Becoming a parent the second time around

By Liz Jackson Curren ’55

Once upon a time my husband and I parented three children through childhood into the adult world. Now in our “retirement years” I am experiencing the same demands in parenting my spouse. I know that there are many caregivers reading this newsletter and I want to share my perspective with you.

Five years ago my husband John was diagnosed with Dementia following several unusual financial decisions he made on our behalf. In addition, this man who had refurbished antique furniture for a hobby was unable to conceptualize any project he attempted. We sought explanations for these lapses and after two years of tests and finding a physician who understood geriatric issues, John was diagnosed with vascular dementia of an unknown origin or anticipated outcome.

Responses from friends and family have been mixed. While some have avoided interaction with John and me because they don’t know what to say and are afraid they might say something wrong, others are very accepting and attempt to include us in every conversation and activity. John is particularly happy when that happens even though he is unable to respond appropriately.

I have discovered that “Dementia” is a condition that’s in the mental illness category to a lot of people. I see it differently. In my mind dementia is a form of cancer. Although John will not die from his condition, he is slowly leaving us and retreating into his own world. Nancy Reagan called it “the long goodbye.” Individuals and their families need the same ongoing support, concern and assistance as anyone experiencing a chronic illness. Don’t be afraid to offer it.

With that said, let me tell you about “reverse parenting.” I try to explain a skill or behavior to John and hope he will understand and be able to remember the conversation in the future. I worry about leaving him for any length of time knowing that he will not eat well and might not sleep normal hours. John is not accepting of outside help, but has accepted our kids coming to assist if I go on a trip. He volunteers at a recycle center in our community that gives him a great deal of exercise and pride; it also gives us both a break from each other.

We travel in an RV so John has the same bed every night and he knows where his things are. Care giving is a repetition of praising successes, ignoring mistakes, and realizing that you can never win an argument. A good sense of humor is a must.

My new parenting skills include repetition, making lists, removing things that confuse, and marking cupboards and drawers to maintain independence. With the losses has come closeness that leads to a lot of hugs, teasing and giggling. We are blessed with close supportive family, friends and a community that supports aging better than any I know of in the US. Life is good and our sense of humor in intact.

A Banner Day for MAEF

Tuesday, July 15 was a banner day for the Marshall Access and Education Fund. Harvey Johnson and Ruth Stone Stewart were honored at a luncheon sponsored by Disability Services at the University of Minnesota. The two graduates of the Marshall High School Class of 1939 were honored for their (Continued on Page 4)
By Victor L Yu MD
Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

It was the winter of 1954. I was a 6th grader playing on an East Minneapolis Recreation Association (EMRA) basketball team. We were playing in the Marshall High School gymnasium one evening, after all of the varsity high school players had hit the showers. A rugged-looking man with a 5 o’clock shadow appeared and watched intently for a few minutes, remarking to the program director that one of my teammates, Russ Lindemann, the best player from the Marcy School, looked “pretty active.” Then he disappeared into his office. That was the first time I saw Don Sovell, coach of the Marshall High School basketball team.

A year later when I was playing on the seventh and eighth grade basketball teams, Sovell oversaw the drills and demonstrated some fundamental points. I remember one drill as clearly as if it happened today. Sovell was playing as the center and the guards would cut on either side of him. As he pivoted around with the ball in his hand, he squeezed his thumbs and forefingers of both hands. The ball popped up and he pivoted toward the basket leaving the ball hanging in the air for the cut-off guard to take it into the basket, a clever maneuver. “We have been trying to teach our centers that move,” Sovell commented. Magical. I was enthralled by his assertiveness, confidence, keen eye and running commentary. He was lecturing to both players and the junior high coaches the errors and improvements that should be made.

What was striking was that unlike most coaches, Sovell was an active participant. He executed every move with consummate skill. When he demonstrated the jump shot, he would hit the jump shot from the circle. When he demonstrated the free throw, he would make the free throw. And when he demonstrated rebounding, he blocked out the opposing player who was taller than he. He was the best pure basketball player that I had ever seen, and he would be our coach.

