From: The Vasbys
To: Bill & Shirley (Black) Hartley
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 4/2/20
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:11:01 PM

Responses to previous topics:

Norm Arendt - normarendt@gmail.com

As a firefighter even though retired it is a concern as we have been called in to help with calls and our son is also a fire fighter and EMT for Bell Ambulance in Waukesha. But the precautions taken should reduce risk. But at home it is boring. I did install an indoor golf driving net in our indoor riding arena and have been cutting down brush on the farm with the brush hog. But not going into town for other than fuel is a challenge.

Susan Schulte - gaias4mail@gmail.com

Thank you to those who responded mostly focusing on the positive. We hear enough negative stuff every day! I love looking for the silver linings in black clouds and there are blessings to be thankful for, even at this difficult time. Thank you!

Tom Schneider – tomschneider@coa-yfc.org

The coronavirus has had a major impact on my daily routine. I am the Executive Director of COA Youth & Family Centers, a nonprofit agency that serves more than 10,000 low income children and families in Milwaukee, so the virus is having a huge impact.

For safety/health we had to close our 2 early child education centers, 9 after school youth programs, and 2 family resource centers. However, COA has stepped up by expanding our food pantry located in the heart of Milwaukee's north side. This area is experiencing the greatest number of COVID-19 cases in the state. Because there are no grocery stores in the area (and many residents do not have cars) we have expanded the number of days the food pantry is open. Every day we are seeing a new record number of families – on Wednesday it was 402. We are also in the process of opening a free meal program during this crisis; and we are getting ready to reopen one of our child care centers to serve the children of emergency responders (medical personnel, law enforcement, firefighters, etc) so these responders can continue their work. Other than work, my daily routine is pretty much the same: playing tennis, working out, going out for walks and bike rides with my wife, watching TV - just not going out to eat any more. Hope you are all keeping safe and healthy!

This week's topics:

1. Who was your best friend in elementary school? Still in contact?

2. How much time do you spend on the internet? What do you usually do?

3. Which business shut downs are affecting you? How?

4. Memory loss. How bad is it? Did I make this a topic last month?

5. What's good about "sheltering in place"?

6. Where and when was the most amazing sunset you have ever seen?

7. Was there ever an event in your life that defied explanation?

8. What's on your bucket list?

9. What smells brings back good and bad memories? What memories?

10. Some folks think that the Constitution and the Bible should be subject to changing values. Your thoughts?

11. Did you celebrate April Fool's Day? How?

<u>and responses:</u>

Bob Schmidt - 2803chopper@gmail.com

Sunsets here in Arizona are spectacular, particularly during monsoon season. Here is a typical, localized, rain dump around dusk.

Susan Hammel - gourmay1@gmail.com

1. Joann Miller. Yes, nearly every day! And she’s moving close to me!

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

1. Who was your best friend in elementary school? Still in contact? - Jim Justeson, the younger son of the mayor of Rapids. He died in early 60s. Jim Szelagowski in the later grade school years. No. Now in Flordia? Also Chris Gorski and Doug Vilbaum. Yes. They are now in Watertown, Wi. and Grapeland, Tx.

4. Memory loss. How bad is it? Did I make this a topic last month? - This is now my BIG issue! My poor wife of 59 years. Trying to stay off sugar and going to a better diet. I never could spell, but we took a trip to Texas and New Orleans and I can't recall even going. I often tell the same joke to the same people, etc

6. Where and when was the most amazing sunset you have ever seen? - We live on a lake and face west. There have been some pretty nice ones.

8. What's on your bucket list? - I'm happy as can be living here and my main goal is to extend it as long as possible. I would like to contact and chat with old friends. I've met a lot of very nice people in the school and work years. Your news letter is a great help. eg. Cary Winegarden contacted me after your last news letter.

11. Did you celebrate April Fool's Day? How? - That's tomorrow. "Hey your shoe is untied" is a weak example. I just ad lib as the victims appear.

Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - dickmerry77@hotmail.com

WHO WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- In 1957 Len Ironside moved across the Wisconsin River to the East side of town and joined our fifth grade class at Howe School. His poor judge of character caused him to choose me as one of his friends. The friendship lasted all through high school. We played shoulder to shoulder together on the football field. A half century later he was sitting in one of the pews when I gave the eulogy at Mom's funeral. He was alternately referred to a "Leonard", "Len", and "Leo". Mom always called him "Lenny".

Here's a picture of Len (on the right) and me that was taken in 1957 when we were still 10 years old. I think he was chosen as our senior year Homecoming King on his good looks alone. Would you buy a car from this guy? Thousands from Wisconsin Rapids did just that. Len and his brother Larry owned Ironside Motors for several decades on West Grand Avenue in Rapids.

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT SHELTERING IN PLACE? -- It might keep us alive! Our oldest son, Brian, has tested positive for Corona. Please pray for him.

SMELLS THAT BRING BACK GOOD MEMORIES -- Grandma's fresh baked bread and Merry's pot roast.

SHOULD THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BIBLE BE SUBJECT TO CHANGING VALUES? -- I know that if we couldn't amend the Constitution African Americans wouldn't be citizens and women wouldn't be allowed to vote. On the other hand, some would eliminate the Second Amendment and take away my right to own a firearm. That would really tick me off!

Kaaren (Berg) Brehmer - kaarenknits@solarus.net

We both spend way too much time on the internet. Tom listens to audio books and has several primitive cooking shows that he likes to watch. I spent too much time on FB, mainly Words with Friends. We each have our own laptop so we don't have to share.

