be valued in thousands of dollars on the free market.

While seeking classmates to be interviewed, I know that I inadvertently ticked off at least one person along the way. For that, please know that I had no intent to do so and that I am sincerely sorry.

Besides *69 Minutes*, I have maintained some routines and added a twist or two.



I continue to work at my local Food Pantry in Nicholasville, KY (first town south of Lexington). Although I decided to retire from driving a 15-foot truck that is used to pick up donations from a Walmart and three grocery stores, I still wind up on “emergency backup” about every other week. My regular assignment at the Pantry is to make deliveries to clients who are home-bound due to health or transportation issues.

I remain a USA Track & Field master-level official. Most often, I travel with other Kentucky officials. So far this season, I have worked a pair of conference championship meets – Atlantic Coast Conference at Boston and Southwestern Athletic Conference at Birmingham – collegiate competitions at

Indiana, Vanderbilt, Michigan, Florida State, (Kentucky small colleges) Asbury, Centre and Cumberlands, multiple age-group competitions at Louisville and the Kentucky High School State Championships. Coming up are more meets at some of the aforementioned colleges, plus Berea, Virginia, Kentucky, the ACC at Georgia Tech and NCAA East Region at Kentucky. By the way, I first fell in love with the sport at Glenbrook South!

**PHOTO ABOVE:** Umpires for the SWAC Championships at Birmingham, Alabama. From left: Me, Doreen Mercer of Florida, Gizelle Hammonds of Alabama, along with Kentuckians Sadie Gambrel, Audley Gordon, and Jim Woosley.

Track and field also has given me the opportunity to revive my sports writing career. Each month, I write an article for the *USATF Officials' Newsletter*, recapping news from the Midwest Region (Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin).

I look forward to catching up with everyone at the reunion!

[ Ed: Here's Mark's latest contribution to the *USATF Officials' Newsletter*:  
( USATF = USA Track & Field )

[https://mcusercontent.com/1a0346e06922886956c10c4e0/files/154c6147-9f9d-d7fb-62f9-c02cb6dc989f/Midwest\\_Region\\_NOC\\_March24.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/1a0346e06922886956c10c4e0/files/154c6147-9f9d-d7fb-62f9-c02cb6dc989f/Midwest_Region_NOC_March24.pdf)



*Picture is from March at Florida State Relays, with fellow officials Doreen Mercer, left, and J.J. Johnson Meadows.*



## Scott Buzard

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One of the more rewarding endeavors of my life was chaperoning and sponsoring the annual “Washington DC Trip” for Glenview eighth graders from Springman and Attea middle schools. When our GBS class of ‘69 was in eighth grade the trip was sponsored by the school librarian, Martha Cavallon. The group traveled by bus, switching drivers in Ohio, non-stop to Gettysburg, PA. Groggy participants had a brief tour of the battleground and then proceeded to our nation’s capital. As an eighth grade student I did not participate. Don Turnquist and Dave Tosh, PE teachers, were “chaperones responsible for the boys.” They later shared with me that Martha carried a large purse full of cash and paid for everything as the trip progressed. Every meal was eaten at Sholls cafeteria which at its height served over two million meals a year at eight locations in DC, mainly to busloads of tour groups. When Martha retired, Dave Tosh inherited the leadership of the trip and organized his first trip exactly as Martha had in the past. Halfway through the trip, overwhelmed and holding his head in his hands at a table in Sholls, he was approached by a woman who informed him that she and her husband had started a new travel company, specializing in Washington trips, and “there was a better way to do this.” The next year, Spring of 1975 and my second year of teaching, I joined Dave in organizing what became the next 46 years of eighth grade trips to Washington DC with that same company, conveniently located in Northbrook.

