



The Hope Farm / Greer School
Alumni Association
Newsletter



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The Seasons of our lives.....and you!

Recently, I was listening to a successful hit song of the late 1960's called "Turn, Turn, Turn" by the American singing group, "The Byrds." Pete Seeger wrote the lyrics for this song and was probably thinking of some Old Testament verses in the book of "Ecclesiastes" in which the writer refers to the idea that in each season of our life, there is a time to do certain things. As we move through each season and accomplish the necessary requirements, we then move on to the next season, as there are new requirements to accomplish and enjoy. The application of these words for all of us personally is that there is a time to be born, a time for school, a time for family and career, and **a time to retire and enjoy**: a stage we are now at—yeah!!! It is a great song, and I began to think of you and wonder about: **1.** what you are currently enjoying and doing and, **2.** what are some goals and activities you would still like to pursue in the future? I spent most of April contacting as many of you as possible, and below are some of the responses that were sent to me concerning the two questions I was wondering about.



John Hudnor, Greer (63) and BYU (67)

From Glenn Fillman, Class of 1961

Thank you for your recent letter and your "season of our lives" request. Here goes: A time to retire and enjoy.....yeah!!!

Say What? At this season of my life, I find myself an aged, divorced man with two high school age children....probably not what you expected to learn, but I do find myself in some esteemed company: Mick Jagger and Clint Eastwood to name a few of my fellow ripened potentates. As I have

neither of their financial resources, I continue to work: telemarketing/office admin duties (senior drudgery) for a facility maintenance company, with underpinnings of social security to keep this whole spectacle afloat.

Travel, leisure times, wine, chasing scantily clad nymphets across some remote sandy beach.....just my retirement fantasy?????.....not really, how do you think I got into this predicament in the first place? Seems I'm living my life in reverse. Italy, France, the Aegean Isles????...absolutely not, more like, "yikes, it's 6 AM, gotta get the kids up for school." (6 AM... a Greer constant in my life that never goes away).

As any Greer alumni who ventured into parenting knows, what a weird and alien world this is from what we experienced at Greer.

My son, Andrew, a senior in high school, fancies himself a star wide receiver for his high school team and goes by the moniker: "Odell"some high-stylin', fancy, great hands, wide receiver who plays for the NY Giants. I told him my football nickname was "First & Ten"....".Dad, that just doesn't cut it! And besides, you can't even get up off the couch anymore!" Andrew's also into cars and a sports conditioning program. I told him we could drive anything we wanted at Greer as long as it was a lawn mower, tractor, food truck or dump truck. (What...how lame, didn't we have Mustangs, Camaros and the like?). As far as a conditioning program goes, I told him we had that too; you could work on the farm with **Vern Ladeau and Herbie van Anden**, you could work with **George Groh** and lug cement blocks, or you could work with **Mr. Percy** and cut down trees. His reaction, "Hey Dad, can I *borrow* (misnomer if I ever heard one) \$20 to put gas in my car.....otherwise, you gotta drive me to school".

My daughter, Aliyah, is a high school freshman and is also another “trip”. You know, constantly on her cell phone face timing with her friends. I told her we had phones at Greer too, there was a “house phone” that gathered dust in some remote hallway in each cottage, and we weren’t allowed to use it because it was for official business only....and besides, it never rang. As far as “face timing” goes, I told her, “Yeah, we had that too.....you could face time at the Friday night movie in the high school auditorium or at a Ledge cottage mixer.” “Dad, that’s primitive!” Aliyah also fancies Starbuck’s (she even has her own account and phones in her order for pick up) and Panara. I told her we had that too at Greer, we had “**Connie’s**” (our master chef in the main kitchen), and you could order anything you wanted as long as it was in German (which I certainly didn’t speak); otherwise, Connie continuously delighted our palette’s with exotic institutional cuisine....and besides, we didn’t have to pick it up.....it was delivered, so there!

Need I say more about my retirement, John? I think the point is obvious. We each realize our Greer experience was.....and continues to be a blessing. I look forward to the continued growth and development of my children.....and of course, they always have to hear about what it was like at Greer.

From John Travlos, Class of 1955



John has lived in Iowa for quite some time and lives only 60 miles from where the famous 1980’s baseball movie, “Field of Dreams” was filmed. (Editor’s note: a wonderful, feel good movie, that I recommend highly...JH) He is still active as a businessman and this includes frequent trips to Mexico.