The business shut down that is affecting us the most is our local library. We go almost ever week to get our "fix" of reading material. I generally read 2 books a week and don't like using the Kindle. Our daughter has brought me a couple of books from her stash to keep me going.

We are doing well with "sheltering in place", it's what we do normally. We have been getting out every day for a walk around the neighborhood and I go to the grocery store once a week. We did take a ride last Sunday just to get out. We don't eat out often so we're used to the cooking and cleaning up (and leftovers). Sts Peter and Paul has been having an outdoor mass so Tom has been able to get to church. Immanuel does one on FB Live so I watch that.

The Bible and the Constitution are based on good values that have stood up to the test of time.

Pat Barton, LHS '64 - patal@solarus.net

1) Best two friends in grade school, Sharon Solberg and Roseann Tracy.....yes still in contact with both of them.

2) Time on internet for me is limited.....just maybe less than an hour every other day.

3) Business shut down affecting me at this moment.....Good Will not accepting donations at this time. I just moved and have lots to donate, so now I store it until they reopen.

5) Only good thing is quiet time for myself.

7) I have had a couple of 'defied explanation' events regarding relatives that have passed-on.

8) Bucket list.....finally retire!

9) Smell that brings back a good memory is when I smell certain cigarette smoke that I recognize as the smell of my son's smoking habit.....he died years ago, but when I smell this I think of him.

Thanks to all classmates out there who are trying hard to stay well and mentally alert during these remarkable times.

Nancy Arnold Finneran Witt - nancystew@copper.net

1. Who was your best friend in elementary school? Still in contact? Yes, had a 3rd cousin and in the same grade. Yes, still in touch.

2. How much time do you spend on the internet? What do you usually do? Hmmm....haven't timed; maybe about 1/2-3/4 hr????

3. Which business shut downs are affecting you? How? Can go to the regular grocery stores, etc.

4. Memory loss. How bad is it? Did I make this a topic last month? Not as sharp as I was; not sure if it was a topic last month.

6. Where and when was the most amazing sunset you have ever seen? See some where I live; sometimes over the ocean.

8. What's on your bucket list? Hmm.....don't have a list. Always like traveling.

9. What smells brings back good and bad memories? What memories? Hmmm.....don't remember.

10. Some folks think that the Constitution and the Bible should be subject to changing values. Your thoughts? I prefer the Constitution and my motto is "do unto others as..."

11. Did you celebrate April Fool's Day? How? No, not really. It was funny when younger.

Lynn DeLong - deelongg@gmail.com

Please share this via your Newsletter. Calm is a fantastic source for many tools to help those of all ages to experience many ways of finding tools to find "Calm" during these times of uncertainty.

https://www.calm.com/blog/take-a-deep-breath

Barbara Cammack - barbaracammack@hotmail.com

One of my best friends in school was Bill, and I married him! I also had girlfriends who I didn't see for years after high school and got married because we lived in VA and HI and most of them stayed in WI. We do connect now and then and share good memories. We've seen great sunsets in Mexico looking at the Pacific Ocean as well as over Green Bay in Door County but wherever the place it's usually a special moment with someone that makes it the best. Rising at first light, after a storm, can be the most beautiful SUNRISE! And that's a comfort during these stressful days with the virus.

Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64 - tonicrafty@gmail.com

2. Internet - I read a lot of news and opinion on CNN, the BBC and the New York Times. Also lifestyle and self-help articles on those three sites. It's like a banquet of information. I use Google all the time to look up words I don't know and biographies of people I admire.

3. Shutdowns - Compared to the courage of our health care workers and first responders and the anxiety of the unemployed, I don't have much to complain about. Yarn stores are closed in Reno, so I have to knit with my "stash."

10. the Constitution - I believe it's a living, changing document. Otherwise we wouldn't need amendments. August of this year will mark 100 years since women won the right to vote.

Kay Vande Loo - rkvdl@charter.net

1. Who was your best friend in elementary school? Still in contact? - Rosemary Akkerman was my best friend in grade school. We were neighbors and I loved going to her house if only to here her mom talk with her beautiful accent. I'm in touch with her first from contact in your newsletter and then through Facebook.

2. How much time do you spend on the internet? What do you usually do? - Read news on internet and look for projects to do. Way too much Facebook the last couple of weeks.

3. Which business shut downs are affecting you? How? - We left Arizona two weeks early because so many restaurants, stores and theaters were closing. Most of the Canadians around us left a week before we did because they thought the border would close to them and so many others were afraid to even talk outside. Now that we're home we had dentist appointments cancelled and my planned haircut.

4. Memory loss. How bad is it? - Try not to worry about memory loss because I can't do anything about it anyway. My kids and grands know they just need to fill in words occasionally.

5. What's good about "sheltering in place"? - Saving a ton of money by not going out. Getting more exercise just to have something to do. Cleaning cupboards and drawers and getting rid of stuff we haven't used in a long time.

7. Was there ever an event in your life that defied explanation? - When my sons were young I'd left my first husband and we just didn't have much money. It was winter and my youngest son needed boots so we went to a store but all the boots were more than what I had. I just about started to cry and asked God to help me find some we could afford. I turned around to talk to my son and there on the floor was $20 sticking out under a rack.

9. What smells brings back good and bad memories? - Coffee smell reminds me of going to my grandparents home.

10. Some folks think that the Constitution and the Bible should be subject to changing values. Your thoughts? - We need to look at the selfish political views of those who think the Constitution should be changed. The Bible is absolutely timeless. We all want to do things our way don't we?