Sovell was a brute of a man, exuding masculinity, and he was tough. Even, though he was only about 6 ft., when he was guarding Don Cooper, a 6 ft. 4 in. center in a student/faculty game in which Sovell utterly dominated, he stationed his body behind Cooper and with the strength of his legs, he was almost immovable. He was not above elbowing anyone if he was competing for a rebound. He was tenacious even in practices and he was as intimidating as any defensive player I have ever seen. He was in superb physical condition and he kept up with the players. He played one-on-one regularly with the best players on the team as part of their development and he himself played on an adult team league.

When I graduated from the sophomore squad to the varsity team which Sovell coached, I found that the practices were better organized. Previously, on the sophomore squad, most of us sat on the sidelines and watched the first team practice and we were bored silly. But on the varsity squad, the players were moving all of the time. Sovell was constantly looking over to the bench (where I was), pointing out errors and good plays.

Even his pre-game warm up drills were unique. Typically during warm ups, teams would hap (Continued on Page 3)
hazardly shoot from a distance, rarely venturing for a layup because balls would be ricocheting in all directions. However, in Marshall pre-game warm ups, a two-ball drill was used in which players were making staggered layups, one right after the other followed by jump shots from the circle. Each player was involved in passing, dribbling, setting up. Our warm ups had the feel of a game. All of us were in action simultaneously, passing and shooting twice as much as the players from the opposing team.

Sovell was the first inspirational coach I encountered. He told us stories about persistence and desire and his personal experiences on winning teams. It was always riveting. If we were lackadaisical or distracted, he could become furious. The thing that angered him the most was lack of effort and he was a scary guy when he got mad. He left a huge dent in one of the gymnasium lockers after a half time in which we were trailing badly; I was amazed that his knuckles hadn’t shattered.

What were the results? We had the smallest enrollment of all city high schools. As Norm Van Brocklin said of his first Minnesota Vikings team, “we’re small, but we’re slow”. Once, after looking down at Rance Howe, Jimmy Sharp, and me, he pronounced us “the Marshall midgets.” But Sovell was there to ensure that his teams gave 100 percent. The Marshall High School basketball team hovered at about .500 for most of Sovell’s coaching years. But every year Marshall would pull off some major upsets despite the fact we played against taller and physically larger teams. When I was on the varsity squad, the two centers, Marvin Borgelt 6 ft. 1 in. in my junior year and John Larson 6 ft. 2 in. in my senior year were the tallest. Walt Chapman, our principal, told me that Sovell only had one big man during his coaching career at Marshall. However, with respect to defense, toughness, conditioning, we were pretty good.

In our senior year, in the first half of the season, we suffered agonizing losses to Edison (overtime) and West (1 point). But Sovell never gave up. In the second half of the season, we upset hated Washburn in overtime. Against Henry and North, we faced the two dominating giant centers of the City league that year, Mel Northway (6 ft. 7in.) and A. Ginsberg (6 ft. 5 in.). Sovell devised a clever shifting zone to neutralize these centers. We lost to North by 1 point, but beat Henry, the defending city champ!

After High School, I continued to play intramural basketball and in casual leagues and coached my son’s grade school teams. So, I saw many prominent coaches in action. Moreover, I followed the careers and read the biographies of Bobby Knight, Mike Kryzewski and John Wooden. It was like reading about Sovell - only without the championships that I thought he deserved.

It is now 2008. I left Minneapolis in 1970 and I visited only rarely after my parents moved to Taiwan. Beautiful Lake Calhoun isn’t as beautiful after I saw the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Cherry Cokes now seem too sweet. I learned I wasn’t so smart after my freshman year in college. So, impressions of my youth often seem quaint and naïve. In the winter of 1954, I thought Don Sovell was the best basketball coach ever. It’s been somewhat comforting to know that I got that one right. VLY

Harvey Johnson: MAEF’s “Energizer”

Everyone has seen the Energizer Bunny; it keeps going and going and going. The Marshall Access and Education Fund has Harvey Johnson; he keeps going and going also.

