

March 2019[Click here for a printable PDF
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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

With this Issue...

the Life & Times of the Rebels of '69 marks four years celebrating our TF South Class of 1969. Each month our classmates step-up and contribute articles, news, photos, reflections, and kind comments. Without these contributions, there would be no Life & Times.



In the past year, TEAM69 Communications—

- delivered 12 issues of the Life & Times to 228 subscribers
- emailed two special 50th Reunion notices
- added 11 new subscribers
- recognized 165 classmate birthdays
- celebrated 70 classmate wedding anniversaries
- sent 148 individual birthday e-cards
- posted 165 birthday shout-outs on Facebook

None of this would be possible without great data compiled over the past 10 years, the MailChimp emailing service, hours of volunteer dedication, and you! Thanks for reading the Life & Times and reaffirming each and every month how incredible our TFS Class of 1969 is.

How Classmates Survived the 2019 Polar Vortex

When a swirling polar vortex swung through the Midwest in late January, actual temperatures fell to -22 in Chicago, -28 in Minneapolis, and -14 in Omaha, Nebraska. Windchill temperatures were unspeakable. Here's how classmates survived and kept their sanity this winter.



Bill Hutchison (Indiana) braved frozen frozen fingers to capture this dramatic shot of the ice-coated Michigan City, Indiana lighthouse. Bill reminds us that photography is "all about being there at the right moment."

Donna Torgerson

Clark (Illinois) celebrated winter with their annual Clark Family Winterfest in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Donna, also on snowshoes

but behind the camera, says, "Snowshoeing! Sooo fun!"



Maxine Hinze Rogers (Nebraska) says the key to surviving winter in Nebraska is staying in and staying warm. "Although my husband and I enjoy taking in the latest movies on the milder days, my favorite activity is hibernating in my sewing room and working on quilts. I've made several over the past few years and gave them as gifts to our kids and grandkids. I love the feeling of accomplishment."



Pam Neal Pfeffer (Michigan) makes her go-to, homemade brandy recipe to bring a little summer forward into the winter days. Pam suggests you start making the brandy early so it's ready when the next polar vortex rolls into town.

1 lb of sugar

1 fifth of gin or vodka (you can use the cheapest kind)

1 lb of damson plums (Damson plums are rare. They have a pit. Leave the pits in.)

Add all in a glass bottle with a lid. Pam uses huge Mason jars. Keep it on your counter and shake every day until sugar is dissolved. Then put it in your basement where it is cool. By Christmas you'll have brandy.

Pam says, "We have made apricot brandy as well. If you use smaller fruit, then use a little more than 1 pound."



Becky Bonnar Eck (Minnesota) says that she and husband Warren watched the -28 degree temperatures in Minnesota grateful to be on a trip to Costa Rica. "Here we are on the beaches of the Caribbean Sea in Tortuguero National Park, Costa Rica. *Pura Vida*—the good life."

Patty Bain Mansker (Illinois) says that even though we've had some record-breaking cold this year, she doesn't hate winter. "Indoor sports events with my grandchildren, board games, cooking and baking for family get-togethers, these are special times. Some of my favorite things come out of drawers and closets: Cuddl Duds, wool socks, Sherpa lined boots, down coats to name a few. When the arctic blast hit Chicago and our offices were closed, that was a rare pajama day cuddled with my dog on the couch and a Blue Bloods marathon on Netflix. I'm counting the days until spring and summer and hoping it's not too hot this year!"





A 50th Reunion Message from Paul...



I'm very proud to be in the best class to ever graduate from TF SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL. I don't think any class can compete with what our class has done and accomplished in our 50 years.

—**Paul Carter** (Indiana)

Dear Classmates,

Our 50th Reunion banquet will begin at 6 pm, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at Villa Cesare in Schererville, Indiana. The cost will be determined in the next two months.

We are also planning a full week of events for classmates who live in the area or who arrive early. An itinerary for the week, which will include an Oct. 4 school tour, should be available by June.

Hotel information was emailed in February to classmates who are Life & Times

subscribers. This information is also available on our TF South Class of 1969 - 50th Reunion Group Facebook Page or by emailing the 50th Reunion Committee at TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com and requesting hotel information.

Looking forward to seeing YOU in October!
Your TFS Class of 1969 50th Reunion Committee

Next Meeting of the 50th Reunion Committee

Friday, March 1, 2019 at 7 pm

Water's Edge Gift, Pond, and Garden Center

18418 Wentworth Ave., Lansing, IL

Please RSVP to the 50th Reunion Committee if you plan to attend.

TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

TFS CLASS OF 1969 50TH REUNION

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, at 6pm

VILLA CESARE Schererville, Indiana

with prior week activities, too!

Life & Times Heard from...

Kathy Neumann Smith (Alabama)—Hope the groundhog was right and spring is just around the corner for all our northern classmates!

Jerry Fritz (Virginia)—Looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Glenn Wierzbicki (Illinois)—OMG. **Art Banet's** story was earth shaking to say the least. ["Earthquake," Life & Times Feb. 2019]

Denise Steinberg Johnson (North Carolina)—So enjoyed this issue. [Feb. 2019] Always good to hear about friends. Congratulations **KO Hanes** and Linda. Happy **Marilyn [Rea Beyer]** is back to Chicago and that everyone survived the Alaska earthquake. What experiences they all have had!

Larry Valent (Illinois)—Another great issue as always. [Feb. 2019] So glad that we get to meet up with Linda and **KO Hanes** on occasion. It's always a great time.

Denny Walton (Utah)—Thanks. Got my February Life & Times! As much as I look forward to reading it, I was bummed thinking there was a problem when the email wouldn't open. Got a hold of Pat Walsh and she figured it out, you da man! Thank

you very much. See you in Oct!

P.S. Could you please mention that Mom's birthday was Feb. 11? 92 years old. I've got a lot of friends that remember her raising this bad boy with respect for all of my friends. She's doing great as long as there's a slot machine close by. Luckiest lady I know.

[To our Readers: If you have problems opening, getting, or seeing our monthly newsletter, please let us know. We'll figure it out.]

Happy March Birthday!

Ron Schultz, Roger Bertalan, Lawrence Johnson, Jerry Fritz, Carolyn White Scofield, Ralph Davey, Ken Hanes, Linda Jensen, Debi Owles

Classmates Celebrating March Wedding Anniversaries

Louis & **Sharon Gulley Escalante** (Indiana)—18 years

Conrad & **Cindy Graham Kats** (Indiana)—49 years

Frank & Deb Ruth Mazzocco (Minnesota)—45 years

Karen & **Lee Fetscher** (Indiana)—40 years



We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Carol Vierk Schrum

Debbie Vanderwoude Stevenson

Denise Troppman Thompson

Bruce Tobey

Mike Tiltges

Alberta Tilendis

Tom Tikalsky

Debbie Tegtmeier Rhyne

Veronica Swanson

Ellen Stole Culver

Stay in Touch

Help us keep our Class of '69 database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com

AND...Our 228 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed? You can get 'er done at our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or with an email to TFSouth69@gmail.com.



Share Your Vista

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

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Rogers, Rebecca Bonnar Eck, Patricia Bain
Mansker, Paul Carter

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We love hearing from you and about you.
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or message us at our Facebook
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 [Our Website tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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