The immediate adjustments were profound. We traveled by air, freeing up time for about three full days and two half-days of touring on the four day trip. In the early years we flew into Richmond or Norfolk, Virginia, and spent the first day visiting Jamestown and Williamsburg. (highly recommended, by the way.) About fifteen years later, we determined that there were at that point so many new attractions in DC that the trip was more efficient and memorable if we focused just on the capital area itself and stopped traveling via Virginia. When you fly into Washington National you can pretty much start touring immediately.

Dave and I organized the trip together until his retirement in the early 1990’s. He continued to chaperone, however, right up to the last trip that we both made in 2020. As I look back, it is amazing the lack of security that existed at the DC sites in the late Twentieth Century. We always visited the Capitol Building on Sunday morning. Our group would walk right in with no security checks, although there was a guard to welcome us. We would take the students for our own walking tour of the



building, including the gallery of both chambers. The White House public tour was also quite informal. A line formed for tourists to walk through the main floor rooms. At 11:00 AM they would put a cap on the line, but anyone in line at that time was assured that they would be able to enter the building eventually. These days the Capitol requires a reservation, high security, and the group is guided the entire time (except for the end of tour gift shop stop.) For a group our size (usually over 200) reservations to tour the White House are not possible. The best we could do is a photo shot from the street in front.



Over the years the itinerary changed. Ford's Theater was always a feature, as was a drive to Mount Vernon to visit Washington's home and tomb. We always laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington and visited John F. Kennedy's gravesite. Various other sites became less accessible. We used to line up to take an elevator ride to the top of the Washington Monument, tour the Iranian Embassy on embassy row (during the days the U.S. was friends with the Shah) and visit

the Washington National Cathedral and the pandas at the National Zoo. We would enter the Bureau of Engraving to watch currency being printed. Also, for years we toured the FBI and watched agents demonstrate shooting on the gun range.

Memorable attractions were added to the itinerary over the years . . . new museums at the Smithsonian, the National Holocaust Museum, and the Martin Luther King and Franklin Roosevelt memorials on the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial. In later years when we stopped to walk up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, we would also visit the nearby Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and not too far away the World War Two Memorial. The 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon is another somber spot. Eighth graders are a good age for this type of sightseeing. They move along quickly with a lot of energy, but will be quietly respectful and attentive at the right moments. Prior to the trip I always held meetings with the participants to frontload information about the sites, both with slide shows and also with a packet of background information. Rarely did anyone ask "what is this again?" For years we attended an ongoing play, *Shear Madness!*, at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. It was a murder mystery in a hair salon that allowed the audience to question the suspects and ultimately vote as to "who did it." The students loved

the interaction and the improv moments. Our veteran chaperones saw it for so many years that I believe if an actor dropped out during a show any one of us knew the lines well enough that we could have filled in. We also arranged each year to rent a park district rec center in the area in the evening for our group exclusively. There was swimming, basketball, volleyball, a DJ playing music, and time to just hang out with the kids on all the buses. We always tried to go back to the hotel as late as possible with students as tired as possible!

We found a favorite hotel that became our base over the years. The Embassy Suites, across the Potomac River in Arlington, Virginia, was a perfect host. Each room had two sleeping areas, and comfortably held four students. There was a very good breakfast buffet line to get us on schedule and off to sightseeing in the morning. One great feature was all the hallways looked down on a central



atrium. We would usually need four floors of rooms, separated by gender. We hired security guards to spend the nights in the hallways, so the chaperones could theoretically get some sleep. Because of the atrium, anyone standing in the hallway could view across the entire space and see the entry to every room! Even with the security guards, we continued the time honored chaperone trick of “taping students in their rooms.” Basically it involves saying goodnight to the room of students and then telling them we were placing a piece of masking tape across the door and the door jam on the outside. If the tape was broken, the guards would know that they had opened the door. Since the tape can’t be replaced from the inside the students realized they were stuck inside for the night.

