Marjorie “Marjie” Benjamin Peterson

Still Me

Oh no! A written assignment with a due date! Just as in college, I am writing this paper at the last minute, and just as it was fifty-plus years ago, I am waiting for an inspiration or a muse to amuse me. Some things about me have changed however: I am older (and wiser?) with more pounds, fewer inches (in height), and thinner hair. My loss of hearing has meant a loss of confidence and bad knees mean less tennis. As I have written in past reunion bios, I am still retired from teaching, still married, still have two homes, still travel, and still enjoy reading, gardening, kayaking, skiing, hiking, birding, and learning. I am still very happy. I am still me.

All that is true, but what does the future hold for me? Any changes? I intend to continue with my many interests but with an emphasis on more active participation in art through sketching and painting and in music by more piano playing and perhaps learning a new instrument. I want to do more volunteer work with hospice, animal shelters, and libraries in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Most importantly, I want to continue learning: My definition of death is when learning stops. My “Bucket List” is continually in flux; growing with new exposures and new inspirations, or shrinking as some wishes are met or dashed by physical or fiscal constraints.

A friend suggested that by writing your own obituary and by planning your own funeral, you can come up with a fairly good autobiography. I decided that I have no interest in a newspaper obituary or a funeral eulogy. My good friends already know all about me—my life, my family, my accomplishments, my accolades, as well as my many foibles. For my funeral, I would like a picnic potluck and a sing-along of my favorite hymns. Among those hymns I must include “Morning Has Broken,” “This is My Song” (Finlandia), “My Life Flows On”, “This is My Father’s World,” “How Great Thou Art,” and many more to create a true Welsh song fest, a Cymnafa Ganu. I’d like that, but not for many, many years, please.

I am looking forward to our reunion, to seeing and sharing with classmates. See you in June!

Cheerio! Marjorie (Marjie)

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