

# Memory Book

June 12 – 14, 2025



**MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH**  
50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975



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THANKS!

*On behalf of the Reunion Board, we thank everyone who attended the 50-Year Reunion and all the volunteers who helped to make it the best Class Reunion in the history of Miami Killian Senior High School!*



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

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# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### YOUR REUNION BOARD



*This photo is only a place holder. We will insert a photo of the entire Board taken at the Reunion and insert it here for the final page to be printed.*



**YOUR REUNION BOARD: (l to r) Michael Bell, Denise Willis Dozier, Stu Evans, Beth Gault, Carol Carver Harris, Kandy McKenzie Hill, Flo Leidecker Lanio, Karen Wilson Lawrence, Dawn Eberst Lucas, Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Kathy Miller, Bruce Oestreich, Bruce Orr, Warren Raulerson, Paula Finkelstein Rosenberg, Keith Spurlock, Doug Traub, Anthony Washington**

**(The “Dirty Dozen”)**

Chair: Doug Traub

Vice Chair: Dawn Eberst Lucas

Miami Ambassador: Michael Bell

Members: Denise Willis Dozier, Stu Evans, Beth Gault, Carol Carver Harris, Kandy McKenzie Hill, Flo Leidecker Lanio, Karen Wilson Lawrence, Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Kathy Miller, Bruce Oestreich, Bruce Orr, Warren Raulerson, Paula Finkelstein Rosenberg, Keith Spurlock, Anthony Washington



## **Committees**

### ***Communications***

Co-Chairs: Dawn Eberst Lucas, Doug Traub

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Doug Traub

Newsletter Contributors: Michael Bell, Kandy McKenzie Hill, Stu Evans, Carol Carver Harris, Karen Wilson Lawrence, Dawn Eberst Lucas, Mary McCullagh, Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Kathy Miller, Bruce Oestreich, Doug Traub, Anthony Washington

### ***Memorial***

Chair: Kathy Miller

Members: Erin Delahanty, Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Bruce Oestreich

### ***Memory Book***

Executive Editor: Doug Traub

Photo Editor: Kandy McKenzie Hill

Official Photographers/Videographers: Keith Spurlock, Anthony Washington

Worldwide President of Advertising Sales: Bruce Orr

### ***Outreach (Including the Cougateers)***

Chair: Kathy Miller

Members: Beth Gault, Carol Carver Harris, Dawn Eberst Lucas, Paula Finkelstein Rosenberg

### ***Program***

Chair: Warren Raulerson

Miami Ambassador: Michael Bell

Members: Stu Evans, Carol Carver Harris, Dawn Eberst Lucas, Keith Spurlock, Doug Traub

### ***Registration***

Chair: Karen Wilson Lawrence

Members: Bev Strong Criswell, Denise Willis Dozier, Lee Burney Henson, Kandy McKenzie Hill, Kathy Hines-Williams, Flo Leidecker Lanio, Barbie Rutledge McGreal, Leslie Armstrong Mulherin, Joanie Salas Ree, Paula Finkelstein Rosenberg, Celeste Holton Sears, Pam Boller Sorensen, Martha Coe Turner

### ***Site Selection***

Chair: Doug Traub

Members: Michael Bell, Denise Willis Dozier, Flo Leidecker Lanio, Karen Wilson Lawrence, Barbara Rutledge McGreal, Bruce Orr



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975



## THANK-YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Our 50-Year Reunion would not have been possible, or ticket prices would have been higher, if it was not for the generous support of our classmates as follows:

- **Michael Bell** - Sponsored the Reception at Killian High on Friday
  - **Dawn Eberst Lucas** - Sponsored the prizes on Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights
  - **Julius Szalay** - Sponsored the entertainment on Thursday and Saturday night
  - **MM Hotel Group, Ltd.** — Sponsored the reception for hotel guests on Friday afternoon
  - **Warren Raulerson** - Sponsored the entertainment on Friday night
-



### **CAROL CARVER HARRIS: CLASS OF '75 SPIRIT AWARD WINNER**

During the gala on Saturday night, we were proud to honor an extraordinary member of our Killian family who has gone above and beyond to keep the spirit of the Class of 1975 alive and well. Carol Carver Harris has demonstrated unmatched dedication and passion in fostering connection and camaraderie among our classmates.

From 1985 to 2010, Carol took on the monumental task of organizing *five* class reunions. Each of these events has been a testament to her Herculean strength, from securing the perfect venues to ensuring everyone felt welcome and included. Her attention to detail, tireless planning, and genuine care have made these reunions unforgettable occasions, filled with laughter, nostalgia, and cherished memories.

Thanks to Carol, classmates who may have lost touch have reconnected, shared stories, and relived the moments that make our shared history so special. Her work has been more than just event planning; it has been an enduring gift to us all—a reminder of the bonds that unite the Killian Class of 1975.

We extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to Carol for her incredible contributions and for keeping the spirit of Killian alive. Carol has been, without a doubt, the heart and soul of our class. We thank her for everything she has done to ensure our legacy continues to thrive!





## **THE LEGEND OF THE COUGATEERS**

Are you sitting at home, feet propped up, drinking another cold one? Good for you. You deserve it. You've worked hard in life.

But for the 17 months leading up to our 50-Year Reunion, it wasn't quite so easy-going for our Cougateers. In far flung cities where fans moved warm air that smelled of jasmine in the summer, rest for the weary didn't come until late at night. Seated behind gleaming computer monitors, three women with green-and-gold running through their veins — Beth Gault, in Grove City, OH; Kathy Miller, in Sebring, FL; and Dawn Eberst Lucas in Greenville, SC — were unable to relax. Their backs were killing them. Their fingers had gone numb. Their blurry stares had begun to go cross-eyed.

Welcome to a day in the life of our Cougateers leading up to the Reunion, women who put it all on the line for us day after day, month after month. They gave new meaning to the Three Musketeers slogan, "All for one and one for all." For 'all' of them were searching for that 'one' classmate who snuck away and no one could find. Each 'one' of them gave their 'all' for us, which is how we created a classmate database with 725 mailing addresses, 639 phone numbers and 566 email addresses.

Oh Homer, if only you could be here now to honor these modern day heroines with another long poem. Your new screed would outshine the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, and perhaps become required reading in Florida civics classes one day.

How did these modern conquistadors develop a classmate database to begin with, you wonder? Did Kathy, held aloft in her wheel chair by piano wire, descend from the heavens with sacred tablets? Did Dawn hack into the Killian mainframe and route our names through Wikileaks? Perhaps Beth donned a wetsuit and brought up this treasure from the bottom of Biscayne Bay? Nothing so



grand. It technically all started when we launched our Facebook page and solicited a few hundred names and addresses. But it wasn't until Dawn jumped in that our database sprouted wings and flew.

Dawn reviewed all 823 classmates in our 1975 Catamount yearbook and typed in the 600+ names that were missing on our list. She reviewed the 765 people on the graduation list that Carol Carver Harris secured from Killian back in 1984, *a list Killian no longer makes available*, and added about 400 more. She folded in a few dozen more from our commencement announcement, and this past month, Dawn even added the names of juniors from the 1974 Catamount who did not graduate with us (but should have). The last additions swelled our database from 1,142 to 1,292 classmates.

Although the sweat off Dawn's brow could fill a ten-gallon aquarium, it was only a start. We still needed contact information. But how? Word of mouth contributed mightily, thanks to many of our graduates. We started by reaching out via Facebook, often with classmate invites, to anyone whose profile seemed to be a match. That worked for a while, until the well ran dry. Another source was Carol Carver Harris, whose vision and tenacity fired our class spirit in every Class Reunion to date.



**Beth Gault**



**Dawn Eberst Lucas**



**Kathy Miller**

### **On Line Tools Wielded Like Swords**

But even these early outreach efforts were just a start, contributing perhaps 25% to all of the contact info we have collected to date. We still had 950 names to investigate, and like a pile of kindling waiting for a spark, that's when Kathy, our Outreach Committee "Chair," jumped into the ring and kick-started the great crusade that stretched on for over a year. Kathy took over the research arm and dredged up every possible clue for Dawn to try to contact, even as Paula (Finkelstein) Rosenberg and Beth joined her, ignoring calls this was supposed to be a tag team sport. It became a wrestling match made-for-TV moment instead as all four of them piled into the ring together.

Eventually, Paula withdraw for personal reasons. It boiled down to just the three. And as these ladies emailed each other in the darkness, slap happy and silly after hours of tedious labor to find lost classmates in a world gone mad with technology and contradictory news broadcasts, that's when the nickname struck — the Cougateers — and that's where it shall be forever more. They touched swords through the ether of cyber space, and in that one moment late at night on the edge of sleep and sweet oblivion, they were forever relegated to the chapters of Killian lore where our common tutorage was transformed into blood and no one turned their back on family anymore.

## ORIGINAL NEW SONG PRODUCED FOR REUNION!



**Rick Leinecker**



**Robin Ruddy**



**Kim Sestok Kushner**

After seven months of nail-biting anticipation, the official anthem for our Reunion — “***Fifty Years***” — was finally recorded. To hear the original song that was written, recorded and produced by our very own classmates, [click here](#) or on the rock & roll icon below:



***Fifty Years***

The song was the brainchild of **Rick Leinecker**, who composed the first draft, wrote the music, sang lead vocals, and mixed the final recording. **Robin Ruddy** and **Kim Sestok Kushner** recorded background vocals, and Robin played rhythm guitar. The song was rewritten and recorded several times before the lyrics were approved by classmates that also included **Julius Szalay, Keith Spurlock, Doug Traub** and **Ritchie Williams**.

Work on the project began in May of 2024. A broad net was cast to find the best musicians in our class to collaborate on the project. Monthly meetings were held on Zoom to discuss lyrics and composition. Four different workshop versions of the song were recorded before the group went back to a version of the original song that was finally produced in January of 2025. To hear the four different workshop recordings of the song, click on each of the links below.



[Rick's Rock Version](#)



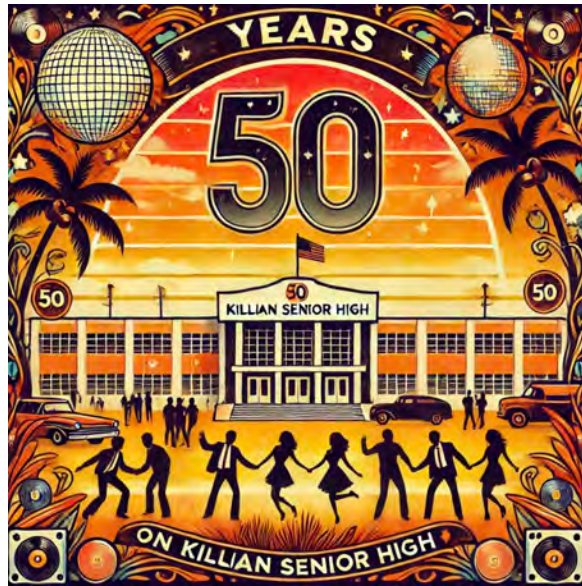
[Rick's Disco Version](#)



[Rick's Calipso Version](#)



[Robin's Folk Version](#)



### "50 Years"

Lyrics by Rick Leinecker & his classmates from the Killian Class of 1975

#### Verse 1

In cool classrooms where we learned and grew,  
Passions blossomed, young dreams were brewed.  
We prepared for that momentous day,  
When we could bolt and move far away.