John and his wife Jean have been married for 57 years, and Jean has an MBA from Boston University. They have a daughter named Darcy who has a BS degree from Brown and an MBA from Wharton



Business School of Pennsylvania, and last of all, his granddaughter Madison is a freshman at Brown University.

John reports enjoying driving his sports car, flying, going fishing, and in general, having a good time. In the future, John wants to continue these activities.



From Gayle Houser Fox, Greer Staff, 1950’s

Needless to say, in my mind you, John are still in 7th grade in **Miss Buhlman’s** class—that goes back a day or two, right?

Anyway, this season in my life is spent taking care of my husband, who is 90, but doing rather well for the most part. It also includes a couple of mornings a week still going to school. Back in 1972, we began a school in our church—with 16 students—and today we are in a great building with 275 students. I ‘formally’ retired a number of years ago—I’m now 82—but I still go in two mornings a week to grade papers and be a ‘grandma’ to second and third graders, answering questions and befriending them. Our traveling days for great distances are harder these days for the responsibility for all the details falls on me, but we still get to NJ to see our two daughters and our grandchildren occasionally, but more often our daughter in the Chicago area makes the trip to us.



God has been so good to us; we have a blessed life in so many ways. A few years ago we were able to reconnect with **Dorothy Schaffenacker McMuntry**, who lives in the Philadelphia area, and usually when we get to Jersey we stop to see her and take her to lunch. She is my husband’s age but is doing remarkably well. Her husband died a few years ago, but she is still on her own in their home. She has some neighbors and friends in the area who kind of look out for her, but she still



going strong, still driving, and plays the piano every day!!!!



We are also still in touch with **Betty Barton Tompkins**. They live in Tempe, AZ, but we still talk on the phone occasionally and communicate via the computer.

I so appreciate getting the newsletter on my computer. **Tony and Peggy** are to be heartedly thanked for all their effort!!!!!!

Thank you so much for the opportunity to communicate with you. Those years at Greer were a great time in my life, and I'm thankful for all the years the Lord has given me to live for Him. And thanks for the opportunity to touch base with you. Anything also you'd like to know, just send an email.

From Gary and Cherri Abrahamsen Wood Greer 1950's – 1960's



You may know that we are currently raising our two special needs grandchildren (Paul 12, Zachary 10). It isn't what we thought we would be doing at this state of our life but we have been doing this for the last 12 years, so

it is now a way of life. We were lucky to retire at a fairly early age and spent the first 9-10 years of retirement doing our favorite hobby, scuba diving, and traveling to Truk Lagoon, Turks & Caicos, Bonaire, Curacao and of course our own Florida Keys. We also created and maintained over 40 professional web sites. That started as a hobby and evolved into a great way to fund our vacations and camera passion.

When we became involved in the boys' lives, we found that the website work and travel wasn't as easy as it had been but over time we became used to our new type of life. We began traveling again and over the past 6 years have spent at least one month each summer visiting some beautiful places in the country. The boys are fantastic travelers,



they love being in the car, eating out in restaurants and staying in hotels. We have been to Orlando twice – each boy had a Make A Wish trip granted over the years. Last year we spent a week visiting all of the theme parks and taking on some of the exciting adventures that Orlando has to offer. We then headed off to New England where we enjoyed everything the NE has to offer.

We have traveled across the U.S. to Washington State twice (where our daughter lives) and even found time to visit a great Chinese restaurant in Vancouver. (Ed. note: **My wife and I had the opportunity to visit with Cherri, Gary and the boys a few years ago and had an enjoyable reunion with them. Cherri prepared a fabulous, delicious Chinese meal for us. Something must have stuck with her from that trip to Vancouver...TV**) We have been to Yellowstone and Zion National Parks twice also. We realized that there were only two states Gary and I had not visited yet and 5 that Paul & Zach have not been to so that is our goal this summer. Oddly enough, it is a strange travel plan since we have to visit Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and North Dakota to finish off the list. Gary and I were only missing Arkansas and North Dakota. We are going to visit all of those states and then travel the upper Michigan Peninsula, via the famous Mackinac Bridge (at Mackinaw City, MI). From there we will travel through Canada and ultimately come in on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls (we went to the U.S. side two years ago). We will visit a close friend who lives in North Salem, NY – not so far from Greer. On previous visit we have also taken some time to visit Greer. The boys have another grandparent in New Jersey, not far from where I grew up, and we always include a few days with him and his family for a big family BBQ and fireworks for the 4th of July.