As you may remember, the MAEF scholarship fund for disabled students at the University of Minnesota was begun by Harvey Johnson and his Marshall classmates following their 50th reunion in 1989. Beginning with less than $300, the fund grew rapidly after the MAEF committee joined forces with Disability Services at the University of Minnesota in 2003. In June 2007 MAEF reached its initial goal of $25,000. At that point it was considered an endowed scholarship and it was matched with an additional $25,000 by the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Harvey Johnson was pleased with what had been accomplished, but he wasn’t ready to stop raising money for disabled students. Like the Energizer Bunny, Harvey keeps going and going. He has continued to seek ways to spread the word about the MAEF scholarship fund for disabled students. Harvey has written letters, been interviewed for articles, and appeared on T.V.
In 2009 Harvey Johnson and his classmates will celebrate the 70th anniversary of their graduation from Marshall High. The Marshall Access and Education Fund for disabled students is a tribute to their affection for Marshall, their concern for disabled students, and the values that they learned and nurtured over the years. TMD

Newsletter Adds a Pro

The Marshall newsletter has become more professional with the addition of Otto Lausten ‘55 to its staff. Otto worked for 18 years in the printing trades and then taught printing skills for 27 years at Hennepin Technical College. Otto is a great addition to the newsletter and has been very instrumental in helping it evolve into its new electronic/digital format.

Otto and Anne Lausten

Otto grew up in several locations beyond Southeast before arriving at Marshall as a seventh grader. “My mother was a restless person. We moved a lot,” he said.

At Marshall Otto took printing from Mr. Karl Patrick. He enjoyed printing so much that with his mother’s help he was able to persuade Miss Coltmann, the guidance counselor, to let him take printing for 5 ½ years. Otto also credits Mrs. Capstick’s eighth grade English class and Miss Chapman’s journalism class as being very important in his development as a printer and as a teacher.

Otto developed enduring friendships with many of his Marshall classmates, but none stronger than his friendships with Ron Andersen and Bob Lerfald. They even joined the army together. Over the years they have stuck together: fishing, hunting, golfing and working on class reunions.

Otto and his wife Anne have five children and ten grandchildren. At their home in New Hope, it doesn’t take a visitor very long to realize that they have created a family centered world through hard work and strong values.

The John Marshall High School Alumni Newsletter is lucky to have Otto on board. TMD

Motley Memories

(No pun intended)

Marjory Jelmeland Immer, ’39:

“How nice to see Motley remembered. I attended all K-6 grades there then went on to Pratt and then Marshall.

Among the ‘incidents’ that occurred there are: (1) when I broke my ankle jumping down from the top of the slide and being helped by two classmates to my home room (205) where Mrs. Howard (5th grade) noticed my swollen ankle and the limp. She drove me home. The next day my folks drove me to the hospital where I spent a week. My folks then spent weeks pulling me on my sled to school and back until I could walk there. (2) Another activity was the softball games in the ell of the school facing Erie St. when the heavy hitters would hit one over the fence onto Erie, and someone would have to run there to retrieve it. There wasn’t a lot of traffic those days, but we did have to watch out for the Oak-Harriet streetcar which ran along Erie and turned down Dartmouth. (3) In winter we would make great ice slides on the sidewalk down Dartmouth from Erie to Huron. They didn’t last more than a couple of days because the homeowners would throw ashes on the ice to prevent injury to anyone not inclined to indulge in that sport. We never seemed to make it home until around 6 on the days when sliding was good.”

Page 4
A number of elementary schools fed students into Marshall High School. St. Lawrence Parochial School was one of those schools and was located in our backyard. First, a brief history of the St. Lawrence Parish:

In November of 1887 the Church of St. Lawrence held its first Holy Mass in a new, very plain and simple wooden church-structure located at the corner of Seventh Street and Twelfth Avenue Southeast.

St. Lawrence was a mission church sponsored by the parish of St. Anthony of Padua which was located in St. Anthony on the east bank of the Mississippi across from Minneapolis at 12th Avenue and 7th Street Southeast. St. Anthony was the oldest Catholic congregation in the present Minneapolis, being built in 1840.

During the growth of the St. Lawrence Parish congregation the desire of a parochial school had been felt. Then in October of 1921 the corner-stone was laid for a new church and school at a site purchased on Fifth Street Southeast between Twelfth and Thirteenth Avenues.

Construction was completed and the building ready for use on February, 1922. The combination church-school building was two stories high and had masonry walls, concrete floor and a face brick exterior with stone trim. The school part of the building had two stories with eight classrooms, a principal’s office, a nurse’s office and a large social room and kitchen which served as a cafeteria and make-shift auditorium.

