

Happy Day Sisters and Brothers!

I hope you are all well, happy and most of all healthy. Everyone is doing really well here. Kitt feels better after the car wreck and seems to be unscathed, except losing her cherished car. Jean, Grams, is doing just fine as well.

I was able to take part in something very special this weekend. A few classmates from high school decided we needed a virtual class reunion. This thought was spurred by the recent untimely loss of a few of our classmates from various illnesses. We wanted to combat feelings of loneliness, isolation and mortality by celebrating and visiting with each other via Zoom. The reunion was expanded to all of the classes of Belen High School during the '90's. There were about 200 alumni tuning in.

The reunion started with tons of "hello" and "how are you" barely decipherable over all the excited voices. Then Brian (our MC for the event) had a wonderful speech prepared. He talked of allowing the past to be the past, yet remember the good times. Being able to reconcile with bullies, whether you were bullied or was the bully, it was almost 30 years ago and we should allow it to go away. I appreciate the sentiment and think it touched quite a number of those attending. I hope it helps complete the healing process for our fellow classmates, if their high school memories were not so stellar.

The next portion of the evening was quite sobering. It was a presentation of names of the classmates we had lost for each graduating year. Out of my class of 1994, we lost the most classmates, 19! It is sad to think that we are only in our 40s. After the toast to those we lost we were then divided into our classes to catch up for a few minutes. We all recombined for a Virtual Pep Rally!! Lots of yelling, whistling, chanting and tons of happy smiling faces. I was transported back to our Homecoming Pep rallies (I could have brought out my old pom poms) even though there is no way I can fit into any of my cheerleading outfits! Ha! Belen Eagle Victory song was sung and we ended the evening with a virtual dance.

This was one of the best things I have ever participated in. It was very refreshing and healing for all of us. Some bridges were mended and connections were reestablished. We made Belen proud. If you want to check out some of the media coverage we had of the event, here are the links:

<https://www.krqe.com/health/coronavirus-new-mexico/belen-high-school-alumni-hold-virtual-class-reunion/>

<https://www.kob.com/albuquerque-news/former-belen-eagles-come-together-for-virtual-high-school-reunion/5733189/?cat=500>

Stay safe, healthy and happy. I love you all!
Beth AGM

