

January 2018
Happy New Year!

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL

In the November 2017 Life & Times, Carolyn "Inky" White Scofield told us her story of running FROM Hurricane Irma in September 2017. At the same time, Barbara Homans Schwarz was running TOWARD Irma. Here's Barb's story.

Racing Against the Tide

by **Barbara Homans Schwarz** (Central Florida)

We also “enjoyed” the visit from Hurricane Irma. My husband Matthew and I were in the Traverse City, Michigan area when Irma was headed for Florida. We cut our visit to our daughter and her family short to get back home before the hurricane hit. Everyone thought we were crazy for going back when there was a huge storm headed for all of Florida. We explained over and over that we needed to get back to make sure our home was as prepared as we could make it. We went down Interstate 65 and then east to catch I-75 South.

Once we got to I-75 South, traffic on our side had gotten very light while the traffic in the northbound lanes was bumper to bumper and moving steadily but slowly.



We had filled up with gas in western Florida and it was a good thing we did. We got

off I-75 to take the tollroad and planned to fill up again at the only station before the exit for U.S. 27 South. We found there was no gas for anyone headed south. Sheriff's officers were directing only northbound cars to open pumps as they tried to get as many people out of the state as possible.

We kept going. We got lucky and were able to fill up at a station on U.S. 27 that still had gas. Our thoughts were just to get home to get the house ready for what was coming our way.

We made it home tired and worn out. We had a little time to lock down the house and gather up all loose items in the yard that could become missiles, be destroyed, or lost to the high winds. We also had to make sure anything in the screen room was as secure and weatherproof as possible. Being overly cautious, I wrapped up fragile items and took down all our family photos, put them in tubs, and labeled them with our name and address on each one. I was having visions of our roof being blown off.

We took our Mitt the Cat and rode out the night at our community clubhouse, sleeping in pool chairs, on the floor, or anywhere we could. Throughout the night, we opened the front door to peek outside and watched as the sunroom roof of a home across the street peeled off. In the morning, the wind weakened enough that we could go home and survey the damage.

There was no real damage to our home except water stains on the ceiling where the rain blew into the vents on the roof. Our old live oak tree in the front yard lost some large limbs, but they caused no damage. There was no serious damage in our community, other than some roof damage, sheds blown up, tree damage, a few screen rooms blown off, and a lot of debris to pick up. It could have been worse. We were all fortunate.

David Mason 1951–2017

Dave Mason Remembered

Dave was a great friend of mine. He had such a fantastic attitude about life. He was always laughing and joking around with everyone that he knew. Dave was also a very good athlete at all sports. I



Our classmate David C. Mason of Lansing, Illinois, passed away November 23, 2017. Dave was born in San Antonio, Texas, the son of Ralph C. and Evelyn Zitek Mason, and graduated from TF South with the Class of 1969.

Dave was retired from the Illinois State Police and maintained a life-long passion for baseball, traveling annually to the Cubs Spring Training Camp games.

He is survived by his two sons Matthew and William, two grandchildren, and his brother Scott.

will miss his candor and wit.
RIP my friend! —Scott Tatje



A celebration of Dave's life was held December 2, 2017, in Calumet City, Illinois. Condolences for the family may be posted online at castlehillfuneralhome.com



Scott Tatje's friendship with Dave Mason goes back to their Little League baseball days. Five TFS '69 classmates are included in this July 1963 photo of the Lansing West All Stars at Lions Park. **Dave Mason**, middle ballplayer bottom row with a catcher's mitt, **Scott Tatje** with a bat to the right of Dave, **Bill Haub**, above the "L" in the second row, **Bruce Quenzler**, between the letters "N" and "G," and **Paul Warn**, top row to the coach's right.

What's in Your Vista, Jim?





Jim Wagner (South Carolina) shares his vista this month. Jim says, "The first photo is our little Beach Home in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. The next photo is Huntington Beach State Park, which is 5 minutes away and our favorite place to walk and enjoy what God has blessed us with."

Share your vista with our classmates. Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home. Email your photo to TFSouth69@gmail.com

Happy December Birthday!

Janet Claussen Venecz, Sherry Nondorf Bingham, Charlie Vignone, Pam DeYoung Bertalan, John Giles, Darlene Barzda Snell, Rich Kuske, Grace Demanuele Talbot, Linda Westerhoff Norton, Jack Yauger, David Meilleur

Happy January Birthday!

Pat Steele Gavin, Rich Krilich, Kristine Anderson Barrett, David Thomas, Pat Wozny, Marilyn Rea Beyer, Trudy Brouillette Szpyrka, Michael Sailor, Barbara Sroka Carlson, Ron Hanchar, John Hansen, Cheryl Baily Zima, Marion Luszyk Bunge, Ralph Corriere

Celebrated November & December Wedding Anniversaries

Maria & **Rich Krilich** (Illinois)—22 years
Sandy & **Rob Garrison** (Illinois)—37 years
Ben & **Michele Lin Robins** (Utah)—19 years
Herb & **Nancy Horvatic Tschischik** (Florida)—24 years
Warren & **Becky Bonnar Eck** (Minnesota)—45 years
Ellen & **Dave Dickinson** (California)—38 years
Philip & **Janet Claussen Venecz** (Indiana)—18 years
Ron (TFS '68) & **Christine Markiewicz Paryl** (Illinois)—45 years
Sandra & **George Vincent** (Illinois)—26 years
Dave & **Carolyn "Inky" White Scofield** (Illinois)—19 years

Welcome New Granddaughter!