In September 1922 the school headed by Sister Francis was opened. “Three hundred of the sweetest, best-looking children in the world initiated the school at St. Lawrence Parish. There can be no doubt that the children of St. Lawrence, both grade and high school age are of the ideal type, the healthy, sensible young people that are the hope of our country and of the world.”

In 1951 construction of an addition to the school began; at that time the school had 343 students in eight grades staffed by nine Sisters and one lay teacher. Jan Hathaway Ott, STL 8th grade class of 1951, says “…It was a good school with very demanding teachers and rather strict … One always knew what the rules were and there was little room for negotiation…”

From 1960 to 1970 there was a continual decline in enrollment and the doors of St. Lawrence Parochial School closed on June 5, 1970.

One of the many highlights in the life of the school was the St. Lawrence Marching Band. The band was started in 1940 by Father Robert E. Burns to keep kids busy and out of trouble. At Christmas of 1940 the band had sixteen musicians; on St. Patrick’s Day in 1941 they had a fifty piece band, all in uniforms. Band members included, in addition to its elementary school students, graduated St. Lawrence students and non-school members. The band took national champion in 1949 at the Chicago Music Land Festival. In 1957, at the New York St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Minneapolis was crowned “Citadel of Parade Bands” due to the St. Lawrence Marching Band. In 1970 the band made 43 performances from April through December. Although the band no longer is active St. Lawrence holds reunions for past members.

Through the years St. Lawrence provided religious education to youth of all ages working closely

(Continued on Page 6)
Again an All Class Reunion of former Marshallites and friends will be held at the Riverside Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada, February 16-19, 2009. Laughlin is about 90 miles south of Las Vegas. It is accessible by Sun Country Airlines or can be reached by shuttle service from Las Vegas.

Please tell your classmates and friends about the All Class Reunion. Over 200 classmates, spouses and friends attended this reunion in 2006. Let’s raise the number of attendees in 2009 and set a new record.

For classes planning a reunion this year, have one of your planners contact a Laughlin Committee member so complete information can be provided to the class. Brochures and up-to-the-minute information will be made available for handing out at your reunion or mailing with your reunion announcements.

THE SCHEDULE:

Monday, Feb. 16  
**MIRROR ROOM**  
Hospitality room will be open for registration all day and evening.  
**Everyone please register upon arrival!**  
5:00 p.m.  **STARVIEW ROOM**  
Hors d’oeuveres and welcome party.  
Cash bar available.

Tuesday, Feb. 17  
**MIRROR ROOM**  
Hospitality room will be open all day and evening. A good place to meet and visit with friends, old and new. Coffee and cookies will be served.

**DOCKSIDE**  
One hour Scenic Cruise. Sign up for departure time. (2 choices)

Wednesday, Feb. 18  
**MIRROR ROOM**  
Open all day and evening

6:00 p.m.  **STARVIEW ROOM**  
Buffet Dinner, Music, Prizes

Thursday, Feb. 19  
**MIRROR ROOM**  
Open until noon

The rooms at the Riverside are reasonably priced at $39.00 per night. Hotel and transportation are your responsibility. After November 1, 2008, a combination package including airfare and room will be available. Please call the Riverside Tour and Travel Department at 888-733-5824. Mention the Marshall High Reunion, code number C/MHSRN.

The cost for this reunion is $70.00 per person, which includes the Hors d’oeuvre party, boat cruise and the buffet dinner. The Hospitality room is available every day and evening for coffee, cookies, and conversation (9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.)

CLIP AND MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW:

My reservation: ______________________________ MHS Class of_____  
Other school:_________________________________________________  

My guest: ___________________________________ MHS Class of_____  
Other school:_________________________________________________  

Reminder: Submit $70 for each person to—  
Sharon (Butler) Padula  
9950 Redwood street NW #221  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
763-755-4049  
slpadula@ymail.com  

Arddie (Swenson) Lilja  
3048-116th Avenue N.W.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
763-427-2736  

And any Janis  
‘52 (651) 780-4599 or rbmcfee@msn.com  

Shirley (Stemper) Rasmussen  
‘54 (763) 493-4562,  
Marion (Manning) Bartz  
‘65 (612) 789-0761.