#### Chorus

Fifty years on a Killian high,  
It's been a half century since we said good-bye.  
Together at last, we stand as one,  
To celebrate all the things we've done  
Fifty years on a Killian high.

#### Verse 2

From hot science labs to art displays,  
Our talents shone in so many ways,  
Teachers guiding, helping us to see,  
The people that we were meant to be.

#### Bridge

In both our victories and defeats,  
Our legacy, we most proudly leave,  
The hangovers from those days,  
Define the essence of us today.

## **POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS RECOGNIZED**

In 2013, [O, Miami](#) and [WLRN](#) launched the “That’s So Miami” poetry competition, encouraging locals to craft poems that began or ended with the phrase, “That’s So Miami.” The challenge celebrated the unique culture and quirks of the Magic City.

Fast forward to 2025, when Miami Killian Senior High School’s Class of 1975 reinvented the concept in honor of their 50-Year Reunion. Dubbed “**That’s So Miami Killian**,” this special competition invited alumni to reflect on their high school experiences.

The rules were simple yet heartfelt: each poem had to start or end with the line, “That’s So Miami Killian,” and capture the essence of life at Killian—be it through love, humor, or a witty acknowledgment of the school’s imperfections.

After a flood of submissions, two alumni poets stood out as winners: **Kandy McKenzie Hill** and **Dawn Eberst Lucas**. Their work was celebrated during the reunion’s Saturday night festivities, where they read their poems and received signed copies of Miami poet Jen Karetnick’s *The 500 Hidden Secrets of Miami*. The winning submissions follow.



### **That’s So Miami Killian! by Kandy McKenzie Hill**

**Hanging in the parking lot before school starts  
Heading to our lockers, socializing in the halls and then,  
Going to homeroom, That's so Miami Killian!**

**Lunch in the cafeteria, whether a bag lunch  
or taking a chance on the mystery meat, and then  
Listening to music in the quad, That's so Miami Killian!**

**Wearing ugly uniforms for gym,  
lifting weights with Coach Ehman and then  
Pep rallies for the Cougar team, That's so Miami Killian!**

**Joining clubs, Campus Life  
going to football games and then,  
Saturdays at Crandon Park, That's so Miami Killian!**

**These memories are threads in the stories from days gone by  
We turned the page, became adults, but look back fondly and then,  
Next thing we know it's reunion time, That's so Miami Killian!**







**That's Soooo Miami Killian!**  
**by Dawn Eberst Lucas**

It's the 70's baby and everyone is so hip and cool  
Getting a tan on top of your car while waiting in the gas line—you don't even look like a fool!

Life in the fast lane was a blast no doubt  
Even when a streaker jumps in your car, and you have to peel out

And when the Killian bell rings and you are across the street  
You could care less because you can't move your feet

Then there is sun and fun at Matheson Hammock Beach  
And you see all the hot "guys" and lose your speech

So it's on to Big Daddy's for a "beat the clock" night  
Dressed to the hilt with that mini skirt tight

Making it home by curfew was always a chore  
Because you didn't want your friends to think you were a bore

The objective of the 70s was just to have fun  
And not to get caught by your parents for being overdone.

**That's Soooo Miami Killian!**

## **YOU GREW UP IN MIAMI IF YOU REMEMBER....**

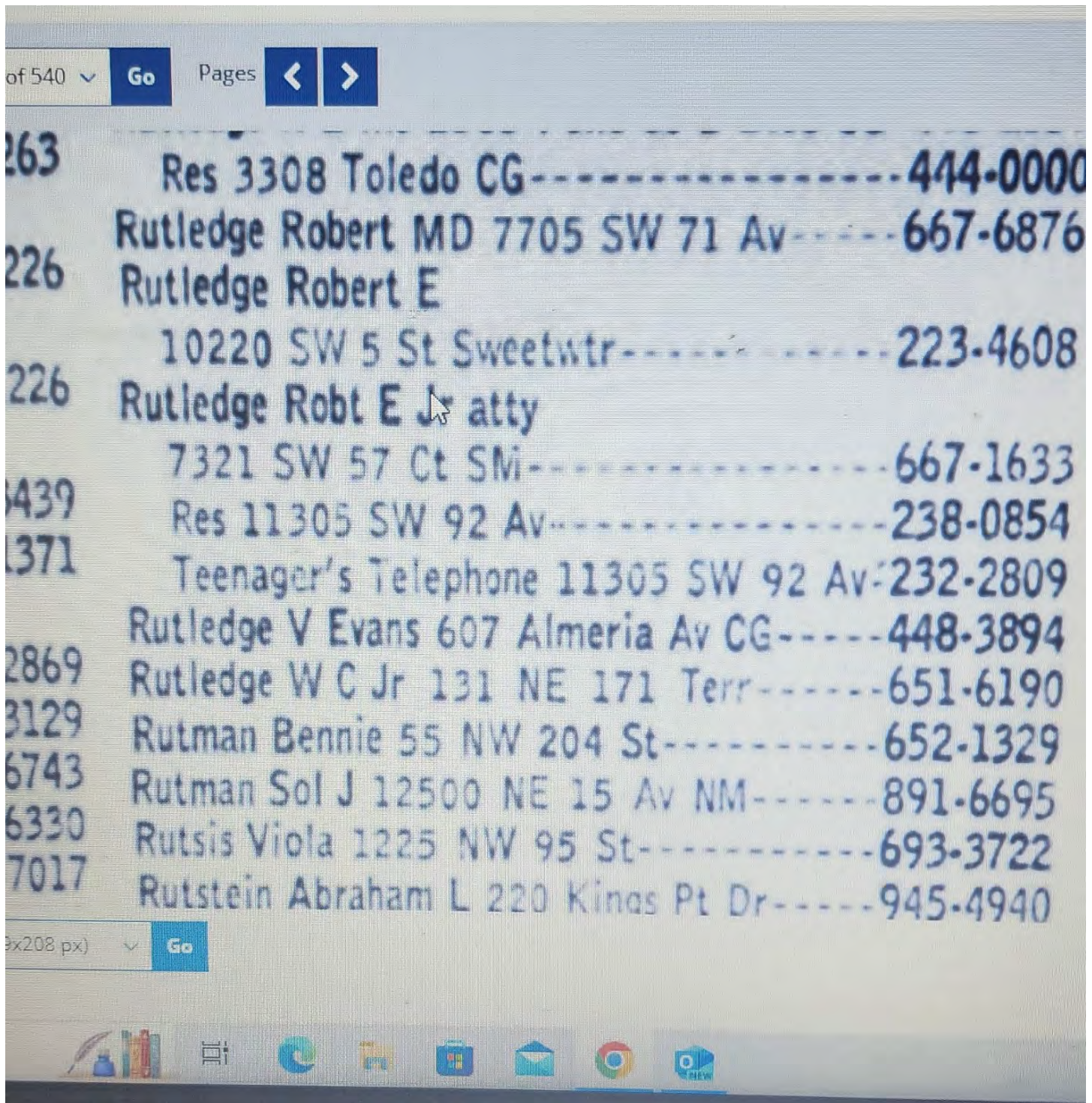
- The Coppertone Girl on Biscayne Boulevard;
- Bowl - O - Mat on US 1;
- The Holsum Bakery on US1 and Red Road...can ya still smell it?;
- Zayre discount store on US1;
- Jai Lai on US1 behind the Bowl - O - Mat;
- Dixie Drive-Inn US1;
- Pole beans and tomato farms on Kendall Drive (U-Pick-Em);
- The Miami Serpentarium and Bill Haast "milking" those snakes!
- Larry Csonka and Jim Kick;
- WFUN and WQAM were "THE" stations to listen to if your car only had an AM radio;
- Lums - the place to go with your friends after football games;
- The rotating shark at the entrance to Key Biscayne;
- The Miami Seaquarium with Hugo the Killer Whale;
- Grand Union grocery store
- The Rusty Pelican;
- Jordan Marsh & Burdines;
- Eastern Airlines;
- The Seahorse at Dadeland Mall;
- Shorty's BBQ – the original on US1;
- Monkey Jungle;
- Seminole Indian huts out on Tiamiami Trail; and
- The Grove Movie Theatre and the midnight "Rocky Horror" shows every weekend.



## WHO REMEMBERS TELEPHONE BOOKS?

by Barbara Rutledge McGreal

How far we have come from those huge directories! I found this family listing (Rutledge, Robt. E. Jr.) in the White Pages from 1975 on page 420.



Can you find your own phone number in the 1975 White Pages? Here is a Library of Congress link:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/usteledirec.usteledirec07162/?sp=1&st=image>



# WHERE DID WE ATTEND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?

By Michael Bell



Back in our day:

- Elementary School encompassed Grades 1-6;
- Junior High School encompassed Grades 7-9; and
- High School encompassed Grades 10-12 (+ or -).

During the late 60s, Kindergarten was added to the elementary school continuum, which meant that most of us either attended private school kindergarten or not at all! There was some shape-shifting during the 70s among the grade-level configurations of junior and senior high schools; however, those adjustments were a tool for managing school over-crowding due to suburban sprawl. Based on educational research, beginning in the 80s, the “middle school” concept emerged where this newly-christened model commenced serving Grades 6-8, followed by 9-12 in high school.

Killian was a bit of a unicorn in the 70s in that it served Grade 9 students for a brief moment in time. Many of us were among that group of students who commenced Grade 9 at Killian during the 1971-72 academic year. We were so young and a bit intimidated to be the small fish in a big sea. On the up-side, there was also a cool factor about being on a big campus at that tender age, even though it meant having to sacrifice our top-dog status as ninth graders at our respective junior high schools. Whenever you landed at Killian, most of us arrived from either Glades or Richmond Heights junior high schools.



Killian's feeder junior high schools still offered Grade 9, but where you lived determined whether you attended ninth grade at your assigned junior high school or at Killian. After the 1971-72 academic year, Killian ceased offering Grade 9 until the middle school movement took hold in the 80s, which uniformly relegated ninth grade to senior high.

So, **where did you attend junior high school (now middle school) class of '75?** Based on an unscientific Facebook poll, what follows are the junior high schools our classmates attended—in some cases, more than one!

