

To go or not to go to the class reunion...that is the question

It was a simple text from my brother. A first and last name with a phone number. The request was also simple. One of my high school classmates had reached out to my brother wanting to get in touch with me. He had given my brother the name and phone number of another classmate who apparently is organizing a class reunion. The 1982 high school class reunion.

I had not given any thought to the fact that in 2022, I will have been out of high school for 40 years.

It does not seem possible. I just could not be that old, could I?

I replied OK to my brother's text, not knowing what else to say or do. It honestly left me a bit paralyzed. My immediate thought then was I could just text the person asking what details had been



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



made to date and give him my mailing address.

But then he would have my cell phone number and I have kept that piece of communication fairly guarded. However, if I chose to use our landline telephone then I would have to talk to him, because texting is not an option on a land line.

And then other thoughts flooded my brain. How awkward I was in high

school. How one year, myself and three other girls decided to wear matching outfits and call ourselves something – I cannot even remember what it was, but we were labeled as a gang.

There was also the peer pressure that I needed to have a boyfriend in high school. I recall deciding this one particular guy who was a year older than me would do just fine. We dated for most of my high school years, and he even gave me his class ring.

But, because he was Catholic and I was Lutheran, I kept our relationship a secret from my parents. I remember his mom was never too fond of us dating either. That relationship ended when he graduated and went off to college, I learned years later he had married and started a family as soon as he finished college. I myself was years away yet

from finding Larry and settling down.

Then there was the five-year class reunion that I decided to go to. I was still in Lincoln, Nebraska at the time, so it was easy to go to. Unfortunately, it seemed as if we were still in high school. Everyone was just as caddy and clickish, and I remember vowing to never, ever go back to another class reunion.

I remember my best friend from high school already had two daughters and her husband at the time already had a wandering eye – they divorced a few years after I got married.

There were others who were married by our fifth reunion and others who seemed to still need to be the center of attention, while I was just finishing up my last year of college. (It took me some extra time to figure out just

what my life path should be going from business to fashion design to journalism).

So, as I continue to think about what I am going to do with the text my brother sent with the phone number of the fellow classmate of mine, I try to remember a lot has happened since I graduated from high school.

I am no longer that shy, backward girl who let others persuade me and who went along with the crowd. I also for the most part no longer am concerned about what others think about me.

I remember my parents always going to their class reunions. But then they both graduated from little towns in Nebraska, less than an hour from where they currently live. They have also kept in touch with some of their classmates, while I have not connected with any of

mine in the past several years.

My husband Larry also has not been back to any of his class reunions. He used to say when someone talked about their class reunion that he has kept in touch with those he wants to still see or be around.

For me, it will probably come down to what time of the year the reunion is as to whether or not I will attend. Since Larry's busy season at the golf course is the summer months, that would not be ideal for him to accompany me. And, ideally, I would like Larry to go with me if I were to attend.

So, for now, I think I will just think about it, since this is 2021 and my 40-year reunion will not be until 2022. Who knows maybe in a month or two, I will reach out and find out just what is being planned?

Local schedule

June 3-10

Thursday, June 3

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, 926 South Washington Street, Marion. Hollis Chatelain: A Retrospective Quilt Journey. Through her work that addresses challenging social and environmental themes, Hollis reflects 12 years' experience living in West Africa and working with humanitarian organizations, as well as 35 years' experience as a professional artist. Admission \$4, \$3 for seniors and students, \$1 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6 years of age. Exhibit open Tuesday – Saturday.

1 p.m. – Converse Harness Racing, Converse Fairgrounds, 602 North Jefferson Street, Converse. Exciting live harness racing at the Converse Fairgrounds.

Friday, June 4

ALL DAY – Swayzee Town Rummage, This annual town rummage has lots of great find. Entire community filled with bargains.

ALL DAY – Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet, Gas City "Beaner Linn" Park, 718 South Broadway Street, Gas City. Join us at the Gas City Park for this two day swap meet. All kinds of parts and unique finds for your vintage ride.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, see June 3.

5 p.m. – First Fridays Gas City, Hutchins Commons Pavilion, 211 East Main Street, Gas City. Bring the family to Gas City and enjoy fun activities, browse some amazing local vendors, and have a great family night out. Games, music, and terrific food. We'll see you at Hutchins Commons by City Hall along Main Street.

