

Riders Return!

*Theodore Roosevelt High School Class of 1971
Reunion Newsletter*

December 2020



Note: Given the Covid-19 pandemic, we realize that many people's plans will depend on whether a vaccine is available, group events are permitted and the pandemic has abated. The following information is based on the hope that those things will have occurred by next August. If, on the other hand the pandemic continues, the reunion will likely be postponed or held in some other fashion.

A Full Weekend

Our 50th reunion will be held on Friday, August 13 and Saturday, August 14, 2021 in Des Moines with a full slate of activities, but also plenty of time to catch up with one another. The Reunion will include casual get-togethers both evenings and activities on Friday and Saturday, ranging from a tour of TRHS to a bike ride and a picnic lunch. Here's a tentative lineup; you can join any or all of them, and plans continue to develop.

Friday, August 13

- Golf outing in afternoon
- Welcome Classmates dinner and party at Waveland Golf Course Clubhouse
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Saturday, August 14

- Morning tour of TRHS
- Picnic lunch with food trucks
- Afternoon bike ride
- Dinner and party at Forté Banquet & Conference Center in downtown Des Moines.

Details on all the events will follow. So mark the dates in your calendar, make sure your contact information is up to date so we can keep you informed, and get ready to see your classmates again.

Room at the Inn?

A heads-up: If you're planning to stay in a hotel, Airbnb, etc. when you come to Reunion, be aware that's also when the Iowa State Fair will be on. So you probably will want to make your reservations well in advance. Des Moines now has many options, including a number of hotels located close to where the Saturday night party will be held in downtown Des Moines, some bed and breakfasts located in historic houses on the west side, and many hotel/motels in the west suburbs. The downtown area has undergone a significant renaissance since our time, with a farmer's market on Saturday mornings, a trendy area of shops, restaurants, etc. on the east side of the river and a lovely botanical center and garden. But you can still scoop the Loop on Saturday night – some things never change!

I'll Be At Reunion – Voices from Our Class

By Gard Davis

Thinking back fifty years, my memories of our time at Roosevelt are still sharp and full. A lot happened to us – and to the world – in those three years, and I still feel the impact of those years we spent together.

Nothing has affected me more than the lifelong friendships that I developed during our time at Roosevelt. I got to know so many people and have kept in touch with a number of them over the years, as you probably have, too. And it amazes me how seeing each other again, even after many years, brings us right back to conversations begun in the cafeteria in 1970.

I've really enjoyed helping with the committee planning our reunion, which has meant getting together regularly with classmates and reliving old times. And I'm really looking forward to seeing and talking with you all at the reunion. There are many I haven't seen since we walked down the aisle together at Veterans Auditorium. While I undoubtedly look somewhat different than I did then, I'm sure many of you haven't changed a bit!

Please reserve August 13-14, 2021 so you can help celebrate our 50th. In the meantime, check out the Reunion website, help us find our missing classmates and send in a story of your memories of Roosevelt. Can't wait to see you!

--- Gard

Favorite Lunchtime Food/Place to Eat?

What was your favorite place to eat lunch at Roosevelt and/or what was your favorite food? Tell us in a few sentences if you still have a hankering for the lunchroom beefburgers, or even where you skipped out to have lunch off-campus. Send your answer to newsletter editor Al Cabbage at a-cabbage@northwestern.edu. We'll include a selection in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Class Gift Planned

In honor of our reunion, we plan to make a class gift to the Roosevelt Foundation, which supports physical improvements at TRHS and scholarships for Roosevelt graduates to go to college or otherwise further their education. Details on how to make a contribution to the class gift will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

What Were They Thinking?

It's not just some of your clothing from 1971 that may now be a bit embarrassing to look back on. Here are a few other cringe-worthy things from our era: Most popular car of 1971, Chrysler New Yorker. Most popular TV show, *All in the Family*. Most popular movie, *Billy Jack*. Oh well, we can blame our parents for most of those. And at least President Richard Nixon's approval rating fell below 50 percent for the first time in 1971.

Keeping Informed

The best way to keep up-to-date on reunion is to check out our Reunion website and Facebook page, both of which are updated regularly. The class website URL is: <http://www.trhs1971.com>. Once you've joined the website, you can see reunion info as soon as it's posted, update your personal info and view classmates' info as well. Info about the reunion also will be posted on the Facebook page. The Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/211185149334>

Finding Classmates

Help us find classmates. If you're in touch with any classmates who haven't heard about reunion plans, please forward them this newsletter and/or send us their contact info so we can add them to mailing list. The list of those for whom we don't have contact info is on the web at: http://www.trhs1971.com/class_classmates_missing.cfm

Don't worry, there won't be any required reading for our reunion August 13-14, 2021.

Hope to see you there. Go Riders!