### **Glades Jr. High**

- Toni Prevette Atkinson
- Henry Baldwin
- Michael Bell
- Natalie Blake
- Michele Miller Harness Bourdonnay
- Linda Shead Castle
- Tina Marie-Prevette Davis
- Terry Gordon Everest
- Jo Ann Farinas
- Jeff Froug
- Giuliana Gerace
- Nancy Lair-Goodfellow
- Robert Heinzmann
- Scott Kaplan
- Kim Sestok Kushner
- Glenn Liguori
- Mary McCullagh
- Barbara Rutledge McGreal
- Kathleen Miller
- Jeffrey Murray
- Bruce Orr
- Randi Gleichenhaus Pakula
- Yvonne Arbogast-Pelletier
- Brian Peterson
- Robin Reisert
- Paula Rosenberg
- Steve Sissel
- Keith Spurlock

### **Richmond Heights Jr. High**

- Steph Anderson
- Debra Baker-Apathy
- Mark Bentley
- Debbie Blando
- Becky Carter
- Eileen Curll
- Barb Frank
- Veronica Gibson
- Mary Guy
- Holly Holston
- Veronica Linton Howard
- Karen Wilson Lawrence
- Lorenzo Lewis
- Dawn Eberst Lucas
- Nancy Paulson Meredith
- Pam Carman Osborn
- Margaret Reyes
- Terry Saturday
- Celeste Sears
- Sue Sneesby
- Anne Marie Spencer
- Sheryl Miller Sweet
- Bellamuray Terry
- Doug Traub
- Martha Coe Turner
- Elese Weingarten
- Marsha Williams
- Jeri Nikla Wilson

### **Carol City Jr. High**

- Rosemary Seals

### **Florida Christian**

- Carol Carver Harris
- Kandace Hill

### **Mays Jr. High**

- Mike Ball

### **Palmetto Jr. High**

- Terry Hefner
- Kandace Hill

### **Ponce Jr. High**

- Lori Gordon Arnold

### **South Miami Jr. High**

- Celeste Sears

### **Out-of-State or Town**

- Cory Payne-Drueke
- Diana Ritz Matthews
- Chris Satt
- Milton Torres

## WHERE WE WORKED IN HIGH SCHOOL

By Michael Bell

Back in the 70s, having a part-time job in high school was a *derigueur* rite of passage. Research suggests that having a job while in high school can help equip teens with skills needed for later success in college and the workplace.

On August 17th, I posted a query on Facebook to find out if and where our classmates worked during our time at Killian. The query drew quite a number of responses. Most of the places we worked are now part of history, but a few remain in their original locations and iterations and are marked with an asterisk (\*). **Robin Ruddy** and Keith Spurlock were way ahead of their time, given they both were “gig” workers long before it was fashionable. Some classmates, apparently, had trouble keeping a job! Anthony’s Pizzeria, Baptist Hospital, Burdine’s, Carvel, Chicken Unlimited, Forum Cafeteria, the Kendall Twin Cinema, and Steak & Ale took the lead for hiring the most of our Killian classmates.

What follows are the unscientific results after nearly two weeks of getting responses. The only caveat is that the work must have occurred while you were concurrently enrolled as a student at Killian, including summers. Please do not include work that occurred during college or other postsecondary pursuits.



### Anthony's Italian Restaurant:

- Deborah Erickson Atasian
- Karen Gilbert
- Lilli Ipolitto

### Anthony's Pizzeria:\*

- Natalie Blake (Hostess)

### Bank of Cutler Ridge:

- Lorraine Ciofalo

### Baptist Hospital:\*

- Erin Delahanty (Tray Girl)
- Dawn Eberst Lucas (Candy Striper)
- Kathleen Miller (Candy Striper)

### Burdines:

- Lori Gordon Arnold
- Stu Evans (Floater)
- Mary McCullagh
- Diane Ritz Matthews
- Cyndi Padgham

### Burger King:

- Mary McCullagh (Dadeland)
- Leslie Armstrong Mulherin (Kendale)

### Burnside-Ott Flying School:

- Bev Strong Criswell

### Carvel:

- Ava Ray Adams
- Robert Heinzmann

### Carvel (con't):

- Ava Ray Adams
- Robert Heinzmann
- Kathleen Miller
- Jeffrey Murray

### Chicken Unlimited:

- Rea Bliss
- Kim Feigenbaum
- Jeff Froug
- Beth Gault
- Scott Kaplan
- Jeffrey Murray
- Barbara Rutledge McGreal
- Margaret Carr Reyes
- Doug Traub



#### Coral Gables Federal:

- Carol Carver Harris

#### Courts at Lazarus Pines:

- Kim Sestok Kushner

#### Cracked Crab:

- Robert Heinzmann

#### Dino's Restaurant:

- Kenneth Jones

#### Ellen's Clothing (Miracle Mile)

- Jeff Froug

#### Family-Owned Business:

- Barbara Rutledge McGreal
- Leslie Armstrong Mulherin

#### Food Fair:

- Robert Heinzmann

#### Forum Cafeteria:

- Karen Wilson Lawrence
- Cynthia Corbett Reid
- Ilese Weingarten (Drinks Girl)

#### Freelance Photographer:\*

- Keith Spurlock

#### Fresh's Roses/Nursery:

- Tony Gulla
- Pamela Sue Perry
- Barbara Teller

#### Gig Musician:\*

- Robin Ruddy

#### Gold Triangle:

- Flo Lanio
- Carol Recicar

#### Grant's Dept. Store:

- Meredith Musaus

#### J. Byrons:

- Natalie Blake (Cashier)

#### J.C. Penney:\*

- Julie Penney Jeffus
- Trena Grove Marquez
- Jeffrey Murray

#### Jefferson Super Dept. Stores:

- Randi Gleichenhaus Pakula

#### Kendale Lakes Pharmacy:

- Stu Evans (Deliveries)

#### Kendall Twin Cinema:

- Deborah Erickson Atasian
- Michael Bell
- Lori Horton
- Debra Lingle
- + many from Class of '76

#### Kentucky Fried Chicken:\*

- Robin Reisert

#### Kresge's Drug Store (Dadeland):

- Rea Bliss
- Barbara Rutledge McGreal

#### Lazy Dane Kennels:

- Pamela Sue Perry

#### Lindsley Home Care Center:

- Chris Satt

#### Lum's:

- Beth Gault

#### Maria's Family Restaurant:

- Pamela Sue Perry

#### New China Restaurant:\*

- Terry Saturday

#### New England Oyster House:

- Dawn Eberst Lucas

#### Pizza Garden:\*

- Ilese Weingarten

#### Pizza Pub:

- Steve Sissel

#### Press-On Tee Shirt Kiosk:

- Kandace Hill
- Michele Miller Harness-Bourdonnay

#### Publix:\*

- Leslie Armstrong Mulherin
- Jeffrey Murray

#### Richard's Department Store

- Jeff Froug

#### Royal Castle:

- Veva Buffington

#### Sears:

- Michael Lloyd
- Sheryl Miller Sweet

#### Service Merchandise:

- Sheryl Miller Sweet (X-mas gift wrap)

#### Singer Transmission

- Jeffrey Murray

#### South Miami Hospital:\*

- Bruce Orr (Pharma Buyer)

#### S & H Green Stamps

- Pam Carman Osborn

#### Standard Oil Gas Station:

- Adrian Munz

\* Establishment still exists in its original location and name.





[\(I Can't Get No\) Satisfaction](#)

by Rick Leinecker

*Rick's post was seen by 157 classmates on Facebook and generated 16 "likes" and nine comments.*

Here's a funny story. My close set of friends wanted to get into the Killian yearbook. The family of one of my friends ran a roofing business. We thought if we could get our jeep and buggy onto the roof of the gym at Killian and took a picture, this would surely get us into the yearbook. Of course, the roof would have never supported the weight of both vehicles. But the roofing elevator would not get them high enough, either. It wasn't to be. So we resorted to photography. These photos were taken by Keith Spurlock. Maybe now we can get the Kudos we were looking for!

**Keith Spurlock:** Ron hired me! That was a fun photoshoot. The guys at Sunset Photo did the custom printing. If we'd had computers and Photoshop, I could've put them on the roof without the vignetting! Do you guys still have the prints? If so, send me some and I'll Photoshop a better one for you! 😎

**Rick Leinecker:** We all split up the prints. I got one of the large ones. The smaller pictures are gone to the wind. I'd be glad to pay for it.

**RD Flores:** What is truly amazing is that I still have that Jeep, and Ron still has the Buggy! In slightly better condition though.



**Carol Carver Harris:** You're famous now. 😊

**Kim Sestok Kushner:** What a fun memory you guys have!

**Randi Gleichenhaus Pakula:** Love This!





### Senior Prom: [The Way We Were](#)

By Michael Bell

*Michael's post was seen by 153 classmates on Facebook, generating 22 "likes" and 8 comments.*

If memory serves me correctly, Killian's Class of '75 senior prom was originally scheduled to take place at the Coconut Grove Hotel. That plan fell through at the 11th hour and our last-minute "Plan B" was to host prom in the Country Club Ballroom at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. Bear in mind, that in 1975, the Biltmore was not the opulent grand dame that she is today.

From 1942 to 1968, the Biltmore was repurposed, initially as a military hospital, and then as Miami's V.A. Hospital. As a result of these conversions, "many of the windows were sealed with concrete, and the marble floors covered with government-issued linoleum" (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). In addition, the Biltmore's signature pool was drained and ravaged by disuse and the passage of time. The Biltmore sat shuttered and decaying until its reopening in 1987 as the luxury hotel/resort that she is today.

Bottom line, our prom was held amid the detritus and dust of this once esteemed property—AND without any air conditioning during the humid days of South Florida's late spring. I believe our prom was the evening when the term, "hot mess," was coined. In retrospect, we should have capitalized on the unique aspects of the Biltmore at that time, including its haunting by the ghosts of Veterans who died there. (BTW, the lore of the Biltmore being haunted persists to this day! Coulda shoulda woulda been the Monster Mash if we had played our cards better.)

I wasn't much interested in going to Prom—let alone at the moldering Biltmore—but classmate, Ninfa Arredondo, convinced me otherwise. We were senior homeroom buddies who, thanks to the alphabetical seating chart, were seated one in front of the other. I'd yet to learn the term "beard," but I suppose we were each other's beards that evening. That first row was led by Howard Anapol, Ninfa, and me. It fascinates me how the relationships we forged at that time were often the result of space and time. Not surprisingly, I have a stronger recollection of my classmates whose last names started with "A" and "B." Damn those alphabetical seating charts!

For prom, I donned the hideous fashion and hair of the time (mine a rented tux from Sir Galloway). Ninfa was lovely and transcended the sartorial trappings of the 70s. We made the best of it and then made our way to a lounge at the Sonesta Hotel on Key Biscayne, one of several drinking establishments that were lax on checking IDs.

For good or for bad, we made the best of our bizarre prom. We made memories together.