So, from Spring of 1975 until January of 2020 I spent over a school year of days (182) walking around DC with eighth graders, around 10,000 individuals in all. My wife, Barbara, began chaperoning as well in 1976. Over the years our three sons traveled along, too. Barbara stayed home with the youngest ones, but starting about 1987 there was always a young Buzard along on

the trip. We had a brief window when all five of us made the trip together with the students, but that became impossible when the trip dates were moved to January, since all three boys played basketball at GBS.

We traveled during Spring Break in the earliest years, but then we switched to January. Family travel plans over Spring Break made it a hard choice for some students. The Martin Luther King holiday weekend gave us a long weekend and every four years roughly coincided with a presidential inauguration. Except for inauguration years, very few tour groups are in DC that weekend. Basically, there were very few lines and it was easy to get reservations. Coming from Chicago our students had warm coats and airfare and off season hotels were reasonable. There were only a few other schools regularly visiting MLK weekends and in fact I got to know their tour leaders over the years as we would invariably pass each other in sightseeing. The inaugurations gave us some good opportunities. The second Clinton inauguration featured identical fireworks shows over the major monuments on the eve of the swearing in. It was the coldest weekend we ever experienced, but we stood alongside the Lincoln Memorial watching those fireworks explode. We watched two presidential inaugural parades, most notably George W. Bush first one. It was our final day of



the tour, with planes to catch that evening. First we spent the morning letting the students wander

the National Mall and visit the Smithsonian museums. The museums were actually fairly deserted because of the inaugural events. One of our social studies teachers had secured a section of seats for the swearing in and speech and some students joined him. The parade began at the Capitol and would end at the White House, and we instituted a bold (and possibly foolish in retrospect) plan. We told the students they could spread out along the parade route and watch until the president's car passed by. Then they were to immediately leave the parade and meet up with the group at the Hirshhorn Modern Art Museum on the mall. (Very identifiable, it looks like a giant donut.) From there, we would go to the airport. Amazingly, every one of over 200 students was at the museum at the correct time. The last person to arrive was actually one of the chaperones! The year of the 9/11 attacks we postponed the trip until June and once again spent time in Williamsburg and Jamestown because so many DC indoor sites were closed due to security reasons. The outdoor monuments and memorials were all available. Another year the government

was in a shutdown during our visit. The Smithsonian and Capitol were the major cancellations - it is difficult to shut down memorials and statues.

In the District we used dedicated sightseeing buses with a tour guide driver. Over the years we found drivers we really respected and would use the same ones each year. Most years we had six buses, one year seven, so our total group would usually be 200-250 eighth graders. Challenges arose with 250 students and twenty or so chaperones. Think about it . . . on any given weekend, even at home with plenty of sleep and a restful schedule, someone out of 270 people is going to get sick or have a physical accident, maybe visit the emergency room, or get in an argument with a friend or have something go wrong. Multiply that by a nonstop physical schedule, lack of sleep, physical exhaustion, and emotionally spending a lot of time with three roommates and a busload of others and things can go wrong.

We were fortunate to have teacher chaperones who enjoyed making the trip on a regular basis. In addition we usually brought along the school nurse, often a social worker, and for many years the school resource officer (policeman assigned to the school.) Those were very special people who helped us deal with any problems that arose. However, there are many “stories” from the trips. Here are a few:

Surprisingly, we had few winter weather incidents over all the years. Twice snow in Chicago resulted in plane cancellations that extended our stay by one day. Also twice, Chicago snow delayed a couple of planes from departing to begin the trip. That is out of way over 100 flights, so we beat the odds. Sadly, on one trip a parent of a student died unexpectedly while we were en route to DC. We could not get the student on a flight until the following morning. Our police officer flew home with her and then caught the next flight back to DC. One girl, years ago, tried to commit suicide on the trip. She swallowed a bottle of Tylenol, which was harmful but would not be fatal. She was hospitalized in DC and eventually went home with a chaperone alongside her the entire way. It was a challenging situation, as we feared rumors would spread back home about what had happened. So, we had a meeting with all the student participants, told them exactly what had occurred and that she would be OK. Once a student suffered a seizure when she reacted to a strobe light that her roommates had brought along for the trip. On future trips we emphasized what would seem to be obvious - no strobe lights on the trip. One year two boys suffered ankle injuries while touring and had to be pushed in wheelchairs.