Sue Dombrowski (TFS '68) and **Paul Warn** (Indiana) welcomed their second granddaughter Oct. 12, 2017. Freyja Elizabeth Susan was born to son Matthew (TFS '94) and wife Cate at the University of Michigan Hospital. (Paul says, "Go Blue!") Shown here in a fun selfie are first granddaughter Hannah, who is a soccer-playing Ohio high school senior, and Grandma Sue holding new baby Freya.



TFS TEAM69 Heard from...

Alan Liptak (Indiana)—I want to take this opportunity to say thanks for publishing my article ["A Lasting Connection" Nov. 2017] and for the great effort all of you put forth in keeping our lives connected. It is truly an honor to have shared past and future times with those of my youth. GOD bless and have a great day!

Glenn Wierzbicki (Illinois)—This newsletter is the coolest thing. Thanks.

Larry Valent (Illinois)—Yep, another fantastic issue. [Nov. 2017]

Darlene Barzda Snell (Florida)—Thank you all for the hard work and time that you put in our newsletter. I am sure everyone, like me, looks forward to reading it every month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 50th! But not looking forward to being older. May everyone's holidays be filled with love and good health! Blessings.

Laurie Steinbach Webster (TFS '70)—Dave, what an incredible, touching tribute to friendship in the TFS Team69 newsletter that you submitted (*feeling nostalgic*). [Dave Dickinson, "A Year-End Reflection on Friendship" Dec. 2017]

Denny Walton (Utah)—Thanks Dave, we always have a great time, happy to have your visits. Sometimes it's fishing not catching. [Dave Dickinson, "A Year-End Reflection on Friendship" Dec. 2017]

Christine Markiewicz Paryl (Illinois)—My husband Ron (TFS '68) and I went back to the high school in December. They were looking for vintage articles for an exhibit. It was fun watching the teachers look through my scrapbook and at my school sweater and asking what GAA stood for. Anyone remember? It was also gratifying to see how modern the school is, the kids working hard, and many dedicated teachers. Things haven't changed.

Mr. Chris Roberts (TFS '02 and TFS Teacher)—The History Club at TFS is creating a display of items from the history of the school in order to tie our school's past to the present. This will be a permanent display. Items will be labeled with the name of the person who donated it and will not be returned. Each piece will be

treated with care and displayed proudly. If anyone would like to donate items such as letterman jackets, awards, etc., please have them message me on Facebook or email me at croberts@tfd215.org.

Kathy McGrath (Florida)—Thank You All!! And very Merry Christmas to everyone. Thanks for all your work keeping us together! You guys are the best!! Happy New Year!! From your crazy classmate, Kathy

Jerry Stefaniak (Texas)—A few months ago, **Craig Gutowski** (Ontario, Canada) contacted me after our house was flooded by Hurricane Harvey. He sounded just the same as when we were kids. We laughed and talked for about an hour, 2,000 miles apart. Craig in Canada, me in Houston. I also talked to **Floyd Ballard** (Florida) a few years ago and that was a hoot!! Just wanted to touch base with the Rebels. Been a Rebel in my heart, been a Rebel in my life. Love and blessings to all the Rebels (and Yankees).

Our Heartfelt Condolences to...

Ken Malsch (Indiana), Bill Bramowicz (Indiana), and their families on the passing of Ken's wife and Bill's sister, Marian Bramowicz Malsch (TFS '68). Marian's short battle with lung cancer ended in December 2017. She and Ken were married 27 years. Son Brian Foster would like us to know that his mother was "always there for the people she loved and will be missed dearly."



Also our condolences to Sharon Reid Kerley (Arizona) and her family on the loss of Sharon's mother, Billie Reid, 87, of Lansing, Illinois, who passed away in November 2017. Billie was a waitress for many years and an avid bowler. She was loved by her family, grandchildren, and great-grandbabies and will be dearly missed.

We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, please ask them to contact us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Tanya Reynolds Furr
Shirley Reiter Wolstenholme
Patsy Reidenbach Luedtke
Tom Reeb
Mike Rappatta
Bob Ranfranz

John Pranger
Bill Rosenthal
Jim Roesel
Linda Rodriguez
Jim Robbins
Alan Richardson

For the Jan. 2017 *Life & Times*

Photos: Family of Dave Mason, Scott Tatje, James Wagner, Paul Warn, BillHutchisonPhotography.com

Send Your News to the *Life & Times*

We love hearing from you

Editorial: Patricia Walsh, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis
Editorial Assistance: Kathy Neumann Smith, Paul Warn
Technical & Design Consultant: Bill Hutchison
Facebook Birthday Wishes: Dave Dickinson
Wishes You a Happy New Year: Bud Jenkins

and about you. Contact us through our email TFSouth69@gmail.com or message us at our Facebook page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](#).

Stay in Touch

Our 214 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. You can subscribe at our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com And help us keep our contact database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



 Forward the Life & Times to Friends and Family

 @TFSTeam69

 Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine

 Our Website

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