## DO YOU REMEMBER ALL THIS STUFF FROM 1975?

- Mood Rings
- Rubik's Cubes
- Pet Rocks
- Hip-huggers, bell bottoms, leisure suits
- 8-Tracks
- Disco
- PEZ candy
- Magic 8-Balls
- Song of the Year: Captain and Tennille, "Love Will Keep Us Together"
- Album of the Year: Paul Simon, "Still Crazy After All These Years"
- Movies: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Jaws," "Nashville," "Dog Day Afternoon"
- "Saturday Night Live" premieres on NBC; George Carlin hosts the first show.
- "All in the Family" is America's top television show for the fifth straight year.
- President: Gerald R. Ford, Vice President: Nelson A. Rockefeller
- U.S. Population: 215,973,199
- U.S. Unemployment: 5.6%
- Cost of first-class stamp: \$.10; Quart of milk: \$.46; loaf of bread: \$.33
- Vietnam War ends (April 30)
- Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft take off for US-Soviet link-up in space (July 15).
- Margaret Thatcher is the first woman elected to lead Britain's Conservative Party.
- Egypt reopens the Suez Canal after eight years.
- Home videotape systems (VCRs) are developed in Japan by Sony (Betamax) and Matsushita (VHS).
- Computer hobbyists Stephen Wozniak and Steven Jobs begin working on computer designs. Together they develop the Apple 1 prototype.



## **A NOSTALGIC LOOK BACK AT THE TOP SONGS OF 1975**

by Kandace McKenzie Hill

The soundtrack of our senior year  
Brings back memories I hold dear.  
We asked [Dance with Me](#),  
A yes or a no showed us [That's the Way of the World At Seventeen](#).  
While [Jive Talkin'](#) and [Walking in Rhythm](#),  
Taught us about [Fallin' In Love](#) and [Feelings](#).  
A few [Wasted Days and Wasted Nights](#) on Crandon Park's sand,  
Riding around in cool 70's cars or a [Chevy Van](#).  
Often there was [Laughter in the Rain](#)  
At a Friday night football game.  
As we graduated, we were a [Shining Star](#) to everyone we met,  
[Swearin' to God](#), [You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet!](#)  
It seems like [Only Yesterday](#); we thought [Never Can Say Goodbye](#),  
And we wondered [When Will I See You Again](#), hoping perhaps [One of These Nights](#).  
For me those days were [Some Kind of Wonderful](#), and [Before the Next Teardrop Falls](#),  
Remember [Love Will Keep Us Together](#) thinking back of that year in Killian's halls.

## **GRADUATION DAY: JUNE 13, 1975**





## **LET'S PLAY KILLIAN TRIVIA!**

**by Kandy McKenzie Hill**



High school holds so many fond memories for us. I hope these trivia questions open up your memory bank and bring a smile to your life thinking back about the good old days at Killian High!

1. What was the name of our high school newspaper? ***The Cougar's Roar.***
2. Who wore the head of our Cougar mascot at pep rallies? ***Betsey Asbury.***
3. What did the acronyms HBA and FTA represent? ***Future Homemakers of America*** and ***Future Teachers of America.***
4. What Killian organization hosted the annual Killian Road Rallye? ***Mu Alpha Theta.***
5. What was the name of the novelty/head shop in Dadeland? ***The Barefoot Mailman.***  
Do you still have your lava lamp?
6. What was the name of our yearbook and what does its name mean? ***Catamount. It represents a Mountain Cat, aka COUGAR.***
7. Staying with the yearbook theme, what was unusual about our 1975 yearbook? ***The pages for the Senior section were yellow gold (as in, "Killian High, green & gold, colors we all love").***
8. Regarding one of our favorite football stars, what is Rocky Rumenik's real first name? ***Peter.***
9. We all remember the Miami Dolphins back when they were a winning team. There was a little guy who kicked and forced a lot of tied scores. He was also famous for selling ties in his own shops AND his brother was a Killian Cougar, to boot! What was his name? ***Garo Yepremian.*** (He brother was Berj, in the Class of '74.)
10. What were the gals who cheered for the wrestling team called? (They were not all cheerleaders.) ***Mat Chicks.***
11. Our coaches were always fun; remember what they did at one of the pep rallies? ***They dressed up like cheerleaders.***



**This first reunion of approximately 50 Killian graduates who lived in the Richmond Heights area occurred in December of 1975. It was organized by Reunion Board member Warren Raulerson.**

### **THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS REUNIONS**

One of the first big reunions of Killian graduates took place in December of 1975 when nearly 50 classmates gathered in a rented building off U.S. 1 on an unusually cold evening. The meeting was organized by Warren Raulerson amongst his friends in the Richmond Heights area, a neighborhood often described as a "tight knit family." The reunions and parties continue until this day.

"A lot of us born in 1957 and 1958 grew up together, kindergarten through Killian," Warren said. "After we graduated, everyone went their own way. If we had a phone number, that was the only way we stayed in touch. Back then, we had committees for food, drinks, finances and a DJ. It was \$10 or \$15 each. We had a bank account and put down the money to hold the building we rented."

Warren also played a role in starting the first Killian Class of 1975 Reunion that was open to all graduates. "Warren organized the first meeting at Killian to discuss it," said Carol Carver Harris, who chaired our first 10-Year reunion in 1985 and every reunion that followed it over the next 20 years.

Warren savors his high school years at Killian, where he enjoyed interacting with classmates, teachers and coaches. "I wouldn't mind living it over again," he said. "I wouldn't change anything."



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### REUNION HISTORY

Fifty years ago, the hallways of Miami Killian buzzed with energy from the Class of '75. From pep rallies and football games, to science labs and art displays, these were the days when lifelong friendships were forged, dreams began to take shape, and the spirit of Killian pride was born. A half a century later, we gathered once more to honor the memories, milestones and remarkable journeys that have defined our lives since graduation. The 50-Year Reunion was not just a celebration of the past, but a testament to the enduring bond that makes us forever Cougars.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10-Year Reunion	198	Sonesta Beach Hotel, Key Biscayne	June 14-15, 1985
20-Year Reunion	131	Omni Colonnade, Coral Gables	July 21-22, 1995
25-Year Reunion	134	Sonesta Beach Hotel, Key Biscayne	July 14-15, 2000
30-Year Reunion	178	Wyndham Miami Beach Resort	July 15-16, 2005
35-Year Reunion	59	Majesty of The Seas, Bahama Cruise	Oct. 8-11, 2010
40-Year Reunion	12	Best Western Kendall/Jungle Island	July 24-25, 2015
<del>45-Year Reunion</del>	<del>60</del>	<del>Mayfair Hotel, Coconut Grove</del>	<del>June 12-13, 2020</del>
<del>— CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 EPIDEMIC —</del>			
50-Year Reunion	200+	Miami Marriott Dadeland	June 12-14, 2025





**Killian Class of 1975 — 10-Year Reunion — June 14-15, 1985**

No photos were recorded of all 198 people at the 10-Year Reunion, but there were thousands of individual images recorded for the event such as this one.



**Killian Class of 1975 — 20-Year Reunion — July 21-22, 1995**





**Killian Class of 1975 — 25-Year Reunion — July 14-15, 2000**



**Killian Class of 1975 — 30-Year Reunion — July 15-16, 2005**





**Killian Class of 1975 — 35-Year Reunion — October 8-11, 2010**



**Killian Class of 1975 — 40-Year Reunion — July 24-25, 2015**





## [A Trip Down Memory Lane](#)

by Michael Bell

*Micheal's Facebook post was seen by 177 classmates, and generated 19 "likes" and 45 comments.*

Trip down memory lane this morning to the corner of Kendall Drive & SW 97th Avenue:

1. Former 7-11 is now Fluent Cannabis.
2. Former Chicken Unlimited (where Doug used to work) is now the 24-hour Pinecrest Bakery, conveniently located kitty-corner to the cannabis dispensary.
3. The replacement 7-11 is sited next to the old one, this one with fuel pumps.
4. The abandoned Farm Stores, which I predict will become a drive-thru for Fluent Cannabis.
5. The former Steak & Ale (where we went for "fancy" dining back in the day) is Sports Grill.

Seems that everything old is new again!



## MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

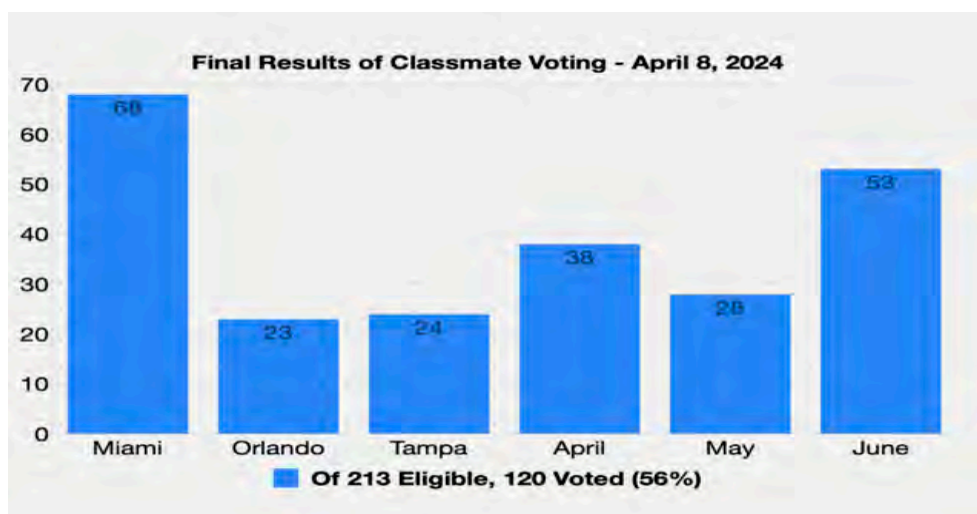
### NEWSLETTER #3 – APRIL 19, 2024

**Note from the Editor:** I hope you enjoy this month's Newsletter. It is a collaborative effort that we had fun putting together for you. In May, we are taking a sabbatical. We will resume sending out the Newsletter in June. Stay tuned as the June Newsletter will be jam-packed with even more great information and updates! -- *Barbara Rutledge McGreal (BRM)*

### **COUGARS ROARED! THE VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED!**

It was a landslide victory. The nostalgic choice prevailed. Please mark your calendars for our 50th Reunion on June 12-15, 2025 in Dade/Broward County. The Miami area won with a total of 68 votes, compared to 24 for Tampa and 23 for Orlando. June won with 53 votes, compared to 33 for April and 28 for May. In total, 120 votes were recorded from 213 registered classmates (56%). Five people did not express a clear choice.

The vote highlighted a divergence between traditionalists, who wanted the Reunion in the Miami area (68), compared to classmates who wanted a fresh destination (47). It highlighted a desire to move to a cooler month, too, with 53 voting for June versus 61 voting for April or May. Despite these differences, the prevailing sentiment conveyed by everyone who expressed an opinion is that they are coming to the Reunion no matter what date or venue.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### NEWSLETTER #6 - AUGUST 14, 2024

#### **REUNION BOARD NAMES HOTEL FINALISTS**

During your Reunion Board meeting on July 25th, the 15 volunteers planning your 50-Year Celebration took another step forward to meet their goal of hosting the biggest and best class reunion we've ever had. By unanimous consent, they approved a "short list" of convention hotels proposed by the Site Selection Committee. The hotels vying to host our event were boiled down to just five properties, from a list that once included 28 contenders.