5 p.m. – First Fridays Marion, Downtown Marion, 101 East Fourth Street, Marion. Join us in downtown Marion for an evening of great food and good times.

7:30 p.m. – Gas City I-69 Speedway Monkey Wrench Mania, Gas City I-69 Speedway, 5871 East 500 South, Gas City. Non-

Wing Sprint Cars, Modifieds, Street stocks, horns, USAC Speed2 Midwest Thunder Midgets. Adult General Admission \$15, Children 12 & Under Free, Pit Pass \$30. Special event night prices range from \$18-\$25 for adult general admission. Pit Gates open 3pm, GA Gates open 5pm, Hot Laps 6:30pm, Time Trials 6:45pm, Racing Starts 7:30pm. Tickets available at the speedway ticket office the day of the event. Concessions available. Free parking. Check our website, social media or call the track for current weather-related updates.

7:30 p.m. – Doublewide, Texas, James Dean Memorial Theatre, 509 South Washington Street, Marion. Presented by Marion Civic Theatre's Studio Series, this hilarious fast-paced comedy features the inhabitants of one of the smallest trailer parks in Texas – four doublewides and a shed. They are thrown for a loop when they realize the nearby town of Tugaloo is determined to annex them. Can they work together to defeat

'the big guys'? Sundays 2pm matinee only. Plays: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students. Musicals \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students. Studio Series \$10, Children's Theatre \$8. Tickets available online.

7:30 p.m. – Hoosier Shakespeare Festival presents "Richard III" and "The Tempest," Third Street Courtyard, 119 East Third Street, Marion. The Hoosier Shakespeare Festival is proud to present Richard III and The Tempest at Marion's 3rd Street Courtyard. Tickets are free, but pre-registration is required. There will be an opportunity to register at the venue, but pre-registration is preferred. Social distancing and masks are requested. June 4 Richard III, June 5 The Tempest, June 6 Richard III.

Saturday, June 5

ALL DAY – Swayzee Town Rummage, see June 4.

ALL DAY – Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet, see June 4.

8 a.m. – Main Street Gas City Farmer's Market,

Hutchins Commons Pavilion, 211 East Main Street, Gas City. Join us at the Hutchins Commons on Main Street in Gas City for this farmer's market. Rain or Shine event. Buy fresh produce and create healthy, delicious food for your family to enjoy. Plants, flowers, baked goods, honey, syrups, jams, jellies.

8:30 a.m. – Kids' Fishing Derby, Salamonie Reservoir, 9214 West Lost Bridge West, Andrews. Fishing derby for children age 2-14. Emphasis on fishing from the bank, fishing for family fun, nature ethics, catch & release. Registration required. 8:30am registration and rules, 9am-10:30am Kids Fishing Derby, 10:30am-1am Adult Fishing Contest, 11am Awards. Age categories: 2-5 yrs. old, 6-10 yrs. old, 11-14 yrs. old and their adult companions. Free fishing weekend for Indiana residents. Call 260-468-2127 to register or for information.

8:30 a.m. – Kids' Fishing Derby, Mississinewa Reservoir, 4673 South 625 East, Peru. Join us at

Mississinewa Lake and bring the kids for this fun day of fishing. Registration required. 8:30am registration and rules, 9am-10:30am Kids Fishing Derby, 10:30am-11am Adult Fishing Contest, 11am Awards. Age categories: 2-5 yrs. old, 6-10 yrs. old, 11-14 yrs. old and their adult companions. Free fishing weekend for Indiana residents. Call 260-468-2127 for information or to register.

9 a.m. – Farmers Market – Marion. Courthouse Square, 100 East Third Street, Marion. You'll find the freshest fruits and vegetables at our market. Brown eggs, jams and baked goods available. Food, local honey, arts and crafts each week. See you on the square in downtown Marion.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, see June 3.

11 a.m. – Firecracker Saturday Market, Hutchins Commons Pavilion, 211 East Main Street, Gas City. Enjoy the day at this large craft show in the heart of Gas City. All vendor fees donated to Gas City's July 4th Fire-