

SNIPPETS #13 REUNION REVIEW DECEMBER 2010

High school was filled with “firsts”: your first detention, your first encounter with Mrs. Bloomster, the first time you met her dad, the first time you met his mom. Remember your first homecoming, your first crush and your first date to “The Terminal.” I often think of the first friend I had to say goodbye to. Each of us has our own “firsts.” They make us smile and reflect on the past. We keep them in a safe place and cherish each memory. These “firsts” are the beginning of who we are today. Dig out your “firsts” and enjoy the ride. This Snippets is dedicated to all the “firsts” in our lives and the special people who made them happen.

The much anticipated (by me) reunion weekend arrived with beautiful weather. Thursday evening I was treated to dinner with some of the Vakitas at **Lynne Epstein Bacic’s** (June 63). I got to tag along with my cousin **Lynne Rosenthal Ohren** (Jan 64). It was a lot of fun listening to their stories of friends remembered. **Sharon Bear** (Jan 63) came in from Florida and was spending her weekend catching up with family and friends. Sharon and her husband Russ Stephens are in the insurance business. Sharon shared some memories of her brother **Steve Bear** (66) who passed away two years ago.

Lynne Epstein Bacic was ever the gracious hostess. She is a home health care nurse. When she speaks of her patients you can see the devotion in her eyes. Her husband Michael is a contractor

Sandy Gilbert (June 63) flew in from California on her way to Washington for the birth of her first grandchild. Each time the phone rang we wondered if it was a “baby” call. Sandy was an educator for over 40 years, both in the classroom and in administration. Her two sons are lawyers and heavily involved in politics. We were treated with a visit from Sandy’s brother **Danny Gilbert** (June 61). Danny, also an educator, and his wife Helen (Waller High School) live very close to Lynne & Michael Bacic. They enjoy being neighbors with their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Fran Bernstein Wishnick (Jan 64) has recently retired and is enjoying her time catching up with old friends. Her husband is an attorney.

Teena Cohen Lewis (June 63) came in from Minnesota. She is married to **David Lewis** (June 61) who remained at home to hold down the fort. Dave and **Paul Ohren** (June 61) were great friends in high school. Teena recently retired from a long career with the JCC. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

I enjoyed listening to their stories of former classmates and old haunts. There were names I recognized and places I'd been to. There were pictures from sweet sixteens, proms and weddings. While physical changes were apparent these were still "the girls" of the 60's.

On Sunday many of the Vakitass gathered at Magiano's in Old Orchard to catch up. Sadly I was on a plane back to Alabama so I can't give you any first hand news. Any Vakitass out there with news to share please send it in.

Reunion weekend continued on Friday with a trip into the city. Lynne and I were off to a Bateman reunion. We drove around our old neighborhood. The streets seem narrower; the front yards smaller, the houses closer together. Our two flat looked so small, as did the alley where I learned to ride a bicycle. Growing up I could go anywhere as long as I didn't cross a street. That meant I could go around the block, which was a long way for a 7 year old. I remember coming home for lunch everyday. We had 2 recesses everyday. We did the President's Physical Fitness Test every year. Our favorite thing to do was stop at the school store for candy. The drive around the neighborhood stirred up many memories.

Arriving at Bateman was surreal. How is it possible we were here over 50 years ago? What a journey. We met the principal and several teachers. We were treated like royalty. There were numerous requests for "the visitors" to come to individual classrooms. We got to interact with the students in the classrooms. The rooms seemed smaller. The auditorium was missing its wooden chairs and wooden floor. The students in the band provided us with entertainment as did the 3rd grade tonettes. We had a lovely lunch and a great visit with each other.

John Wotring (Lane Jan 64), who organized the Bateman reunion, writes of our hope that the present students will someday give back to Bateman as we have done. At the end of our visit \$460 was collected and donated back to Bateman. \$230 was given to the music teacher, Ms. Jazo. She will be purchasing more flutes for the band. \$230 was given to the librarian, Ms. Lorenz. She will now be able to invite 2 authors to speak to the students about the importance of reading. We want to give special thanks to **Britt Kalter** for helping to coordinate alumni activities at Bateman. If you would like to donate to Bateman you can contact me or John at: johnnywol@aol.com .