My thanks to Rebekah, St. Lawrence Parish secretary for her help and patience.  

RKH

Former St. Lawrence Convent

Reunion coming up? Want to Contact Classmates?  

Maybe you have a personal story to tell?  

Send your articles, questions, or comments to the editors:  

Tom Daly—  
tmdaly@q.com  
or Bob Hayes—  
rkhdj@q.com

RKH

Deadlines for contributions or articles:  
August 1, 2008 — for the Sept. Issue  
April 1, 2009 — for the May Issue
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The class of 1953 will host an afternoon gathering at The Times Restaurant at East Hennepin and 2nd St. NE on Sept. 19th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Save the date. A postcard with details will be mailed. Call Bob Daly 763-473-6798 for additional information.

The class of 1958 has plans underway for their 50th Anniversary in Sept. 2008. This Gala Reunion Event includes dinner at the U’s Campus Club and site visits to Marshall High and Pratt Elementary schools. For registration information contact:

Dick Hughes: jmhs1958@msn.com or Larry Petersen: petersen651@comcast.net.

“We would love to see you next September”.

The class of 1959 has plans underway for their 50th Reunion on Saturday and Sunday, June 27th & 28th, 2009. The events will be held at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake, MN which is north on Hwy 65 to Bunker Lake Boulevard. Saturday event will be an afternoon mixer to visit with classmates. Lunch will be available at your own expense. Sunday activities include an afternoon mixer at 2:00 with hors d’oeuvres, 6:00 dinner and 8:00 program. We need addresses of classmates. For information contact:

Jean (Sachariason) Soderstrom risode@wisper-wireless.com, (320) 283-5816 or Patti (Patterson) Foster PLFoster7@CS.com, (651) 489-0335

Lets have a great turnout!!

An all-class reunion in Laughlin is being planned for February 16-18 of 2009 at the Riverside Hotel and Casino. Cost is $70.00 per person which includes a hors d’oeuvre party on Monday, scenic boat cruise on Tuesday and buffet dinner on Wednesday. Contact persons: Lyman Swenson ’54 (763) 441-1481, Sharon Butler Padula ’54 (763) 755-4049 and Ardie Swenson Lilja ’54 (763) 427-2736.

Page 6 of this newsletter includes a registration form.

REPORTS

Rosemary Casey ’48

After meeting Otto Lausten at Paul Corbett’s funeral, he suggested I let the Alumni News editors know about any classmates getting together so here goes:

On May 20th some of us gals from the class of June 1948 had a nice lunch. We met at Nye’s Polonasie on E. Henn. Ave. A long time favorite for many from JMH.

It was an occasion to celebrate our 78th birthday; all of us reaching that this year 2008. The group included:

Rosemary (Perry) Casey
Joan (Corbett) Hommes
Jean (Doughtery) Enge
Beverly (Peterson) MacHolda
Audrey (Larson) Murzyn

We all keep in touch & will be looking forward to our yearly reunion in September at JAX on University Ave. N.E. Will be looking forward to getting the newsletter on line from now on.

(rodancasey@embarqmail.com)

OBITUARIES

JOHN A. PATTERSON, ’57 on May 7, 2008 in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

ROBERT FORMICO ’62 on June 1, 2008.

Coach Don Sovell, in honor of Bob Formico, presented a check to MAEF. He writes “Bob was one of the best all around athletes to graduate from Marshall H.S. Bob’s work in life was to serve the men who fought in the wars of the 20th century at the Minnesota Veterans Hospital.”
MHS Graduate Biographies

A new, periodic feature of MHS Alumni News

VICTOR L. YU

Victor L. Yu, M.D. is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. He has accepted over 200 invited lectures and visiting professorships internationally. He is the editor of: www.antimicrobe.org, a state-of-the-art website for infectious diseases, and www legionella.org. He has mentored 50 students and fellows who are now active in research and academic positions throughout the world. He is listed in both Best Doctors in America (Woodward, White, Inc), and Top Doctors (Castle-Connell Inc).