The boys have a rare brain disorder, Leukodystrophy, that is genetic, and they are entered in a research program by Dr. Vanderver at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

It can be challenging traveling with the kids as they have some physical limitations as far as walking long distances or understanding the significance of landmarks, but they are up for whatever we do.

We still try to get in a few scuba dive trips during a year and that is still on our schedule for this year. We typically spend Mother's Day on our favorite dive boat in the Florida Keys. Our other goals are to maintain our health that fortunately remains in great shape. Guess we got some good genes somewhere. We will continue to work toward keeping the kids healthy and helping them make as much progress as they can. We will probably continue to travel as long as everyone can manage it.

We are enjoying this phase of life and feel that raising a second family, challenging as it can be, has great rewards. Gary always says that the kids keep us young and scuba diving keeps us sane. It is nice having such great memories of Greer and we are still in contact with so many of the friends we made there.

Alumni Profiles

Cheryln (Gieringer) Luberto

Cheryln attended Greer from 1953-1963 and graduated from another high school in 1966. After graduating, she attended a Beautician's school in Newark, New Jersey, but after working there briefly, she had to leave because of allergies. After marrying in 1969, she settled in on a career of being a stay-at-home mom for her two daughters, and to take care of her stepfather, who had been hurt in an accident. Her family also now includes two granddaughters. Later, she also worked in some retail and some telemarketing.

In her leisure time, Cheryln enjoys crocheting and makes custom made blankets. She also loves to read and walking. In looking back at Greer, she spoke very highly of the Candlelight service at Christmastime and Thanksgiving day": she added that each Thanksgiving, she still donates food to needy organizations. She cited **Miss Sutton** as someone who, as the Plum house parent, as being a special staff member because of the way she took care of the

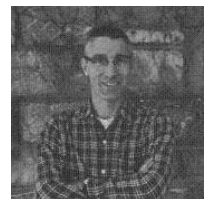


Plum students. She also had fond memories of **Mr. and Mrs. Shay**, the house parents at Greer cottage. She felt they really cared for us and were a good and positive example of a married couple.

Mark Speakman

Mark attended Greer from 1960-1962 during the time that his parents were on Greer's staff. He graduated from high school in 1967 from the RH King School in Canada and then attended college at York University in Toronto, Canada where he received a degree in Sociology and Psychology. He later received a master's degree in Environmental Studies from York University. From 1976-1980, he worked as an Urban Planning Researcher. He then taught for two years in a community college before opening up a computer school in 1983. Between then and 1990, he worked a number of interesting jobs before settling down from 1990 to 2009 to become an elementary school teacher and retired in 2010.

Mark is married with four boys and currently has six grandchildren. His leisure activities include biking, camping, canoeing, and being with his grandchildren. In reflecting back on his three years at Greer, he remembers Friday night movies and Thanksgiving days as special memories. Several staff members he remembers fondly are: **Tom Percy**, who Mark says got him interested in forestry and in building things. **Calvin Sewell** is remembered for teaching him how to build wood projects and he enjoyed Mr. Sewell's gentle manner and personality. **Clifford Cronk** helped him gain an interest in Math, and finally, **George Groh** taught him some useful construction techniques.



Malcolm Giles

Malcolm attended Greer from 1964-1976, and after graduating from high school, he attended Springfield College and studied International Community Development. Next was a two-year training program at the school for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, and upon completion of his studies in 1982, he worked in several businesses for five years. From 1987 to 1997, he worked in financial services and since 1997, has worked as a liability debt planner.

Malcolm is married and has three children. Leisure time activities he enjoys are hiking, skiing, and reading transformational materials. Greer special memories he has are of Memorial Day events and three staff who had a positive influence of Malcolm: They were **Mom Mac, Jim Morton, and Bill Sherman.**

Pat (Jordan) Picco



Pat attended Greer from 1953-1957 and then from 1960-1963. She was active at Greer, participating in the Glee Club and the Student Council. After graduation from Greer in 1963, she worked at Vassar Hospital in nearby Poughkeepsie until 1971.