Linda Peterson Stahlhut (RHS 65) drove down from Wisconsin to reconnect with old friends and visit Bateman. She has fond memories of the WPA murals and wood carvings, wooden floors, large hallways and the coat room black boards that went up and down. The best part for her was talking to some of the teachers and some of the students. She had a great time visiting with old friends: **Flora Schwartz Chamberlain** (RHS June 65), **David Kravitz** (RHS June 65) **Betty Reich Rouse** (RHS Jan 66), **Bob Roombus** (Lane June 65), **Jackie Weisman Siegel** (RHS June 65), **Dennis Schnell** (RHS June 65), and **Wayne “Billy” Williams** (June 65). Linda has been teaching preschool for over 30 years. She has 2 wonderful grown up daughters and 2 great sons-in-law. Linda and I used to play with our Ginny dolls at her house and in the backyard. Those were fun times.

Michael Wortman (Bateman 61) wants to thank everyone for putting the reunion together. He had a great time seeing Bateman and old friends after such a long time. He was just sorry there wasn't more time to catch up on the past 50 years. Yes, Michael, there are pictures which will be sent out shortly. He is not sure about a 55th reunion but he has already penciled in the 100th.

Jackie Weisman Siegel (RHS June 65) remembers how lucky we were to be able to play outside till dusk. We were lucky life was somewhat simpler. We got a solid education. She really appreciates where and when she grew up. She often thinks of the many events that changed the world. Some of the alumni remembered Ms. Guiss who pulled our ears and put us behind the chalk sliding doors in the coat room. Jackie enjoyed looking in the original classrooms and seeing the old neighborhood.

The Bateman reunion brought together alumni from 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963. Thank you all for coming and sharing memories and good times.

Bateman 1959: **Rachel Joseph Kirshner, Carol Freedman Karol, Etta Meitach Greenfield, Charlene Marcus, Betty Kahan Grossman and Ed Forkos**

Bateman 1960: **John Wotring, Nancy Thullin Curtis, Phyllis Feldman Marinstein, Lynne Rosenthal Ohren, Jill Thomson Blodgett, Michael Wortman, Marc Newman, Alan Perlman, Esther Schiffman Gordon, Diane Marie Krebs Goubeaux, and Gary Rebbe**

Bateman 1961: **Marla Cohen Turofsky, Nancy Soderburg Jenkins, Jacqueline Weisman Siegel, Robert Roombus, Dennis Schnell, Linda Peterson Stahlhut, Wayne (Billy) Williams and Flora Schwartz Chamberlain.** We were very sorry **Bob Vieau** (Lane June 65) and **Phyllis Gerber** (RHS June 65) were unable to attend.

Bateman 1962: **Betty Reich Rouse and David Kravitz**

Bateman 1963: **Walter Miller, Joanne Baur Edwards, Sharon Woodrourg Ballard, Jesse Romero, Rita Baer Wickum, Richard Vieau, Joyce Schmitt Tatum and Michael Pope.**

It's never too late to share. If anyone who went to the Bateman reunion has any memories and/or photos to share please send them to me.

Friday evening found Lynne and me at Myron and Phil's for a pre-reunion get together for the class of 1965. The soiree was hosted by **Rick Eisensteadt** (June 65) and **Sam Brilliant** (June 64). When we pulled up to the valet I noticed a little red Lexus with a license plate that could belong to **Fred Pollakov** (June 59). I wondered why he would be at the get together and then realized **Bill Pollakov** (June 65) probably borrowed his brother's car. (You need this tidbit for later.)

The room at the restaurant was filled with friendly and familiar faces. **Carol Oyen Pappas** (66) and **Judy Antesberger** (66) were enjoying the food and visiting with everyone. **Eugene Steingold** (65) stopped by as did **Arnie Mandell** (65) and **Don LeBoyer** (65). It was fun to see **Myra Steinman Wolf** (65) come in with **Sandy Ourach** (65). **Judy Costa Werner** (65) came in from Florida and **Andee Polakoff Baird** came in from California. I enjoyed meeting **Gloria LeBoyer, Pam Fainman and Sharon Handelsman**. The room had no shortage of doctors. There was **Dr. Norm Kanter** (65) from New York, **Dr. Rick Eisensteadt** (65) from Pennsylvania, **Dr. Al Kodish** (65) from the south side of Chicago, **Dr. Neal Dickler** (65) from California and **Dr. Randi Zoot** (65) from Chicago. Happily we didn't need their services. Randi gets together often with **Gail Lieder Larsen** (65) and **Ferne Abrams Pacillo** (65). It was great that we got to visit with them. **Ellen Passman** (65) and **Linda** (who wants to be known as: deer in the headlights) **Black** (65), came from opposite coasts to join the party. It was nice to see **Sheldon Gershon** (65), **Chuck Zis** (65), **Bob Handelsman** (65), and **Harvey Jass** (65). **Phil Immergluck** (66) and I had a nice visit and exchanged fond memories of our mutual friend **Terry Oberman** (65). **Al Rosenfeld** (65) shared his new job activities with everyone. I can't forget to mention **Bill Pollakov** (65). I shared most of my "out of the class time" with him senior year. I didn't get nearly enough time to visit with everyone but enjoyed the time we had.