After high school graduation, I enrolled at Carleton College. Mathematics seemed to be an ideal college major since it came easily to me in high school and was a lot of fun. The math department at Marshall High School was staffed by superb teachers notably Katherine Irvine, George Patton and George Keprios. Moreover, immigrant Chinese-American families were pushing their kids into the science professions because discrimination was minimal, and lack of English facility was not a barrier to success.

In college, it became painfully clear that mathematics and physics were not my forte. So, I switched to medicine after graduation because of the glamour and altruistic nature of the profession. After taking make-up courses in biology at the University of Minnesota, I was accepted into the Medical School. Medical school was tough but I had learned to persevere and concentrate simply because it required extraordinary dedication for me to survive college.

I met a beautiful and vivacious young woman in Taiwan when I took an infectious disease rotation at National Taiwan University as a medical student elective. I married her (Deborah Lin) in 1970 and we have two terrific kids: Chen, an MD who is a venture capitalist and Ting, who is Editor-in-Chief of the Teach for America Alumni Magazine.

My big break came when I was accepted into the Stanford University medical training program in internal medicine. Stanford had a beautiful campus and was a stimulating environment that emphasized research. I received only one job offer after training – the University of Pittsburgh. As an assistant professor, I stumbled onto a mysterious malady, Legionnaires’ disease. At a Philadelphia hotel in 1976, American Legionnaires had contracted a deadly pneumonia of unknown origin. After several years of observation (I personally saw 100 patients in my hospital who contracted Legionnaires’ disease), we made some shrewd guesses. Our junior team of researchers announced the discovery of the mode of transmission in 1982 and reported the development of curative antibiotic therapy in the late 1990’s.

I am now a teacher. I think I have some insight into motivating and educating students. Education is highly valued in the Confucian culture, so achievement in school was expected within the Chinese family especially for a number one son. However, teachers who convey enthusiasm can stimulate unmotivated students to do more than expected. In that regard, I would rate Mikelson, Sweeney, Rose and most vividly, Frances Anderson as being most passionate and enthusiastic about their discipline. Mrs. Anderson exposed the students to critical thinking about politics and government. She was unabashedly liberal and I learned that criticism of U.S. policies could be constructive and patriotic. The English department (Evanstad, Chapman), science (Sovell, Trumbull, Sweeney, Mikelson), social studies (Daniels, Christiansen, Deitz, Anderson), shop (Patrick), all had a strong influence on me.

Regretably, there were minimal extracurricular opportunities in academics at Marshall. One of the exceptions was the math club mentored by everyone’s favorite teacher, George Keprios. I believe that more academic activities would have been good for the entire student body. The single most important course for my career was English with participation in the high school newspaper, The Judge, under the tutelage of Helen Chapman. I often write Miss Chapman’s favorite dictum “Be Specific” in my critiques of scientific manuscripts written by my students and research fellows.

The single most important extracurricular activity that would influence my career was the Marshall yearbook, the Cardinal. JoAnne Rosenbrook and I produced an outstanding yearbook for the Class of 1961. (Compare it to those from other years to see the difference.) The organizational skills derived from this large-scale project was invaluable. I learned that success for any activity depends on recruiting capable people: Sue Salas, Gerry Liabraaten, Rita Golden, Janet Nordgren, Mara Robezgruntnies and Bob Ramsdorf turned out to be key players.

Unlike many of you, I lost touch with Marshall after I graduated from medical school and left Minnesota. But I have gradually come to value my association to Marshall. Marshall was diverse with its cliques and colorful personalities. The kids were down-to-earth and genuine. Much of who I am stems from my interactions with classmates from both Marcy Elementary and Marshall High School. Those were memorable times for me and I treasure them today.

VICTOR L. YU (Class of 1961)
email: victorlyu@gmail.com

(Biographies continue on p.9)
RUTH ROSE

Ruth Rose retired as a professor of Economics in 2005 after 35 years at the University of Quebec in Montreal. Most of her research has been done with, and for, women’s groups, unions and community organizations and has had a considerable impact on social policy in Quebec particularly in the areas of child care, family allowances, maternity and parental benefits, pay equity, labor standards, financing of women’s shelters and taxes. She was a member of the Canadian Task Force on Child Care (1986) and the Quebec Commission on tax policy and the financing of public services (1996). In 1999, the Quebec Federation of Women awarded her the Idola Saint-Jean prize for her “eminent contribution to women’s causes”. She is currently a member of the Governing Board of the Quebec Parental Insurance Program and continues to do research and to participate actively in the women’s movement.

