



# TISH FORBES SHINN

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Children: Leanne and Julie

I was having a hard time writing my bio....as I kept having a reoccurring memory of helping my mom find a dress for her 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion. I wondered how anyone "That Old" could care about a dress! However, it is important to remember significant events in one's life and High School at South Salem was a significant event for many of us.

After my SAT scores came out our senior year, I was convinced that I really wasn't very smart, until Madame Leah Smith told me that "some people could just not take tests"....and that I should ignore the results! I wanted to go to Whitman College with Cheryl Singer. So with Madame Smith's help, I applied and was accepted. I learned for the first time how to study, and really enjoyed learning. I was hooked. I was going to be a teacher, so that I could help other discouraged students too. I loved Whitman and was there two years, until I realized that I could not get an elementary teaching certificate there in four years.... and a certain "Jim Shinn" kept writing me from Oregon State. The solution seemed simple, transfer. The rest, so they say is history. Jim and I married after graduation in 1967 and off to California we went. I did not have a job, but Jim did in San Francisco. I went searching...up and down the peninsula...and landed in Palo Alto teaching at Stanford University, no less. Of course it was only Kindergarten, at the grade school on campus, but I did teach there for three years. Jim moved around with American Can Co. and graduate school, so I just kept teaching.



After six years in Education, Leanne was born in June of '73 and Julie was born in '77. I loved being a mom and teaching my own. When the girls were in high school and college, I went back to teaching full time in Beaverton. I started my second career teaching English as a Second Language, kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I got a new degree in ESL and just loved the kids. I have often said, "I would rather be in a room filled with five & six year olds who didn't speak English, than any other place on earth. I saw it as my vocation to make sure that "no one felt like Irene Shonnick described in her bio" ... when coming to school in America. I have seen the world through their beautiful eyes. Upon my retirement in July of 2007 (after 17 years in ESL) I was amazed and honored that so many children, now grown up or in college, came back to see me off. One of my proudest moments was when I was able to testify for one family, and help bring them back from Guatemala...to become citizens of the United States.

My heart was not ready for retirement, but my body was! I also wanted to be able to spend more time with Jim, who had retired 2 years earlier. Like Jim said in his bio, we like to go to Hawaii...and teaching, tended to put restrictions on travel. I still like to substitute now and then, but my new love is Operation School Bell. As a liaison to the Beaverton School District and the Assistance League of Portland, I chair a committee that gives new school clothes to children. Last year we provided clothing to approximately 850 children, who live below the poverty level in Beaverton. This year we are going for 960 children ....and yes, I am accepting donations of \$ or new books! (\*See me for details at the reunion, if you are interested in helping.)

Jim and I have been lucky in Love, in Health, and with our two beautiful Daughters, since graduation from SSS. My only regret is that I do not have grandchildren. However, as a friend told me recently, maybe I was meant to "find other children"....and in my small way, I have done just that.

Looking Forward to you all soon.