The short list was the product of five months of scrutiny that began in February when we asked classmates on our private Facebook page where to hold the Reunion. During an email election on April 1-9, when 120 of 213 registered classmates cast a ballot, Miami/Ft. Lauderdale catapulted to first place, beating both Tampa and Orlando combined. Three potential reunion dates were narrowed down to June 12-15, 2025, matching up exactly with the date we graduated on June 13, 1975.

A hotel request for proposal (RFP) was drafted next. The process relied upon a Facebook poll in June where more than 100 classmates expressed program preferences that dictated our facility needs. A final draft was ratified by the Reunion Board on July 2nd, and then distributed to every hotel in Dade and Broward counties with at least 235 rooms under \$250 per night, with ballroom space for at least 260 people for our evening events. In all, 28 properties received our RFP on July 8-9.

With help from the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau and Visit Fort Lauderdale, we found 11 hotels with sufficient inventory to submit a bid by our July 19th deadline. The submissions were analyzed by the Site Selection Committee, which selected five finalists on July 21st.

#### **50-Year Reunion Hotel Finalists**

[Ft. Lauderdale Hilton Marina](#)  
[Ft. Lauderdale Westin Beach Resort](#)  
[Hyatt Regency Miami](#)  
[Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay](#)  
[Miami Marriott Dadeland](#)

Site inspections of the finalist hotels are being conducted August 15-16, 2025, with a ranked list of properties determined thereafter. Your Site Inspection Team consists of: Michael Bell, Denise (Willis) Dozier, Flo (Leidecker) Lanio, Karen (Wilson) Lawrence and Doug Traub. Classmate Robyne Newell will meet up with the Team during its Ft. Lauderdale visit and provide a tour of the area.



## REUNION BOARD RANKS TOP HOTELS



### **Two Days in the Life of Site Selection Committee Members**

*(l to r) Denise (Willis) Dozier, Karen (Wilson) Lawrence, Michael Bell, Doug Traub and Flo (Leidecker) Lanio were greeted with the official 50-Year Reunion logo during their visit to Miami Marriott Dadeland.*

Our Committee Chair, Doug Traub, assembled an intrepid and opinionated group of volunteers to serve on the Site Selection Committee in order to investigate every hotel in Dade and Broward County, and eventually pick the best one with the best deal for our 50-Year Reunion. The only requirements to serve on the Committee were (1) membership on the Reunion Board; (2) a commitment to visit all five finalist properties across two days in August; and (3) a touch of insanity.

After months of boiling the hotels down to the 28 best candidates; writing and issuing a request for proposal (RFP); reviewing 11 written proposals; and selecting the best five offers, each Site Selection Committee member was then charged with making a formal inspection of the five properties and ranking them in priority order. No longer dealing by Zoom and cell phone, but working together as a team, the Committee quickly forged their respective identities and roles towards the endeavor:



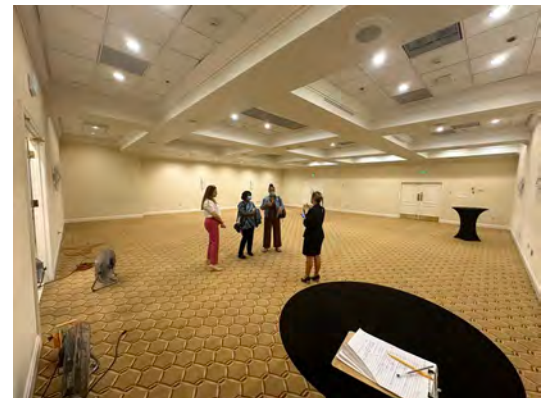
**Michael Bell – “Mr. OCD”** Michael was forever in pursuit of bath products being lined-up in the exact order of Shampoo/ Conditioner/Body Wash, and making sure that beds were made with military precision. Pity the hotel that failed his standards of good hygiene and comfort!



**Denise Dozier – “Bean-Counter”** Denise kept her eye on the bottom line, relentless in her pursuit of the best deal for our alums! It’s no secret that Denise worked in a budget office for years.



**Flo Lanio – “Poker Face”** Word to the wise—don’t ever play poker with Flo, as she keeps





her cards close to the chest, misses nothing, and never reveals her hand until it's time to Call.


**Karen Lawrence – “The Broker”** Karen was wheeling-and-dealing at each stop on the journey, assessing each hotel for meeting the highest standards of hospitality, and finding ways to put two and two together to make five, all for the benefit of her classmates.

**Doug Traub – “Cat Herder”** Cougar metaphors aside, our fearless leader had the arduous task of herding rambunctious, independent-thinking and willful team members not to tarry too long or be overly critical of staff or the facilities. It was not a role for the faint of heart.

Let it be said that the Site Selection Committee spent more time in hotel rooms over a two-day period than a prostitute at a convention! Let it also be said that the Site Selection Committee was strictly business—and NOT the monkey-business kind. Oh, and the Committee ate and ate—again and again, as honored guests at each hotel vying

our for business. Let the whirlwind journey begin!

### Day One, August 15, 2024—Miami

- ☒ Miami Marriott Dadeland with an unexpected Breakfast
- ☒ Hyatt Regency Miami with Lunch
-  Meet with representative from the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
- ☒ Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay with an impromptu Happy Hour due to thunderstorm



### Day Two, August 16, 2024—Ft. Lauderdale

- ☒ Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Marina with an unexpected Breakfast
-  Meet with representative from Visit Ft. Lauderdale
- ☒ Westin Ft. Lauderdale Beach Resort with a Mexican lunch @ Lola





***By the second day of inspections, the team was worn out, as Denise grilled the hotel staff on why an extra \$20 was being assessed for a double occupancy room, a fee the hotel eventually agreed to waive. (l to r, in front of bed) Denise Dozier, Michael Bell, Flo Lanio. (front to back, beside bed) Karen Lawrence (seated), Brooke Cura (Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina), Elena Gladstone (Visit Fort Lauderdale)***

The journey was akin to being recast as actors in the film, *Groundhog Day*. With each new inspection, the group repeated the same rituals over and over and over again:

1. Meet and greet host in hotel lobby
2. Tour hotel common spaces, restaurants and ballrooms
3. Chatter about price (Doug and Denise)
4. Check out hotel and hospitality rooms
5. Conduct the white glove test
6. Admire the views
7. Meet more people and forget their names
8. Eat
9. Kibbitz
10. Drive to next property
11. Repeat above again
12. Repeat above again



## 50-YEAR REUNION AT-A-GLANCE

**Miami Killian Senior High School - Class of 1975**

**June 12-14, 2025**

Date	Day&me	Evening
Thursday 6/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 a.m.-5 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Musician rehearsals (<i>Le Mirage Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3 p.m.-Midnight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit Memorial Room (<i>Sunset Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrival/Check-In at Miami Marriok Dadeland Hotel. <i>Valet parking only.</i></li> <li>Check-In at Reunion RegistraNon table (<i>Hotel Lobby</i>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. — <b><i>Dress is casual</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Killian Icebreaker &amp; Trivia. Have fun; Amazon giV cards! (<i>Le Mirage Room</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet in Hotel Bar – <b>DINNER ON YOUR OWN — CASH BAR</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encore performance of “Concerts in the Courtyard” featuring <b>Class of ’75 musicians!</b> (<i>Le Mirage Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Friday 6/13/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 a.m.-Midnight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit Memorial Room (<i>Sunset Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9 a.m.-9:15 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depart for Killian High from Hotel Lobby (share rides or Uber to/from)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RecepNon/Tour at Killian High</li> </ul> </li> <li>Noon - 1:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shorty’s Bar-B-Q (1st 50 who sign up)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrival/Check-In at Miami Marriok Dadeland Hotel. <i>Valet parking only.</i></li> <li>Check-In at Reunion RegistraNontable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private RecepNon-MarrioGDadeland Hotel registered guests only.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BREAKFAST &amp; LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m. — <b><i>Dress in Green &amp; Gold to show your Cougar spirit!</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Killian Icebreaker &amp; Trivia. Have fun; Amazon giV cards! (<i>Le Mirage Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. <b>CASH BAR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50<sup>th</sup> Reunion GraduaNon CelebraNon Meet &amp; Greet (<i>Grand Ballroom Lobby</i>)</li> <li>High-top tables &amp; room to mingle</li> </ul> </li> <li>7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Grand Ballroom</i> opens</li> <li>Music by DJ who take your requests!</li> <li><b>Complimentary Hors d’oeuvres as long as they last!</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>9:00 - 9:15 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50-Year Class Reunion group photo to be published in digital Memory Book</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Saturday 6/14/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 a.m.-Midnight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit Memorial Room (<i>Sunset Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viscaya Museum &amp; Gardens Walk/ Tour. Depart Hotel Lobby (\$35 extra)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.?? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dadeland Mall Walk-Depart Hotel Lobby</li> </ul> </li> <li>Noon - 1:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shorty’s Bar-B-Q (1st 50 who sign up)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4 p.m. - 5 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marching Cougars Meet &amp; Greet (<i>Le Mirage Room</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BREAKFAST &amp; LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (for late arrivals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check-In at Reunion RegistraNon table.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. <b>CASH BAR — Dress in your 70s apparel! Prizes for best ouPit!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mingle (<i>Grand Ballroom Lobby</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grand Ballroom opens; reserve a seat</li> <li>Plated dinner, awards &amp; mayhem</li> </ul> </li> <li>8:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50-Year Class Reunion group photo #2</li> </ul> </li> <li>9:00 p.m. - midnight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70s Dance Party Gala begins</li> <li>Music by <b>Motown</b> band! Dance Floor!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Group Photos From the 50-Year Class Reunion



Over 200 classmates wearing green and gold gathered on Friday night during our 50th Reunion Graduation Celebration on the stairs of our host hotel, Miami Marriott Dadeland, on June 13, 2025.





This image is a place holder. Our classmates are much more sophisticated and better looking. A real picture, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington, will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to replace it.

**Over 200 classmates gathered on Saturday night during our 50th Reunion 70s Dance Party & Gala at the Miami Marriott Dadeland, on June 14, 2025.**





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### THURSDAY NIGHT (JUNE 12, 2025)

A fun session hosted by **Stu Adelman Evans** broke the ice. Then we met at the bar, followed by an encore performance of “Concerts in the Courtyard.” Our emcee was **Keith Spurlock**, who championed live musical performances at Killian. Classmates who performed also included:

- **Kim Sestok Kushner**, who recently released her debut album, “[Late Bloomer](#),” at the remarkable age of 66;
- **Rick Leinecker**, a classically trained musician who once played in the Miami Philharmonic Orchestra. He wrote the music, sang lead vocals, and mixed the final recording for our official Class Reunion song, *50 Years*;
- **Robin Rudy**, a Grammy award-winning musician who built a thriving career as a songwriter, touring musician, session musician, recording-studio owner and music publisher. Robin has toured with Rod Stewart, Shania Twain, Ray Stevens, Lynn Anderson and many others;
- **Julius Szalay**, who has co-written three Billboard Top 10 hit records and opened for more than 200 national acts with his popular Florida-based band known as the *Wildfire Brothers*, the headline act for Saturday night’s 70s Dance Party & Gala; and
- **Ritchie Williams**, a highly accomplished base player who used to perform with Keith in high school.

