

Hello Class of 1971!

Hurray! This is our Reunion Year. Can it really be 55 years? I don't know about you, but I'm not THAT old! Kidding aside, it HAS been that long, and wow has the world changed since 1971. I decided not to nag everyone this year for news. We have precious little this year from our busy Woods friends, though. So...in the future...I will be a real nag! You have been warned! PLEASE UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL WITH THE WOODS. So many emails bounced back. This is a much timelier method of contact. Let us get right to our news.

Patricia "Patti" Williams Essig- Patti reports that the winter weather in Naperville, Illinois, where she has lived for 44 years, is brutally cold. She looked forward to a few weeks in Florida mid-February where she hoped to see **Glenna Cruise Orr** and **Mary Botti Greenberg**. Patti was so sorry to report Mary's sister **Patricia "Pat" Botti '72** died in October after a long struggle with rheumatoid arthritis. She was a good friend of hers; they laughed often when they spoke. She said she will miss Pat. Patti wrote that she enjoys writing poetry and is in the process of printing her second collection of poems. This is her 25th year of teaching yoga at her now in-home yoga studio, Yoga Energy. Patti and her husband Steve, and son Dan are planning a trip to Vienna, Austria and Barcelona, Spain in September. This will be her fourth year as one of five women who facilitate "The Contemplative Women's Retreat" at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin. For more info <https://www.sienaretreatcenter.org/retreats/contemplative-retreat/> Directly from her heart to ours... "Wishing you this Metta Meditation we say at the end of my yoga classes. May you be at peace, may your heart remain open, may you awaken to the light of your own true nature, may you be healed, may you be a source of healing for all beings. Sending each of you Love and Light." Patti is looking forward to seeing us at Reunion!

Kathy DeClue Schubel -Kathy reports that she and husband Mike are doing well and that she does not really have much news-maybe that's a good thing. We stay busy with grandkids' sports (lots of hockey with some baseball, soccer and basketball thrown in) and family.

Ruth Kolcun Noack-Ruth wrote to say hello. (We understood that I would have to be a Seahawks fan out here in Washinton state.) Ruth is married with two married daughters and is a grandmother (Bubba in Slovak) to five granddaughters. She is still debating whether to come to the SMWC Reunion. She says "When I wear my Woods black ring, I am noticeably proud of being a Woodsie. When I go out to a restaurant and wear my ring, I have to take the ring off when I wash my hands because water gets under it . So, I remind myself - "don't forget to put the ring back on" after my hands are dry. Other people in the bathroom probably wonder what is she saying?? (Do I say it

OUTLOUD?)” Have any of you lost your Woods ring? Hope not.” Ruth sent a photo of the cover of a song that she wrote. She wrote the music to Grannies by Noack and A Cowboy Can’t Do It. Here is a link. www.soundcloud.com/ruth-noack

Susan Connell Connor- Susan wrote a quick note about her dogs. She says she would have loved to know about my current breed (Clumber Spaniels) when she was younger. She has a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, two English toys (one is an AKC champ-the other is a darling pet) and a Barbet that is an AKC champ and a Canadian champ and a therapy dog. (WOW! That is QUITE an achievement.

Christine “Chris” McCauley Stremel – Chris lets us know that the news from Dallas is very slow; there isn’t much going on. Both of her granddaughters play Club volleyball. She is always amazed by girls’ sports today. It is nothing we had for sure.

Mary Ann Delahanty Latusek - Mary Ann begins by telling us that this year has been quite good. Everyone is healthy and doing well. All the grandkids are finally in school. Her son's boys are in Kindergarten and Second grade. Her daughters are in ninth and eleventh grade. She says that the boys keep them busy with baseball and the girls cheerleading and dance. Her whole family gets together at Hilton Head each summer for a wonderful beach week. Mary Ann and her two daughters and two granddaughters went to Rome and Venice this past Spring. They were there for the Conclave but were not asked to vote for our new Pope. “It was an amazing trip,” she reported. Her granddaughters are 14 and 17, so it was great to see everything with them. Her husband, Mike, is still teaching at Carlow University. She tells us that there are no hints about his third retirement. She is still volunteering at their local hospital and our church. Mary Ann says she will see us at Reunion.

Glenna Crews Orr – Glenna sent us the following message. "Family, Writing Books and Service to Communities both near and far, continue to keep me hopeful and happy. The work that stands up beside my 501(c)3 non-profit that was established in 2006, leads me to some of the most incredible people and places. Thankful for being connected with my Woodsie Roommate, **Patricia “Patti” Williams Essig**. Recently, was reunited with **Mary Botti Greenberg** and it was so good to hear from her. My thoughts and prayers are with the wonderful women that came into my life, as we played and studied at The Woods. She is looking forward to Reunion.

Margaret “Meg” Deisher – Meg is well and still happily living in Phoenix, Arizona. She and her sister, Muffie, continue to travel around to see family. This year they were back in Pennsylvania again visiting cousins. This Spring they plan on going back to the Outer Banks in North Carolina for their biennial trip to drink in the shore.

Christine “Chris” Mariotto Koba - Chris writes that all is well but has no exciting news to share. They are just growing older by the minute; she laughs. Her niece and her daughter did a trip to the Middle East a couple of months ago... “guess that was good timing, huh?” she writes. Jim and Chris are fine, thank God, and are just hanging with family a great deal as they have some members with health issues. Chris says

that they are not the best at medical care but try to visit as much as possible. Chris, thanks so much for letting us know you are all right yourself. We all worry, you know!

Jo Anne Henry - Jo tells us that she is busier than ever. She bought a puppy last year, so she has been training her for the show ring and the obedience shows. Jo says the pup is doing well but is a handful; like having a toddler! Jo and her older dog still love visiting nursing homes. She says some residents with dementia will talk to her dog even though they do not talk to people! Jo's dog makes the residents so happy!

Mary Add Wilson Baker-Mary Add tells us she knows the people she talked to about Reunion are doing ok. She saw **Anita Scioldo Osella** at the last couple of Lenten Fish Frys. She looks good! Mary Add wishes we had more coming to Reunion, but however many come, we will enjoy each other's company! She is looking forward to seeing all in May!

Theresa "Terry" Jones Swayze-Terry sends greetings from Southern Indiana. She keeps busy watching her two grandsons play high school sports; right now, basketball just ended and baseball games will start early April. They are 16 and 17, sophomore and junior, and she just loves watching them participate in sports. Terry went on a bus trip in October with stops in Memphis, Tennessee (all things Elvis/Graceland), Natchez, Mississippi (beautiful old mansions), and New Orleans, Louisiana. She stayed right in the French Quarter in a quaint local hotel and toured all the local sights. On the way back to Indiana, she stayed a night in Huntsville, Alabama, and the next day visited a business that purchases lost luggage from airline companies. =The items in the luggage are cleaned up, assigned a discounted price, and made available for sale. It was a really interesting place to shop.

As for the **Judith Larkin** family...All is well. Calliope is still my little white guardian angel. Clumber Spaniels have only ONE fault in my book...they are not black and tan like my Gordon Setters. (Still pine for one.) Since last year, I have had another heart operation. This time to replace my aortic valve. Oh what fun, as THEY say. I am feeling wonderful, though, and can do so much more without shortness of breath. I am looking forward to Reunion in May. Hope to think of something fun for us!