

Kathy (Gooch) Leonand



Where did the time go and how did we get to retirement age; our 50-year class reunion; and collecting Social Security? I so fondly remember my time in Upper Arlington; Jones Junior High and Upper Arlington High School. To this day, one of the hardest things was moving between my junior and senior year of high school and not graduating from UAHS. In the summer of 1962, my family moved to St. Paul, MN as my dad worked his way up the ranks of the 3M Company. I was born in St. Paul and graduated from Highland Park High School in St. Paul and did not live there in-between the ages of 5 and 17. I continued to be active several sports at Highland Park High School especially competitive swimming which I then continued until my junior year at the University of Minnesota.

My parents moved to Illinois my sophomore year of college. I stayed in MN and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene and Masters in Education. In 1972, I married Paul Griffin, a dental student at the U of M. His draft number was in the single digits so he enlisted in the USAF and after he graduated in 1973, we moved to California and then Oklahoma as he completed his 4 years of service. In 1976, we moved to Duluth, MN. I have two incredible daughters, Amy and Katie. After 11 years of marriage, things did not work out and Paul and I divorced. I continue to live in Duluth and have been here for 40 years.

Both girls are married and each has a son and daughter. I never thought anything could elevate the joys of being a mother until I became a grandmother. Three of the four grandchildren play hockey, but I am trying hard to convert them to playing golf.



My dental hygiene professional career has been incredibly rewarding. I have enjoyed both private practice and education. I have 46 years of teaching experience at the University of Minnesota, the University of Oklahoma and Lake Superior College in Duluth. I have served in numerous positions within the American Dental Hygienists' Association; American Dental Association and Commission on Dental Accreditation that has allowed me to travel from Maine to



California and Florida to Alaska. Most important, I went to Chicago several times a year and always extended my visit so I could spend time with my parents. I retired in 2013 but have continued to teach each semester the last 3 years on a limited basis.

My hobbies are photography; traveling; cooking; walking with friends; enjoying the outdoor adventures northern

Minnesota has to offer (kayaking on Lake Superior; cross country skiing; downhill skiing; camping; playing golf; and hiking the Superior Hiking Trail); volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital and St. Paul's Episcopal Church; and spending time with family. I think we all must find it hard to figure out how we ever had time to work!

I was fortunate to fall in love a second time and married Ed Leonard in 2007. We played golf and traveled all across the United States. We did not know our time together would be limited and were fortunate to cram in a lifetime of happiness and activities into a short period of time, He died 5 months ago from complications from Alzheimer's Disease. He was a kind, gentle man who brought much happiness to my life.

There have been a couple other big bumps along the road which have been difficult. My twin sister, Nancy died 10 years ago; and my daughter, Amy was diagnosed with brain cancer 6 years ago. Her treatment was aggressive; she has beaten all odds and continues to be cancer free.

I am sorry I will not be able to attend the class reunion and please know I would love to reconnect with all of you. Have a great 50th celebration. I can still sing the UAHS and OSU fight songs. Life is good