Now back to the red Lexus. I walked out to the patio with **Mike and Pam Fainman**. The valet asked Mike what kind of car he had. Pam told him to just bring them the most expensive car in the lot. I immediately jumped in and said they must want the little red Lexus, license number XXXXXXXXXX. I proceeded to sit on the patio when suddenly Mike called to me to tell me the valet was looking for me. They had their car and the valet handed me the keys to the little red Lexus....oops! The story could have had many turns but I explained to the valet what happened and he took the car back. He did ask me to tell the owner that he had thrown the ticket away. I went back inside and told Bill what happened. I used to mess with Fred years ago and here I was still doing it. Some things never change, sorry Fred.

Photos from Myron and Phil's will be sent out soon. If you have any photos from that evening please share them by sending them to me.

The main event took place Saturday evening at Roosevelt High School. There were over 200 people in attendance. We had the chance to walk the halls, see the auditorium and pool, and remember good times. Being on the committee gave me a chance to welcome people but not a lot of time to visit. It was nice to meet all the people who receive Snippets. I think the next time I should just be a guest! The food was good, but the memory of oatmeal burgers, butter cookies and the greasiest glazed donuts ever, lingered in my mind. Being in the cafeteria and looking up at 206 brought back memories of Mr. Spies and division. He let me be his aide during my study periods, which in fact, gave me 3 lunch periods senior year.

I spent the evening visiting with my former classmates. It was better than being in high school again. We were older, kinder, more accomplished and humble. We knew we'd made it and we had nothing to prove. No one was judging. Everyone was just so happy to be with old friends and remember good times.

There were several surprise guests at the reunion. **Jeanne Goodman** 97 June 1931, attended with her family. What a pleasant and vital women. She remarked that things had changed. She was glad to be able to be able to walk the halls once again. She had a great time dancing with her son-in-law. We also enjoyed chatting with **Florence Rothenberg** 96 January 1932. She was very pleased with all the good things that are happening at Roosevelt.

In the next few days you will receive photos I took of the class of 1965 and some from 1966. I saw lots of cameras so I hope some of you will send me your photos so I can share them.

Carol Oyen Pappas (66) had a great time at the reunion and is looking forward to seeing people again.

Howie and Martha Singer (64) had a previous engagement but were gld they could stop by for a short visit. Howie is hoping to get in touch with **Phil Immergluck** and **Rick Eisenstadt**. He wished more people would have shown up.

Merle Meyerson Tokarsky (June 59) enjoyed herself at the reunion and was sorry more alumni from the 50's didn't attend. She said the food was good and the band was very enjoyable. We're glad you were able to make the trip Merle.

Bob Handelsman (65) enjoyed himself at the reunion and says to the committee, "Mahzel tov and thank you for a job well done." It was so great to see you Bob

Dennis Schnell (65), one of my good old online buddies and still very tall, had a great time at the reunion. He was sorry more of his buddies weren't there. He got a kick out of seeing everyone again and hearing what they have been doing these last 45 years. He said **David Kravitz** is still a great guy and very humble. **Jackie Weisman Siegel** is a sweet lady and always was that way. He enjoyed telling **Harvey Jass** that he looked almost like he did in high school! It's always great catching up with Dennis. He brought his cousin **Ron Schnell** (64) who also had a good time.

Candy Paschelke Coffey (June 67) attended the reunion with her family and said everyone had a great time. She enjoyed reconnecting with some old friends and visiting with others she sees more often. She keeps in touch with **Judy Antesberger** (66), **Carol Oyen Pappas**, **Susan Stern**, **Joanne Bauer Edwards** (67), **Sharon Woodrout Ballard** (67), and **Joyce Tatum Schmidt** (67). She was sorry to hear of **Jim Earle's** passing. Cathy would love to hear from **Kathy Post** (66), **Jeanne Bruchman** (66), **Candy Geiger** (66), and **Jeannette Pozdol** (66). Yes Cathy, there will be another all school reunion in Las Vegas in October, 2012. See you there.

Andee Polakoff Baird (65) was glad she flew in to catch up with old friends and reconnect. She had a lot of fun. Every time I saw her she was smiling.

Cindie Shumway Waters was unable to come to the reunion but she was glad to hear that everyone had fun. She let us know that **Kathy Post** married **Jim Hargrove** a while back. **Jeannette Pozdol** was once married to **Ed White**. Cindie is looking forward to the next Las Vegas reunion, which will happen in October 2012. We are looking forward to seeing you then!

