



KAREN SIPOLA WOOD

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Children: Shaun • Scott

Grandchildren: Ryan (16) and Emily (13)

50 years! I can't believe it. From reading all the bios, it sounds like the class of 1963 did great things. My life has had it's moments as well

I graduated from Lewis and Clark in 1968. I taught in Portland for one year and then married and moved back to Salem. I taught 2nd and 3rd at Highland Elementary for three years before my son Shaun was born. Much to my surprise, he was born with Down's Syndrome. We have been exposed to a world we never knew existed. Did we have special needs kids in school when we were young? No, we didn't. Fortunately, Shaun has had few health needs except for open heart surgery at three. He's pretty high functioning. He can read, play video games, and follow his favorite soap opera. When we got a new VCR, he had it figured out before I did! I quit teaching after Shaun was born and we moved to Vancouver, Washington a year later. My second son Scott was born in 1975. The ensuing years were filled with raising two active boys, camping, boating, church work, and building a family cabin at Long Beach, WA. I went back to teaching full time in 1989 in Battle Ground, WA. I taught 1st and 2nd grades for 16 years before retiring in 2005.

My husband retired in 2001, and we spent the summer boating in the San Juan and Gulf Islands. Dream summer! We now spend the winters in Surprise, AZ. I've discovered tennis and quilting. We keep up with the grandchildren, Ryan 16 and Emily 13, during the summer and fall. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.