During this time, however, she attended nearby Marist College and in 1971 graduated with a degree in history. For the next two years, she worked at New Paltz College before becoming a history teacher at Highland Middle School in Highland, New York for 36 years, and she mainly taught sixth grade.

Pat is married and has one son and twin grandkids. In her leisure time, she enjoys the computer and re-reading some of the books she read for the first time in high school. She also enjoys time with her son and grandchildren. Fond Greer memories include Thanksgiving and she said she couldn't wait to see what alumnus had paid for her meal and liked the staff waiting on us on Thanksgiving. Pat added that she loved the annual Candlelight service. Pat had high praise for science teacher,



Ruth Freitag. She loved Mrs. Freitag's sayings ("keep it down to a dull roar), and said that Mrs. Freitag was calm, cool, and collected.

On Pat's bucket list is the desire to live long enough to see both of her twin grandchildren marry.

Rose Wallace

Rose attended Greer from 1966 to 1969. She went to Greer middle school for grades 6-8, and then attended Millbrook High School during her freshman year. She graduated from high school in Connecticut and then started a career in the restaurant business as she owned two restaurants in the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts. She said the challenge of owning a restaurant is that you are on duty essentially 24/7. On the other hand, she said it is very enjoyable to meet lots of people.

Rose has three children and two grandkids. In her leisure time she likes to ride horses, (she also owns horses), cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. In reflecting back on her time spent at Greer, she remembers fondly staff member **Charmi Neely** as her house parent. She also said that her math teacher, **Robert Packer**, was a very nice person. Lastly, she enjoyed the Greer traditions of the May Pole celebration and hanging out in the Wigwam. Her bucket list includes, among other things, riding a donkey down Grand Canyon in Arizona.

Dolan Brammer

Dolan attended Greer from 1956-1966. After finishing his schooling, Dolan was in the Army for three years and these included tours of duty in Vietnam and Korea. After leaving the Army, Dolan started a career as a truck driver from 1970-2013 and mainly worked for the Red Star and Sealy Mattress Company.

Dolan is married with three children (all boys), and currently has thirteen grandchildren. His wife Debbie owns a family restaurant in Cohoes, New York, near Albany, New York and it is called "Nanny's Kitchen." Debbie chose the name for her kitchen because her granddaughter said, "everything that's good comes from her grand

mom's (Nanny's) kitchen at her grand mom's home.

In his leisure time, Dolan enjoys spending time with his grand children and attending Native American Pow-Wows. He also enjoys camping, especially on Lake Champlain in upstate New York. His fond memories of days at Greer are many, but he especially enjoying **Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell**, his house parents at Rapallo, who he says really cared about you as an individual.

Oops!

There were some errors in the recent alumni profile for Penelope Klyce. We intended to reprint her amended profile, but just plain forgot before we filled this issue. Catch you, next time, Penny.

Reunion News

There is nothing new to report about the next reunion to occur in May 2018. Hopefully, we will be able to provide details in the next newsletter.

Sad News

Sadly, we have learned that Donald Douglas "Don" Brown, PhD. passed away on April 2. Don was in the Class of 1954, but left Greer before graduating.

Thomas Martin "Tom" King passed away on Memorial Day of this year. Tom was a 1955 graduate of Greer.

Greerschool.Org Web Site Update

I have managed to upload all the recent newsletters to the web site and will upload the Spring 2017 issue as soon as this one has been put to bed.

That's all for now.

Tony Vaz – Webmaster Greerschool.Org
Greer Class of '61 (Honorary)

In addition to reporting any change of address to Peggy Sparks, you can contact me at tonyvaz@greerschool.org.

Send newsworthy articles to:

John Hudnor - Sandy Hudnor - Peggy Sparks

Contact tonyvaz@greerschool.org for their contact information or "snail mail" them to the return address on your hard copy envelope.

The picture below was sent to us by Suzanne Keith Sorrentino. She cut it out of an old "Reminisce" magazine with the caption, "Stick It To Em, Greer". Susanne says it is the 1949 field hockey team, but in the 1950 Talisman, the follow-up photo is shown in grayscale on page 13 with the girls' names.

Thank you, Suzanne!