Anne and Marc Klowden (66) were so glad they flew in from Idaho for the reunion. Marc was able to reconnect with **Jack Schwartz** (66), his best friend from Haugan Elementary School. Can you believe they hadn't seen each other in 40 years or so? The highlight for Anne and Marc was walking through the empty school and peeking into the classrooms. The familiar chlorine smell of the pool and standing in the gym reminded them of all the happy moments they spent at RHS together. They had a wonderful evening filled with good friends and good memories.

Judy Costa Werner (65) had a great time at the reunion. She took some photos which I hope she will share with us soon. She thought we had a great showing for our class and is glad folks feel connected.

Norm Kanter (65) thought the reunion was fabulous. He had high expectations and it far exceeded those expectations. Friday night at Myron and Phil's was like a hug fest. Prior to the Saturday event Norm got together with **Al Rosenfeld (65)** and **Elliot Solomon (65)**. They talked like they had just seen each other last week. Norm is excited to resume friendships from high school and grammar school. He truly enjoyed reconnecting with everyone from the class of 65. He also had a nice visit with **Anne Weitzman Klowden** and **Marc Klowden (66)** and **George Pfeiffer (64)**. When he drove through Albany Park and past his old house, he could feel the nostalgia. He felt no pretenses when he spoke to people at the reunion. There was no boasting or bragging, just genuine interest in everyone's life journey. We all remembered "where we came from." When you talked with Norm you could feel the excitement and pleasure he felt at this reconnection event. He will always be a true gentleman and someone I am proud to call my friend.

The best last minute guests were **Steve Tadelman (65)** and his wife. We are all so glad Steve was able to join us for the evening.

Rick Eisenstadt (65) had a terrific weekend and is looking forward to an even better turnout for the 50th reunion. It was great seeing Rick even without his tennis racket.

Ferne Abrams Pacillo (65) had a super weekend. She felt the years melt away as she reconnected with old friends. Ferne and **Mike Fainman (65)** spent a good deal of the evening listening to **Billy Pollakov (65)** explain **Tony Mackin's (65)** sudden interest in Kn "ee" siology. Tony has always been hip. We missed seeing Tony at the reunion and hope he is soon on the mend.

"**Jacky Fischer Wolf (June 66)** and **Lewis Schwartz (June 67)** were working on a joke to include in this issue of Snippets. However, they could not agree on the subject, punch line or delivery, so they postponed the project until the next reunion."

Art Hoffman (64) spent reunion evening visiting, taking photos, and videoing the alumni. We email each other often and it was a shame we didn't get to visit. Seriously next time I think I will be just a guest. If you haven't seen the video simply go to YouTube and search for Roosevelt High School Reunion October 9, 2010. You can also email Art Hoffman at harturo312@bellsouth.net and he will be happy to email you a direct link. By the way, for extra credit, can you figure out the basis for the number in Art's email address?

Carol Brownstein (66) enjoyed speaking to former classmates and was disappointed more people from 1966 didn't come. She didn't remember doubling with **Susie Lipkin Rosenfeld** for their junior prom in 1965, but enjoyed the memory. She learned that **Joe Kail** had been a teacher at Roosevelt for many years. The best part of the evening was visiting with **Eddie Benn**. They had been good friends years ago. Carol would like any information available on **Bobby Swedy**. It was great to finally meet you Carol. I am glad you had a good evening.

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We were sorry **Norm Gassman** (65) was unable to join us. We all wish him a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

We also missed seeing **Phyllis Gerber** (65) and **Harvey Braus** (65) who had to cancel at the last minute. Hope you are both well.

Here is a recap of the guys who attended from the class of 1965:

Steve Tadelman, Marty Katz, Barry Feder, Mike Fainman, Bob Handelsman, Ben Brener, Dennis Schnell, Chuck Zis, Rick Eisensteadt, Bill Pollakov, Neal Dickler, David Kravitz, Norm Kanter, Alan Rosenfeld and Sheldon Gershon.

The girls from 1965 included:

Andee Polakoff Baird, Ellen Passman, Linda Black, Judy Costa Werner, Ferne Abrams Pacillo, Gail Lieder Larsen, Randi Zoot, Carla Century Pacella, Jackie Weisman Siegel, Kathy Hickey Janulius and me of course.

Please continue sending your news to share for the next Snippets. You can always include reunion memories. Feel free to share Snippets and my email address with anyone who is interested. I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2011 filled with wonderful memories. Thank you to everyone for your kind words during my recent challenges. Take care and keep smiling. Flora Schwartz Chamberlain RHS June 65