



Class of 1974

Reunion 2007

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Classmates,

Our **Mighty Class of 1974** still rocks!! I am happy to report that our first-ever class reunion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the weekend of 20-22 July 2007 was very successful!! Thanks to each and every classmate who came and made it a weekend to remember.

From a personal viewpoint, I am still reeling in from the entire experience. From a class secretarial viewpoint, there is nothing I would change if I were to re-do the reunion! Unfortunately, we did lose a small coin purse and a credit card, but we did not lose any classmates in the hustle and bustle of downtown Philadelphia! Even the weather cooperated, and we had a beautiful sunny and no-humidity weekend!! I went to the reunion actually knowing only four classmates and anticipating what it would be like meeting the rest -- yes, the faces behind the emails!! It was wonderful!! We all - classmates and guests - got along so well, as though we had known each other forever.

From the schedule, you know that we had our Ice Breaker Party on Friday night. We had classmates and their guests arrive from Japan, England, California, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. It was an exciting night meeting classmates again or for the first time over an Italian buffet dinner and

cash bar in a decorated room. Classmates pulled out old yearbooks, old photos, and old Taj Times newsletters. We also remembered our fellow classmates who did not attend (with old photos and email messages you sent to us to read at the reunion) as well as our deceased (each received a red and white carnation). Because Mark Vollmer recently passed away, we signed a sympathy card for his family and mailed it from downtown Philadelphia. The card was from all of us in the Class of 1974. We took tons of individual photos and several group photos, including pulling an unknown hotel guest aside and asking him to take photos of all of us together!

Saturday morning many (but not all) of our classmates and guests met for breakfast at 8 am and then went on the RIDE THE DUCKS tour together. That was an "aquatic bus" tour -- 45-minutes bus ride throughout the Historic District and then a 30-minute boat ride on the Delaware River. After the tour, we split up and went sightseeing on our own. Some of the tours classmates went to were the King Tut Exhibit, Mutter (Medical) Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the Betsy Ross House. Many of us walked around the Historic District several times to soak in the wonderful city. Some also tried the famous Philly cheese steaks for lunch!

At 5 PM, Deb hosted a wine-n-cheese pre-dinner party in her room, which was the perfect start for our Indian mela.

At 6:30 PM, we all walked five blocks together to KARMA Restaurant and Bar for our Indian dinner. It was all-you-could-eat buffet! Eric kicked off our dinner with a toast to our Class of 1974 and also to acknowledge our class **'74 ENCORE!!!!** second anniversary. It was great fun drinking, eating, talking, laughing, singing, listening to music from the 70's, and being high school students again. We also sent email messages from laptop computers and made telephone calls to some classmates who were not at the reunion. Another highlight was autographing our class reunion banner. Again, throughout the night, many more photos were taken. Funny sight to see was our own "paparazzi!" Even the co-owner of the restaurant had such a good time with us that he was taking pictures, too! He was inspired afterwards (and on his own will) to write me a note last week! (See note and photo below)

We left the restaurant around 11 PM and returned to the hotel. Some of us met again in the bar area where we had more drinks and talked until 2 am when the bar closed! There were educational moments, too, in that we learned that night what "The Man Thing" is and scientifically what gin does to us! (still laughing out loud!)

Sunday morning we gathered between 8-8:30 in the bar area again for our So-Long, Farewell Brunch. I was wondering why you ALL just sat down and did not want to eat breakfast! I want to thank everyone - all the reunion attendees (classmates and their guests) - again for the thank-you presentation and gift. You caught me totally off guard, and my stuttering short speech afterwards only proves that a speech was something I had not even thought of or prepared for! But thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind gesture and thoughts. The Friendship Orb sits nicely on my living room shelf for everyone to see. Turns out we were all really hungry and after the presentation made bee lines to the breakfast bar!

Sadly, everyone was gone by noon. I left the reunion having made more lifetime friends and lots more wonderful classmate memories to hold onto. It will be very hard for me now to wait until our school-wide reunion in 2010 to see you again. Having said that, don't think you have heard the last of me now that our class reunion is over! We will work together again towards our next major class project. (Any ideas??)

Thank you again for making our first-ever class reunion special and successful. We are the Mighty Class of 1974!!!! 🏫

(Please scroll down for reunion photos!!)

Saturday night, 21 July 2007 - Dinner at Karma Restaurant and Bar
Class of 1974



left to right:

back row: Jonathan Wilder (brown shirt), Roni Nagaich, Chris Cool,
Lee Moore

center row: Eric Marquis (purple shirt), Alan Egler, Gail Deakin-
Teuscher, Charlotte Gallagher, Rekha Nimgade-Doraiswamy, Kathleen
Clair-Graeve (standing behind Rekha), Mitzi Miller-Rothman, Donna
Rumpeltin-Legan, Paul Stull

seated: Linda Finlay, Lynette Bushnell-Hone, Deb Heggie, Mary
Flanagan-Williamson

Friday night Ice-Breaker Party



Some of us at breakfast on Saturday morning before sightseeing



Ride the Ducks Tour



First...the bus ride through Historic District Philadelphia



Then the boat ride on the Delaware River



Another Saturday night dinner photo - Class of 1974



Our Class Reunion Banner



From Perdeep (co-owner of Karma Restaurant and Bar)



Hi Mary,

it was great to have had the chance to host your reunion. i can tell, by the personalities and energy i saw, that there must have been many joyous years spent together. i am very happy to hear that this reunion dinner will be added to your trail of happy memories.

i have looked for the coin purse, but have not found anything yet. if it does turn up, i will be sure to give you a call or send an email.

thank you very much for your business

respectfully,

Perdeep

Many, many, many more reunion photos to come!!! I took 210 photos, and many of the reunion attendees have sent me copies of their photos for our big reunion photo album that I am making.

Thank you for supporting our class and me...your class secretary!

Mary Williamson

Mary (Flanagan) Williamson
AIS Class of 1974 Secretary * AIS-New Delhi

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