

Andover High School Alumni Share Memories with Each Other

Annual reunion cancelled due to COVID concerns

Judy Poblentz Perreault '53, Andover High School Reunion Committee

We are very disappointed that we are not able to have our Andover High School all-class annual reunion this year. We will miss seeing our classmates. For a small school, we had a lot of spirit, and all of the classes worked together. We needed everyone for teams, plays, and other school activities.

An activity that everyone looked forward to was our school newspaper, *The Blue and White Banner*. Each issue was eagerly awaited so we could see who was dating, what funny things had happened, the stories, the poems, and the sports news.

Fortunately, some forward-thinking folks saved their copies, so we are able to publish some of the items from these papers. The poem that follows was written by Ben Burroughs and seems

apt for the present:

Judge Not

Judge not lest you be judged yourself, a saying old and true.

Be careful what you say about a someone you may view.

Don't form opinions from the things you may chance to hear.

For information second hand is often out of gear.

Don't ridicule before you know what you are speaking of.

But rather practice tolerance and flavor it with love.

Before you speak, investigate and know of what you say.

For by your actions you can cause someone a real dismay.

But if you think, I know you'll break the chain of wrong and hate.

That seems to wrap around the world, touching the small and great.

Sadly, we have lost a number of our classmates since our last reunion: Jane Thompson Currier, Esther Lajoie Grace, Wilbur Grace, Patricia Dines Sharrar, Sousa Roberts Hoyt, Barbara Laughy Sanborn, and William Thomas. Our sympathies go out to their families and friends.

Let's hope that by next year our classes can meet again!

Fourth from page 1

celebrations. On the actual day of the Fourth, tune in to our local Andover TV station to see last year's parade.

As is our tradition, a program booklet with info about the committee, the origin of the Fourth celebration and the dedication will be available. This year we are honoring Howard and Ellie George. They have been helpers of the Fourth Committee, the elementary/middle school, the recreation program and the community in general for many, many years. We are humbled. Be sure to get your copy of the booklet at one of

our local businesses. (A big thank you to Jen Bent for her hard work in creating this year's booklet.)

There are many symbols for our great country: the Flag, the Capitol in Washington DC, and Uncle Sam. Stop by the Village Green, look for the huge cut-out of Uncle Sam, take a selfie with him, and post it on the Andover NH 4th of July Facebook page. (Thank you, Charlie Darling, for providing the image!)

So, in the name of safety, we'll see you next year. We will be busy preparing for the best celebration ever! The countdown starts now...

Vigil from page 1

and encouraged them to share it with whomever might be interested.

The turnout was much higher than Deb initially expected, with over 140 community members gathering together on the warm Friday evening. Once people arrived, Deb welcomed the community and shared a few remarks, before initiating an eight minute, 46 second moment of silence, which represented the amount of time George Floyd spent face down on the ground, with the knee of a Minneapolis police officer on his neck.

After the long moment of silence, community members lit their candles and were invited to come up and share

their own feelings regarding the tumultuous times.

One of those who spoke was Janet Moore, who shared that her lighted candle was for her nine-year-old grandson, John, "who should not be afraid to walk down the street alone." Janet also shared her hope for the future that "when he is old enough to drive, he will not fear being pulled over by the police just because he is a black man."

Ken Wells, Andover's local state representative, chose to lead the gathering in a rendition of *Lean on Me* as a showing of solidarity. As the evening wrapped up, the organizers and attendees alike indicated a desire to transfer the sentiment of the vigil into proactive change in the larger community.

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