We inadvertently caused a disturbance at the Supreme Court one Sunday. The building was closed, but we stopped to let students take photos of the building. Buses are not allowed to park and wait on Capitol Hill, so we were dropped in front of the building and the driver told us we should walk a few blocks afterwards and he would be waiting for us. As we were walking back to the bus, a girl said to me that she had left her backpack

on the steps of the building. I told a chaperone I would take her back to get it and to have the bus drive around the block and pick us up in a few minutes. As she and I approached the Supreme Court building we saw police cars with lights flashing and many officers surrounding the place. An officer told us we could not go any further. I explained she had left her backpack on the steps and he spoke into his walkie talkie “call off the bomb squad.” We retrieved her bag and I told the students it was actually good to know that the authorities were on top of everything to that extent. One evening it was our students who provided public security. At that time we were staying at a hotel on the east side of Capitol Hill, an area that was a little sketchy at night but we were right across the street from a fire station so we felt pretty safe. The boys in one room were looking out the window into an alleyway and saw what they believed was a drug transaction taking place. The front desk called the police and the boys waved at the perps out the window as they were being handcuffed. The boys called the chaperones to share what they had accomplished.



Probably the most anxious moment I ever had as the group leader took place at the Pentagon City Mall, a multi-story atrium with a huge food court on the lowest level. It was a good place for lunch - we would provide students with meal money, they could sit with their friends and then do a little souvenir shopping on the food court level, which basically was set up for the tourists. We always gave the students a meeting place (right outside the Disney Store) and a time to meet so we could get back on the bus. These days it is easy to communicate by phone apps with the students on the tour, using chats or sites like “remind,” but this was before cell phones. At the meeting spot two girls were missing. We loaded the buses and chaperones began to explore the four levels of the mall searching for them. Dave Tosh went to the highest level and shouted their names into the open

atrium space. People all over the mall looked up at him, probably assuming some sort of “love triangle.” I was considering emptying the buses to send the students on a massive search when the girls came running. They had allowed a make-up girl in Macys to sit them down for a session. When the time arrived to leave, she wouldn’t let them go. “Those times don’t really matter, let me just finish.” They knew they were in trouble as they came running and were both crying. Their tears streaked down their freshly made up faces.

Over the years, improved technology has helped us monitor and inform our students. Decades ago we discovered “walkie talkies” for the chaperones. Then cell phones were a huge boon, and we would compile a list of student numbers so we can call if necessary. On the trip I always gave my cell phone number to students in case they needed to contact me in an emergency. After years of doing that I have still never received “prank calls” from any student, although one year a group of high schoolers trying to find Union Station in Chicago called me for directions . . . “you said to call if we were ever lost” and they still had my number. I told them to walk towards the Sears Tower, cross the river, and they would see the train station.

We have seen live presidents - George W.Bush and Clinton in parades. Clinton again came out of the White House in a car. We have visited dead presidents - Washington, Kennedy, and Taft. We have stood where Lincoln was shot and where he died, Garfield was shot, and John Quincy Adams had a stroke that killed him. In the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History the bones of Glenview’s most famous person, Robert Kennicott, can be viewed in a display case.

The sites of complete quiet and still reflection are many - Washington’s grave, The Tomb of the Unknowns, the entire Holocaust Museum, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial. Students felt a lasting impact.