Approximately 25-35 photos of the best photos from Thursday night, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.

### **KILLIAN THEN & NOW**

A story written by Michael Bell based on his research and Facebook contributions from classmates, as published in the March 2025 Reunion newsletter, will be reprinted here.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### KILLIAN FIELD TRIP (JUNE 13, 2025)

Classmate **Michael Bell**, retired Assistant Superintendent for Miami-Dade Public Schools, arranged a nostalgic field trip down memory lane to Killian Senior High School on the exact date we graduated 50 years ago. It included a welcome reception with coffee and Cuban pastelios, as well as a guided tour of the school by its Activities Director, Mark Barnet. Classmates were informed about the many upgrades to campus since 1975, as well as provided with numerous photo opportunities. See for yourself!

Approximately 25-35 photos of the best photos from Killian, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### MEET & GREET (JUNE 13, 2025)

Another fun session hosted by **Stu Adelman Evans** broke the ice for a second night. We met in the Pre-Function area outside the Grand Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. dressed in green and gold. The doors opened at 7 p.m. and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres were unveiled, including scallops in bacon, Beef Wellington, vegetable spring rolls and assorted Chinese Dumplings.

When the Grand Ballroom opened, classmates were greeted by music from classmate and former football star **Al Corbett** acting as our **DJ** for 50th Reunion Graduation Celebration Meet & Greet. It was exactly 50 years ago on this day that we graduated together during commencement exercises at Miami-Dade Community College. Al made it a point to get out and meet everyone to ensure we had a good time!

Approximately 35-45 photos of the best photos from Killian, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### VISCAYA FIELD TRIP (JUNE 14, 2025)

Classmate **Michael Bell** coordinated a field trip to explore the gardens at Viscaya and enjoy a guided tour of the timeless Mediterranean-style main house with collections dating from the early 20th-century all the way back to Pompeii.

Approximately 5-15 photos of the best photos from Viscaya, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### DADELAND MALL (JUNE 14, 2025)

Cougars enjoyed an impromptu “mall walk and shop” on Saturday morning to take in our old stomping grounds. (Some classmates simply wanted to use some of the special coupons and sales events contained in the Swag Bags distributed upon check-in at the Reunion, too.) Much had changed from 50 years ago when our classmates used to work there!

#### Classmates Who Worked at Dadeland Mall

##### Arango:

Gretchen Scharnagl

##### Burdine's:

Lorri Gordon Arnold

Stu Adelman Evans

Mary McCullagh

Diane Ritz Matthews

Cyndi Lancaster Padgham

##### J.C. Penney:

Tina Prevette Davis

Julie Penney Jeffus

Trena Grove Marquez

Jeff Murray

##### Kresge's Drug Store:

Rea Bliss

Barbara Rutledge McGreal

##### Burger King:

Mary McCullagh

##### Piercing Pagoda:

Carol Carver Harris

##### Food Fair:

Bob Heinzmann

##### Press-On Tee Shirt Kiosk:

Kandace McKenzie Hill

Michele Miller Harness-Bourdonnay

##### Forum Cafeteria:

Karen Wilson Lawrence

Cynthia Corbett Reid

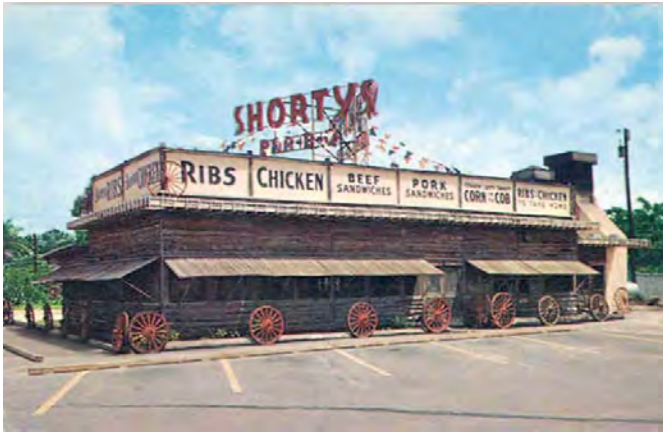
Ilese Weingarten-Schrenk (Drinks Girl)

Approximately 5-15 photos of the best photos from Dadeland Mall, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.



## **SHORTY'S BAR-B-QUE – ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN!**

By Michael Bell, Miami Ambassador



Our 50-Year Reunion offered two “pay what you eat” opportunities to sit down at picnic tables and enjoy lunch with classmates at Shorty’s original location at 9200 South Dixie Highway on:

- Friday, June 13, 2025, Noon – 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 14, 2025, Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and a mere 4-minute walk from our hotel, we could have a nostalgic barbecue fix as often as we wanted, too!

### **Shorty’s Place in Miami’s History**

Mr. E.L. “Shorty” Allen left Georgia as a young man more than 80 years ago. In 1951, he built and opened the familiar log cabin style restaurant, including family size picnic tables, screen windows and a concrete floor. Since those early days, Shorty’s has been satisfying appetites with its famous ribs, chicken, homemade sauce, creamy coleslaw and corn on the cob. Shorty died in 2013 at the age of 104. *Who said eating barbecue was bad for you?*

Loyal patrons were shocked when Shorty’s burned down in 1972. Thankfully, two years later, Shorty rebuilt an almost identical building on this same location—this time with air-conditioning. Shorty’s continues to be an “Oasis in Time,” where you can taste what it was like in South Florida over 73 years ago.



Today the restaurant remains a piece of South Florida’s glorious history, a nostalgic and delicious landmark next door to Datan Center Skyscrapers, and the southern end of MetroRail, all just a block from Dadeland Mall.<sup>1</sup>

### **Nothing Lasts Forever**

Over the years, Shorty’s BBQ has been approached many times by developers seeking to buy the restaurant’s original location in Miami. The response was typically a quick, “No,” said CEO Mark Vasturo. However, the barbecue eatery finally said “yes” in 2022, after roughly a year of negotiations. A sale-leaseback with Shorty’s was arranged, which allows it to remain on its original site through 2027. The restaurant could then be demolished or part of a future development on the site.<sup>2</sup> Who knows? Never say never, but Shorty’s might be nearing the end of its historic run in Kendall. Killian’s Class of ’75 Reunion Board invited everyone to saddle-up to a picnic table and enjoy a taste of nostalgia. It might have been your last opportunity to experience this Miami institution!

<sup>1</sup> <https://shortys.com/douglas-s-moore/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://therealdeal.com/miami/2022/01/04/order-up-shortys-inks-15m-sale-lease-back-of-original-restaurant-near-dadeland-mall/>

Approximately 3-15 photos of the best photos from Shorty's, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.



# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### MARCHING COUGARS MEET & GREET

After 50 years, **Paula Finkelstein Rosenberg** and **Anthony Washington**, who helped to energize the Killian school band, put their heads together and created a plan to reignite that Marching Cougar spirit with a Meet & Greet on June 14th. The event was open to all Cougars.

Approximately 5-15 photos of the best photos from Marching Cougars Meet & Greet, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### 70S DANCE PARTY GALA (JUNE 14, 2025)

We met in the Pre-Function area outside the Grand Ballroom at 6 p.m., dressed in 70s attire, for a brief cocktail reception. A team of judges began to scour the premises to identify the best outfits.

When the doors opened at 7 p.m., classmates selected a seat for the evening and a salad was served. A sumptuous dinner followed. We had a choice between herb-crusted sea bass, grilled angus beef tenderloin, roasted chicken breast with truffle sauce, or a vegetarian special.

By the time desert was served — a flourless chocolate mousse created especially for classmates on a gluten-free diet — **Stu Evans Adelman** stepped up to lead a brief program.

- \_\_\_\_\_ presented a series of five awards:
  - Farthest Traveled to the Reunion
  - Attended All Previous Reunions
  - Served Our Country
  - Never Left School
  - Classmates who Married Other Classmates (and are still married)
- **Dawn Eberst Lucas** presented awards for the top five 70s outfits — First, Second, Third & Honorable Mentions (2)

- **Michael Bell** introduced the two winners of the “That’s So Miami Killian” Poetry Contest, **Dawn Eberst Lucas** and **Kandy McKenzie Lucas**. Their winning entries were read.
- **Doug Traub**, Reunion Chair, presented **Carol Carver Harris** with the coveted Cougar Spirit award.



Following desert and the brief award ceremony, it was time for classmates to break out their dancing shoes. **Julius Szalay** and his *Wildfire Brothers* took to the stage for the conclusion of the Reunion. The group is one of the most popular R&B/Motown bands in Florida.

The Wildfire Brothers include former members of national acts that were popular in the 70s. One member played with *Rare Earth*. Another was a part of the *Staple Singers*, and yet another played with *Al Green's* band.

The climax for the evening occurred when Julius invited all six musicians who collaborated on our Class Reunion song, “*Fifty Years*,” to join him on stage — **Rick Leinecker, Robin Ruddy, Kim Sestok Kushner, Keith Spurlock** and **Ritchie Williams**.

Our six classmates played an extended bootleg version of “*Fifty Years*” that Julius and his band had rehearsed in the months leading up to the Reunion. It was a fitting climax to a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Approximately 55-65 photos of the best photos from the Saturday Night 70s Dance Party Gala, taken by Official Reunion Photographers Keith Spurlock and Anthony Washington — as well as photos submitted by classmates — will be selected by Photography Editor Kandy McKenzie Hill to appear in this section as part of a layout designed by ReunionDB.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### BIOS

The section that follows includes biographies about all Cougars from the Class of 1975 — or those classmates who intended to graduate with our class — who purchased a ticket to the 50-Year Class Reunion and/or completed a biography on the Reunion Board database. The “before” photos were secured from the 1974 or 1975 Killian yearbooks. “After” photographs were supplied by classmates or obtained during the registration process at the Reunion.

These biographies preserve our personal history and allow us to share experiences with fellow classmates. Over the decades, each of us has taken unique paths, faced challenges, and achieved milestones that have shaped who we are today. By recording these moments, we not only reflect on our own journeys but also contribute to a collective history that connects us with those who shared our formative years.

Having access to these biographies provides a valuable way to reconnect, reminisce, and understand the different roads taken since graduation. Life often takes us in unexpected directions, and without intentional documentation, many stories and memories may be lost over time. Sharing our experiences reinforces our sense of community, allowing old friends to celebrate successes, empathize with struggles, and find common ground despite years of separation.

Beyond nostalgia, these biographies serve as a historical record for future generations. Our stories, lessons learned, and personal insights can offer inspiration to family members, younger generations, and even historians studying the evolution of our shared experiences. By taking the time to document our lives, we leave behind a legacy that honors our past and enriches the connections we have with one another.

