

**CLASSMATE PROFILES**  
*Getting to know Classmates all over again!*  
**So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?**



Barb Knudson  
Taft Student - 1959



Barb Knudson-Newlin  
January 20, 2008



2004 - My brother's Mustang, Boyd, Mom, who never drove a day in her life. Me Chris, Kim and Riely in back.



2006 - Kim, Riely & their new puppy on my deck.



2006 - Riely at the Children's Museum



2006 - Row 1: Mom, my sister Diane, her husband Keith. Row 2: Me, Boyd, Kim & Chris.

**What's BARBARA KNUDSON NEWLIN been up to since high school?**

For all you goal oriented folks, I had only one conscious goal that I set and it was to graduate from college and teach high school art in California. So I began my odyssey by attending Blackburn College (60 miles south of Springfield) majoring in art with a minor in biology. My roommate was Jan Wordell from Taft. After the building that held the art department burned down and we were relegated to the laundry area, I transferred to Illinois State (Normal) University in 1961. After graduation, I did get a high school art teaching job in Long Beach, California beginning September 1964.

My ISU roommate also got a teaching job in Southern California so we drove there in my so cool, 1962 black Valiant (smile), and I then had accomplished my one conscious goal! We rented a furnished house on the beach in Sunset Beach. What a life that was! Can you believe we rented this totally furnished beach house with a two car garage and above garage apartment, which was my artist studio, for \$150.00 a month?? Volley ball net on the beach. I think it was during the second week that we met a bunch of guys from Hinsdale, Illinois, one being Ross Newlin (just couldn't escape the Midwest). With the beach house, we were quite the popular gals! Ross and I were married in California in 1966 and our son Boyd was born there who now lives in Baltimore. We decided to move back to Chicago in 1968 and Ross got a job with Reynolds Aluminum Supply Company based in Park Ridge; we bought a house in Elmhurst. Then Ross was transferred to Richmond, Virginia in 1970. I loved Richmond and Virginia. It had everything: mountains, ocean, entertainment, D.C., country. To my chagrin, Ross was transferred to Orlando, Florida in 1972. We lived in Maitland, and our daughter Kimberly was born in 1974, but then life became very progressively "unhappy" and Ross and I separated when Kim was 6 months old; divorce followed.

After "finding myself," I chose to move back to Richmond with Boyd, Kim and our cat Tigger in our green something station wagon; this was in 1977. I was extremely lucky to find a job in human resources in the Virginia Department of Corrections; talked my way into the job that I knew nothing about, but it was the best thing that happened to me. I hadn't worked in 8 years so my credentials were slim and I couldn't find a teaching job. I learned "personnel" from the ground up and received a Masters of Science Degree in Human Resource Development in 1995 from George Washington University; yes, older minds still work. I also earned the lifetime certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) through the Society of Human Resource Management. So now I felt like a legitimate human resources professional. I love human resources and held several jobs in different state agencies in human resource management and development.

After 30 years working with the State, I retired January 1, 2008 from the Human Resource Director position of the Department of Medical Assistance Services where I had been the HR Director for 8 years. I have a good retirement pension plan and I certainly hope it continues! Those social security checks are coming now too! Unbelievable! By the way, ironically, my sister, brother and mother also live in Richmond; to explain how they came here, one by one, would take too long. Kim, her husband and daughter (6 years old) live here too. So it's nice to have family so close by.

For the future I almost came full circle...doing something again with art. My new conscious goal is to become an accomplished artist and travel. Having never painted with watercolors, I started taking classes about three years ago and now have enough framed paintings to exhibit. So I want to exhibit and hopefully sell some paintings. I also want to visit all my friends in other states. It will be a continuing road trip! Wish me luck and I hope to see you soon! Need a nice painting?

Barbara Knudson Newlin