Even as we would arrive back home in our Chicago airport, the chaperoning was not quite over! Although it would seem to be a flight attendant’s nightmare to see an eighth grade trip group come aboard the plane, we were usually no trouble whatsoever. When possible we sat together and the chaperones in the midst provided supervision. However, my last group flight home, in 2020, was an exception. The plane was over an hour late, the flight was slow against a strong jet stream wind, and when we arrived in Chicago we were assigned a tarmac waiting space until a gate opened. Bathroom needy students squirmed as time passed. The seat belt light remained on. Finally, a student stood slightly and turned to either speak or check on a friend in the row behind. An angry flight attendant charged to the scene and informed the young man that he had broken a federal aviation law by unbuckling his seatbelt before the light was off. She said he would have to speak with the captain following the flight to determine whether he would be prosecuted. As we slowly disembarked from the extreme back of the plane. I walked up with the contrite perpetrator towards the cockpit. The chief attendant told us that the pilot was long gone “he was the first one

off the plane” and I suggested that I could take care of the lecture as long as she didn’t tattle on me to the angry attendant. We hustled down the ramp before she changed her mind.

My last trip was in January of 2020. I was very sick the day after we returned - most likely COVID although we did not know it quite yet. There was no trip in 2021 due to the pandemic. When the trip resumed in 2022 I handed the organization off to a veteran chaperone.



*Scott’s first (1975) and last (2020) trips.*



*more from Scott:*

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 55TH REUNION**

I am still tuned in to historic place visits! As part of our class 55th reunion, I am preparing information on a trio of Glenview's significant sites and encouraging alums to include them in their Saturday activities. Watch for more on this as the invitations go out.

#### **The Kennicott Grove on Milwaukee Avenue**

Dr. John Kennicott was the first physician in the area north of Chicago, traveling by horseback across a large region. His home and acres of land at The Grove alongside modern Milwaukee Avenue is a national historic landmark and has been restored, along with other rebuilt buildings and an interpretive center, to tell the story of Glenview's first settlers. His son, Robert Kennicott, is a significantly famous American naturalist and explorer who supplied thousands of specimens to the Smithsonian Institution and was instrumental in the purchase of Alaska. There is an outstanding interpretive center and archives building which tells their story and the history of the grove of Oak trees that formed an island on the prairie.

#### **The Glenview Naval Air Station and the creation of The Glen**

Simply put, without the Glenview Naval Air Station the United States could not have defeated Japan in World War Two. At one time the airfield was destined to become Chicago's main airport, until the Depression upended the plan. After Pearl Harbor, aircraft carriers were the key to winning the war in the Pacific. Every single carrier pilot learned to land and take off the carriers by training at GNAS. The Navy continued to operate The Base until the 1990's, at which point the Village of Glenview purchased the land and intelligently converted it to what today is The Glen.

#### **The Wagner Farm**

When Peter Wagner passed away, his farm was the last operating farm in Cook County. The Glenview Park District purchased it, along with the original 1920's farmhouse and barn, and added an interpretive center. On Saturdays it hosts the Farmers' Market.

## Our 55th Reunion

**Dates:** The weekend of September 13 – 15, 2024 (Friday - Sunday)

**Hotel:** Sheraton Chicago Northbrook Hotel, 1110 Willow Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062. You can reserve a room at a rate negotiated for us. The hotel is holding rooms for us beginning on Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September, 15. Rooms range from \$149 to \$189 per night without taxes. Club Level rooms offer breakfast and Club Lounge access for a slightly higher fee. Use this link to reserve your room:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1710189915068&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**Places:** 13th Hackney's Meet and Greet [website](#)  
 ( 1514 East Lake Street, **not** 1241 Harms Road )  
 14th Course Italian Dinner [website](#)  
 15th Sheraton Chicago Northbrook Hotel Brunch and Farewell [website](#)

Saturday (the 14th) Daytime Activities:  
 (spouses are welcome to participate in all)

**Golf:** We will schedule tee times at one of the area golf clubs beginning around Memorial Day

*Contact:* Jeph Harrison [jharrison621@gmail.com](mailto:jharrison621@gmail.com)

**Pickleball:** Depending on numbers, we may have a round robin tournament, or just play some fun pickleball games that everyone can enjoy. We will rent courts in the Glenview area starting around Memorial Day. Bring your own paddle!!