Cardinals and Roses

It’s strange how the early years loom so large. My four years at Marshall, have left more fond memories than any other period in my life. Because my father had a sabbatical leave, my brother, Richard, and I spent our 8th grade in Italy and I left Marshall after the 11th grade as an early entrant to the University of Chicago. I’m probably the only person who graduated twice from Marshall - in both 1960 and 1961. I do regret not having had a senior year – I missed Mrs. Anderson and the Yearbook. My best memories are getting stuck in the mud on a biology field trip with Mr. Sweeney, sailing paper airplanes in Mr. Keprios’ math classes and nearly poisoning the whole school with a test-tube leak in Mr. Mikelson’s chemistry class – to whom I once insolently said “See you later, educator”.

Being a mathematical, social-scientific type, I also appreciated the artistic and literary side of Marshall. In 7th grade, I signed up for band but misread my schedule and ended up in Mr. Peterson’s choral class – he actually taught me to carry a tune. Misses Evenstad and Neprude, English teachers, taught me how important it is to put something of oneself into writing rather than a straight accounting of facts. Finally, Mr. Rose was both my homeroom and history teacher. Although he was not a biological relation, I always appreciated his sense of humor and of humanity – he always felt like part of our family and Richard maintained close relations for many years.

At the University of Chicago, all entering freshmen took 29 tests. We were expected to place out of 5, leaving 24 subjects for our first two years. I placed out of 14, which means I must have gotten a pretty good education at Marshall. After four years at Chicago, I moved to Berkeley to do graduate work also in economics but never quite finished my Ph.D. thesis.

During three separate trips, I ended up spending two and a half years traveling in Europe and working at the OECD in Paris. On the way home, I stopped to visit friends in Montreal, was offered a job at the University of Quebec in Montreal – a newly created provincial university – and never left. I married Michel Lizée, had one son, Charles, and in 2007 a grandson, Liam.

In Quebec, I have established something of a reputation as the economist for the women’s movement. I often write briefs, or do applied research, for at least a dozen different groups. Because Quebec is a small, French enclave in an English-speaking sea, government is accessible and social policy tends to follow European, rather than American, trends. Partly as a result of my technical expertise and the political clout of the women’s movement, Quebec now has universal childcare at $7 a day, 55 weeks of maternity and parental leave, well-financed shelters for women who are victims of conjugal violence, a generous earned-income tax credit, family allowances which offer as much as $5,000 a year for the first child and progressive labor standards. Some of Quebec’s policies have even leaked over into the rest of Canada.

RUTH ROSE – Class of 1961

(More biographies in Jan. 2009 issue)
To: You our marvelous classmates.

Courtesy of: Tom Daly, Bob Hayes, Otto Lausten and all of you who contribute to this Alumni News.

In cooperation with: Marshal Access Education Fund (MAEF) maintained by the University of Minnesota Disability Services who so generously provide the web server for our use.

Send us your email address! Moved recently? Send us your mailing address and phone number.

If you are reading this issue of the Alumni News you obviously have Internet access. Each September 1, January 1, and May 1 you will find the latest copy at this web site. Thanks for being you and for participating in our online publication! Keep in touch!

Marie Leight Platt’s
Marshall website was featured in the January, 2007 Alumni News. Her website address is: www.marshallhighschool.org

We want to grow! Every time you see or contact other JMHS alumni, ask them if they are getting the Alumni NEWSLETTER. If they are not tell them we’ll be online three times a year and give them this Internet address: www.ds.umn.edu/ above the Cardinal click on the link John Marshal High School Alumni. On the next page below the two Cardinals click on the line John Marshall High Schol Alumni Newsletter. Voila! there is your newsletter!

JMHS Alumni Newsletter
180 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Disability Services, University of Minnesota are the manager’s of “MAEF” and providers of the JMHS Alumni News web site.

See you in January!
Send Bob Hayes and Tom Daly your articles and announcements,

Reminder: Deadline for the January 2009 online issue is December 1, 2008