*Contact:* Colleen Malany [colleen@jkbfoundation.org](mailto:colleen@jkbfoundation.org) and Tom Beckmann [tbeckmann@aol.com](mailto:tbeckmann@aol.com)

**Tour of Glenview:** Scott Buzard has taught at the Springman Middle School for 50 years and has led students on a tour of Glenview's history and colorful past for years. We will get the privilege of seeing how Glenview has changed. Stops will notionally include: Glenview Farmers' Market, Wagner Farm, The Grove, Glenview Naval Air Station, The Glen (Lunch), Glenview Historical Society

*Contact:* Scott Buzard [scottbuzard7@gmail.com](mailto:scottbuzard7@gmail.com)

### Reunion Co-Chairs:

Kathie McKiernan Magness: [mkmagness@comcast.net](mailto:mkmagness@comcast.net)

Linda Murowchick Hopkins: [lmhopkins14@gmail.com](mailto:lmhopkins14@gmail.com)

# Changes to the Website

## Added to *in memoriam*

John Maschoff  
Kevin McGuigan  
Bob Zimniewicz

## Classmates

Renee Anderson (now Vansice): Phone number.  
Paul Barrath: New email address.  
Genny Beuling: Link to her business website no longer works - removed.  
Craig Binney: LinkedIn link and new Facebook link.  
Sue Bogdanski (now Gernetzke): LinkedIn link.  
Gail Brezina (now English): Phone number, LinkedIn link, and photograph.  
Hugh Christian: LinkedIn link.  
David Clanton: Email address removed (no longer working).  
James (Jim) Eldert: New bio, address, and phone number.  
Sherri Field (now Cook): email address and phone number.  
Henry Geller: New picture, address, phone number, and Facebook link.  
Kathy Hall: LinkedIn link.  
Teri Helmreich: Current last name (Hurst) added.  
Clayton Jones: LinkedIn link.  
Jan Keith (now Garfield): email removed; no longer works.  
Linda Murowchick (now Hopkins): New email address.  
Chris Pufundt: Phone number.  
David Reidy: email address.  
Robert Schaub: New address and phone number.  
Henry Schroeder: New address, phone number, email address.  
Keith Shaver: Address, phone number.  
Debbie Shields (now Rummel): Facebook and LinkedIn links.  
Ernie Unholz: LinkedIn link.  
Herbert Vanderveer: Address, phone number.  
Phil Whiting: Incorrect email address removed  
Kathy Zielnicki (now Arena): Address, phone number, email address.

## Pages

More information on the 55th Reunion added [here](#).

[Who Lives Near Me](#) page updated to now include cities to make it easier to meet old (and new) friends.

New page added for the video interview program [69 Minutes](#)



## Citizen Archivist

The National Archives in Washington, DC, home of both *The Declaration* and *The Constitution*, also has some 13.5 billion other documents. Many of these are hand-written, printed, or typed, and therefore not accessible via search. In order to make the contents of these documents more available to researchers and the public, The Archives has instituted a *Citizen Archivist* program where volunteers can help transcribe these previously inaccessible documents.

Want to transcribe documents about UFOs, WW-II oral histories, documents captured during the Civil War, or even Revolutionary War pension claims? They're all there waiting to be explored. Learn more and sign up here:

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions>



## Are you Registered to Vote?

Yes, the election is just shy of seven months away, but...the next Newsletter won't come out until about mid October, by which time it may be too late to register, and attempts to purge voter roles and disenfranchise voters will, unfortunately, be ongoing throughout the summer.

So, if you are not registered, please do so. If you believe you *are* registered, please check to see if you are indeed still registered. You can do both of these here:

<https://www.usa.gov/confirm-voter-registration>