# Biographies - Sample Page

## Carol Carver Harris

Class of '75



**Occupation:** Owner Harris & Schroeder Builders

**Family:** Husband Jim, one daughter Aubrey Alice, son in law Austin and 3 grandchildren.

**Interests:** 1975 - 2002 Real Estate Appraising and 2002- Present - Construction Management

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Born and raised in Miami and still reside in Florida. Have many passions.... airplanes, agriculture, tractors, and Faith, Family & Friends. By the age of 15 I was traveling across Europe on bicycle with a group called Spinning Spokes. My only claim to fame was in 1976 when I was a contestant in The Miss Florida USA pageant and my roommate was Delta Burke of TV's Designing Women. I am President of Cultivating Dreams Foundation which I started in 2019. I won the Women of the Year in Agriculture in 2013 and The Kindness Award from the City of Homestead in 2008. Psalm 46:10 Favorite Bible Verse

## Dawn Eberst Lucas

Class of '75



**Occupation:** Administrator for Lucas Systems (32 yrs)

**Family:** Lee husband, Jean Brad Owen steps, 10 grands, mom Jan, bro Bruce, sis Amber

**Interests:** FRIENDS-70's rock/dancing-tennis-cooking-crosswords-beach-50th reunion

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Guys Streakin' thru 7-11 & flying into the get away car I drove - a '65 Buick Electra 225 Convertible - lost a hubcap that night! Going to Whoppeedoo and The Fort! Evenings w/besties, Joe Bogger and MJ. Dancing to Max Demian at Esquire Club - all night! Brandy Alexanders at Bodega! Working 5 jobs to make ends meet. Those were the days! Graduated in January after going to Summer school for 3 quins. Started job at a law office Dec 74. Kept on with law offices from Miami to Atlanta and to Greenville. After a divorce met my current husband of 30 years. We started Lucas Systems '92!

## Douglas (Doug) Traub

Class of '75



**Occupation:** Retired from marketing since April 2017

**Family:** My wife is Carol. My daughter is Catherine. My brother is David lives nearby.

**Interests:** Writing, travel, boating, fishing, scuba diving

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Doug Traub, a writer from the Tampa Bay area, has been published in a number of newspapers and magazines. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Mercer University/Atlanta, he completed a summer session at the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop and was an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Tampa. Doug is currently working on a short story collection and a novel of fiction inspired by a real world trademark dispute that made international headlines. An article about him and his previous marketing career appears on Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia.

## Karen Wilson Lawrence

Class of '75



**Occupation:** retired

**Family:** Mother of 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter. 4 siblings, 1 sister living

**Interests:** sewing, traveling, mentor, children church, active with SDG

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** My most memorable life experience is spending every moment time with my family while they were still here. being the best mom to my daughter and now being a grandmother to my precious granddaughter. enjoyed my high school years at Miami Killian. Raised in the 70's brought so much value to my life. just being able to get a chance to celebrate 50 years of my class reunion and being thankful everyday I am still here and have my health.

## SOME PEOPLE YOU NEVER FORGET: COACH EHMANN

On July 10, 2025, a tribute to Coach Ehmann published in the Killian Class of 1976 Yearbook, was reprinted on our Facebook page. It was written by one of our own classmates, Mary McCullagh, and it was quite moving. Almost immediately after it appeared, the comments and memories came flooding in, and we wanted to share some of them. We have all experienced loss in our lives, but when Coach Ehmann died, we were just young, impressionable kids. The Coach touched most of our lives in such a positive way that he is indelibly etched in our memories... forever.



Ron Ehmann was not just another teacher at Killian. Coach Ehmann was a beautiful, sensitive man who will never be forgotten.

Coach was always genuinely interested in us and our lives, and somehow he felt responsible for us. To him we were not just students, we were individuals, each with different potentials and attitudes. He would listen to whatever we had to say and would offer his opinion or advice if needed. Coach had the talent to reach out to us, touching so many lives as he did.

Ron Ehmann always lived each day to the fullest, never letting a moment slip by without making the most of it. What Coach took from life, he shared with us. He taught us how to find the obvious and subtle enjoyments of life. He was happy; he always had so much to give, so much to share.

share.

Coach was strong in mind, body, and spirit. He knew "where his head was at" and was always willing to help us find our minds and our places in life. He was a source of inspiration for us all.

Coach demanded our respect and we respected him. He also respected us as individuals and as young adults.

With his passing, the world is left with the memory of all that he was, all that he was able to give us, and a void which can never be filled. The part of our lives we shared with him is now filled with memories.

We will miss Ron Ehmann. We will always remember him.

—Mary McCullagh  
Class of '75

**Teri (Thomas) Allstaedt:** He was an amazing educator, role model, and human being. He exuded God's love. Was so very impacted by his loss. He made Biology delightful.

**Yvonne Arbogast-Pelletier:** He was a great teacher who made biology really interesting.

**Henry Baldwin:** Just a great guy He gave me \$5.00 for helping him in the weight room. That was a lot of money back in 1975.

**Carolyn Truitt Clark:** I was in his Ladies weightlifting class. What a kind man.

**Lenor (Smith) Coggins:** My first and only "A" in Biology. I loved going to his class!

**JT Deegan:** He was my home room teacher. That day at school when I found out, it was a gut punch.



# Ron Ehmann

## He Was A Class Guy With Coaches and Students

By DAN CHRISTENSEN  
Sports Writer

"HE HAD just come from our All-Sports Banquet where he had really put on a great performance. He was the Master of Ceremonies, and he stole the show. But I knew he'd do it, he always did."

That's how Killian's Head football coach, Chris Vagotis, remembered Ron Ehmann this morning.

Ehmann, 34, head of Killian's Physical Education Department, was killed earlier this morning when the car he was driving was struck by another automobile. He died instantly.

"He was the kind of guy who just overwhelmed you with his gaiety and love of life," continued Vagotis. "He was just a great human being."

Vagotis remembered Ehmann easily. Not only were they good friends, but his career at Killian had been almost parallel.

"We both started here in 1971," he said. "Ron went into biology and P.E., and also acted as an assistant football coach. We worked together a lot and he started our weight training program. He was so enthusiastic about it that he got other people caught up. We've now got about \$50,000 worth of equipment; and it's all thanks to Ron."

AN OFFSHOOT of the unique weight training program was Killian's successful participation in the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test. Ehmann had led six of Killian's top athletes through the rigors of the tests to a first place finish in Florida, and a second place finish in the Southeast. He was to have accompanied his team to Washington on Wednesday for the national competition.

Ehmann was also responsible for the development of a weight training program for girls. Dubbed 'the super-

chicks', the program was the first of its kind in Dade County.

A graduate of Fort Scott Junior College and Kansas State University, Ehmann came to Miami in 1968 where he worked as a physical education teacher for Miami Springs High School. After transferring to Killian in 1971, he worked as a biology and physical education teacher before taking over as the head of the P.E. Department last year.

His wife, Jimmy, is a teacher at Riviera Junior High.

EHMANN TOOK a personal interest in his students that went beyond the usual limitations. One student, football player-wrestler Chris Gossett, who was beset by family problems this year, was taken into the Ehmann's home.

"HE TREATED him like a son," said wrestling coach Chuck Almeida.

"He was really some kind of guy. We are all going to miss him."

Defensive coach Fred Cooley remembered him as a "guy who was really involved. He spent unnumbered hours of his free time trying to promote the school and the kids, and he never got anything in return."

The students at the school who knew Ehmann were distraught at the news. "You can't believe how down the kids are," said offensive football coach Fred Burnside. "They were really close to him."

WORKING WITH the weight training program, Ehmann got to meet most of the students. It's a mandatory part of the physical education program now, due in large part to Ehmann, himself.

"He was number one in every way," said Vagotis. "If you were ever going to hand out a medal for a class guy, he would win in every sense of the word."

**MariaElena Galdo:** I remember Coach Ehmann as such an all around decent and inspiring person. It's really great that his memorial park (next to Killian) is still there to keep his memory alive.

**Kristal Bentley Hickmon:** A sad time! His death rocked us all. #RIP

**Mary T. McCullagh:** His death was the first in my life, and writing this elegy was my way of navigating the pain and loss.

**Kathleen Miller:** We will always remember him. What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful man. I've often wondered what happened to his wife. My father was an associate pastor at the church where Coach Ehman's funeral was held. He counselled Mrs. Ehman a lot after Coach died. Daddy said she had a very difficult time dealing with it.

**Leslie Armstrong Mulherin:** Science was not my favorite subject throughout my educational journey. Then I had him for biology and loved that class and still remember things I learned.

**Bruce Orr:** A real teacher to the students. He built the best weight training program in Dade County for all people and athletes bar none, and it was copied by every school.

**Leslie Miles Wan:** I distinctly remember the day they announced his death. I believe the teachers had already been told, but it came over the loudspeaker and the teacher in the class I was in started crying again. Death wasn't something I had known much of at that point in my life, so it was really shocking and sad. Creating that park was a wonderful tribute to him and his family.

# **HEAR NO EVIL, SEE NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL!**

## **A Moment I Will Never Forget**

**By Michael Bell**



**Dr. E. J. Arahill**

The mid-70s were a very different time. Most notably, teenagers could legally drink at the age of 18-years-old. Many of our fellow seniors could go to bars and lawfully imbibe for most of their final year in high school. A common workaround for those of us with summer and fall birthdays—who were waiting impatiently to turn 18—was the use of a “borrowed” ID. They worked because Florida’s driver’s licenses had yet to include photos, thereby making it impossible for barkeepers to match faces to pictures. In my case, the borrowed ID was my older brother’s driver’s license.

We also frequented places that were lax about carding customers. And the Sunset Lounge was one of them.

One evening, following our shift working at the Kendall Twin Cinema, a group of us headed to the Sunset Lounge to cool our jets with a few after-work beers and a pocketful of quarters for jukebox plays. We walked into the joint like regulars—lest we looked like the minors we were—ordered a round of beers and sat down at a table. Tossing back our beers, 70s favorites filled the air. We scanned the nearly empty bar for familiar faces. And we found one. At the far end of the bar, nursing a beer, shrouded in the darkness, was Dr. Arahill, the principal of our high school!

We were busted. But to bolt out the door would’ve been an obvious and blatant admission of guilt—so we stayed, frozen with that knowledge, acting as if there was nothing out of the ordinary with our youthful presence at the Sunset Lounge. Interestingly, Dr. Arahill stayed as well, completely ignoring us while he ordered another. Shortly, we finished our round and executed an Irish exit.

I remember not sleeping well that night. I was certain that I would be summoned to the principal’s office upon arrival at Killian the next morning. I shuddered each time the PA would cut-in throughout the day. By the end of that very long day? Crickets. Nothing.

Dr. Arahill was a smart man, and being that the bar was nearly empty, he certainly had to have seen us. Like us, it was after hours for him. But most importantly, it was the unthinkable, and he had the wisdom to make sure that the unthinkable remained unmentionable. Life-lesson exemplified!

NOTE: The since-closed Sunset Lounge was located in a strip mall known as Dade Western Center, on the southwest corner of Sunset Drive and SW 117th Avenue. It has since been replaced with a T. J. Maxx-anchored shopping plaza.





# MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH

## 50TH REUNION, CLASS OF 1975

### IN MEMORIUM



This picture is a placeholder. We will substitute a picture of the Sunset Room from the Reunion.

We celebrated during the Reunion, but our hearts were heavy from the absence of 170 of our cherished classmates no longer with us. They were part of our journey, shaping memories that still resonate in our lives. Their laughter, friendship, and spirit remain woven into the fabric of who we are. It seemed only right to offer a peaceful Memorial Room to honor them. It was open 24 hours per day. Classmates could visit anytime to pay their respects.

The Memorial Room included a poster with the names of our deceased classmates, along with an arrangement of white flowers, LED candles and a collection of ring-binder notebooks. The Memorial Committee provided blank

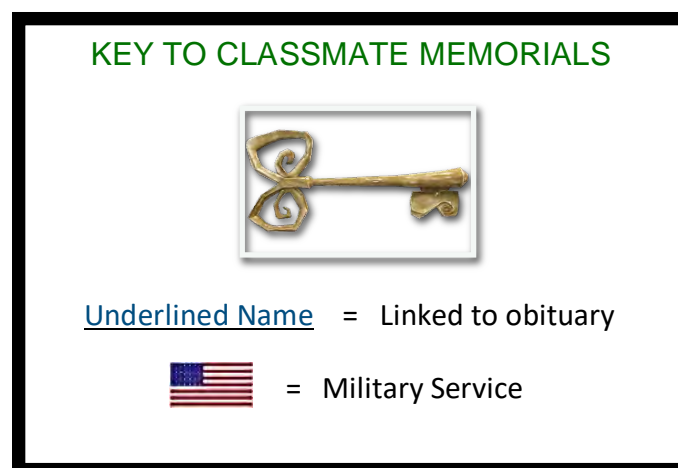


cards and pens to record memories and thoughts about loved ones, too. Another table held flower seed packets to take home and plant with love, in order to grow more happy memories.

The binders were labeled from A-Z, with a plastic sleeve inside for each classmate. The sleeves held a page about each person, including their date of birth, date of death, a high school picture and an obituary (when available). The sleeves allowed classmates to share and leave behind the thoughts they wrote down. The goal was to tell everyone who looked at the binders about our classmates lives, as if they were telling us about themselves. We will preserve the notebooks and their contents for future reunions.

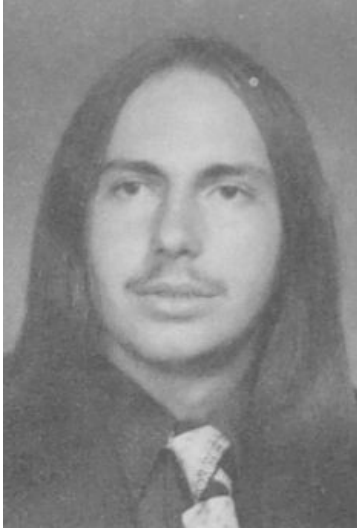
In addition to the Memorial Room, the committee worked to complete Memorials for individual classmates in the pages that follow. Online obituaries were linked to classmate names so they were readily available and easy to find. When military service was discovered, it was noted with a small flag (see “Key” below). The Memorial Committee did its best to find obituaries and military service records for our fallen classmates, and where omissions have occurred, we regret the oversight. We did our very best.

As we reflect on the lives of those who have gone on before us, let us honor their legacy by cherishing each moment and holding each other close. Though they are gone, they will never be forgotten, living on in our hearts and the stories we share about them. They can remain forever a part of us.



*In Memoriam*

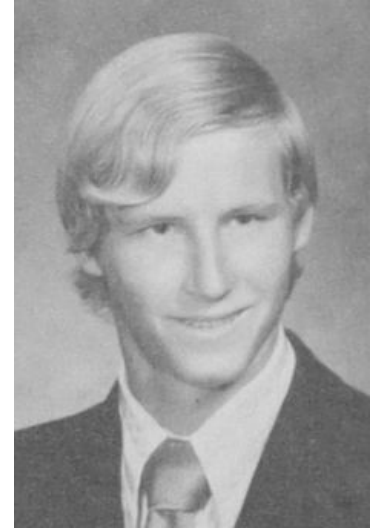
***Miami Killian - Class of 1975***



**Dean Abell**  
**2003**



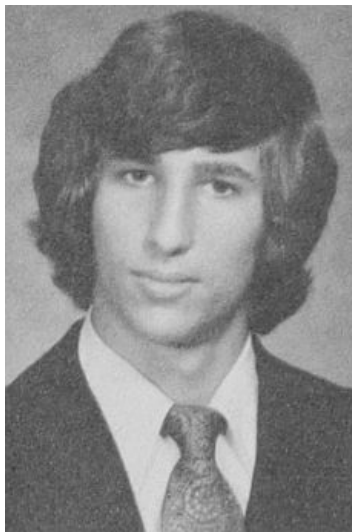
**Fern Ackerman**  
**2001**



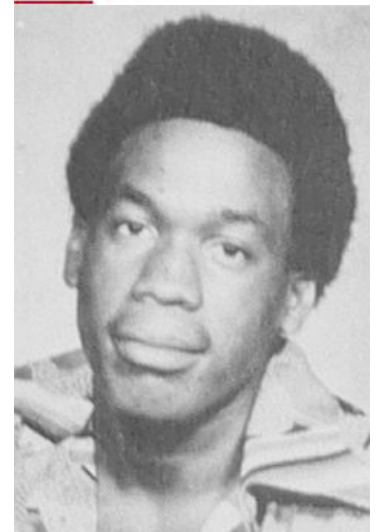
**Richard Adams**  
**2022**



**David Alley**  
**2016**



**Chuck Bader**  
**2013**



**Nathaniel Baker**  
**2017**

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Bruce Orr

Worldwide President of Advertising Sales

(305) 987-1521

borr711@gmail.com



# PERSONAL MESSAGES

**From Ken Oliver:** Wonderful to see old friends & classmates. We lived through remarkable and great times the 75th? Can't wait to be 5 d

**From Allan...** Wishing...

**From Linda Corliss Belkin:**  
Thank you to all of my committee members and a special thank you to Harriet Klein Litzky for a beautiful and moving In Memoriam tribute.

**THESE PERSONAL MESSAGES ARE NOT REAL PLACEMENTS. THEY ARE PROVIDED ONLY TO SHOW EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE.**

**From Harriet Klein Litzky & Linda Sobel Glastein**  
Memory of **Marcy Drexler**, we just connected.

**Dennis Schaefer:** Leslie (Schaefer) you put on a great party!!!

**From Harriet Klein Litzky & Linda Sobel Glastein**  
In Memory of **Tina Oliver**, we went back so long ago.

**From Stu Simon:** Great to see everyone after all these years. Good health to everyone.

Listen to the wind it talks; listen to the silence it speaks. Listen to your heart it knows. Best regards to my RHS 1969 classmates – **Tony Carpenito**

**From Randy Shapiro Jacobs:**  
We are not getting older just better. Here's to our 100th!

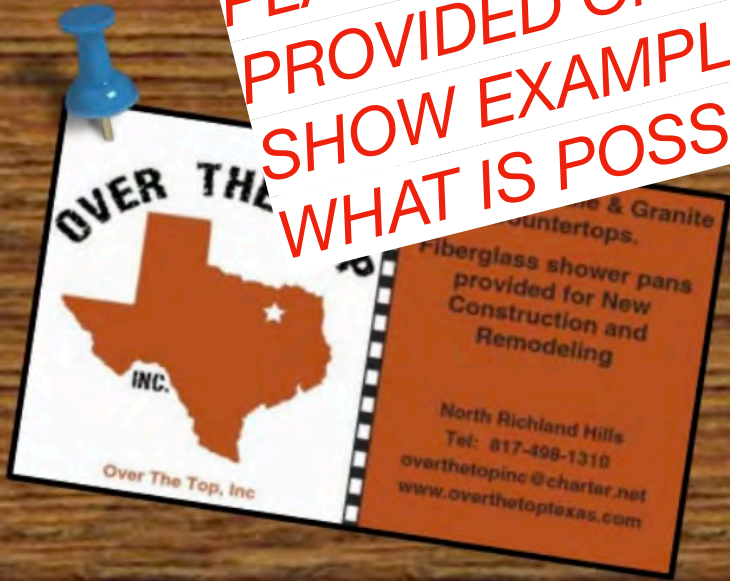
**From Roni Lieberman Arons:**  
Friends are like stars – you don't always see them but you know they're always there! Here's to our 50<sup>th</sup>!

**From Marvin Kaplan:**  
Congrats to all my classmates of 1969. Can't wait to see you again in 2029!

Wishing all my classmates a Happy 50th! A great big thank you to all my committee classmates who have worked so hard to make this event a real success. Can't wait to see you all after so many years! May each of you and your families enjoy a beautiful holiday season 2019. My very best wishes,  
**Ellen Stein Devine**

**From Linda Corliss Belkin:**  
Best wishes to the RHS class of 1969. It was truly wonderful seeing everyone!





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## **FOR HISTORY BUFFS**

**"Bus driver orbits earth on never-ending journey"**  
(from an old *Cougar's Roar*)



**DOUG  
TRAUB**

***Bus driver orbits earth  
on never-ending journey***

I can remember the good old days, when I rode the school bus to school. Yes, it was quite an experience, and very few people made it through the year to tell the tale. I was one of them.

I would promptly arrive at the bus stop at 6:30 a.m. Usually the bus didn't arrive until much later — sometimes never at all. The bus would always appear at the corner, turn, and head toward the delegation of people at my stop. I could always tell when it was coming. It sounded like a harpooned whale with a sore throat.

**NOW OUR BUS DRIVER** was no amateur. She was a life-long, full-fledged, demolition derby driver. She had style. When she came to our bus stop, she had to make us appreciate it. That meant that she would either stop a block ahead of us or a block behind us, letting us hike the remaining distance to her door.

Rides on her craft were

something else. Always variety. For instance, some days she would only run over milkmen. On other days, anyone was fair game. One time she chased a little kid on a tricycle for three miles.

We always got to the school a different way. Some days we went through the middle of the Everglades, while at other times we crossed rifle ranges.

**NEVER WERE WE** on time to school. I only saw my first period teacher twice during the entire quin. We used to make bets on how many hours, and in some cases, how many days we would be late for school. Did you ever spend the night in a bus with 257 kids?

But I will always remember with fondness the day before the bus driver was going to retire. She was determined to "go out in glory." It was her obsession. All the way down the road toward home, she pressed the bus on, faster

and faster. Then all of a sudden, we spied a stopped car ten feet in front of us.

**SHE BRAKED** rapidly to avert collision, but only the back wheels locked. The front cab in which she sat, continued its motion. It broke loose from the rest of the bus and went sailing over the horizon. Until this day, I still search the sky, hoping that one day, I'll catch a glimpse of that sweet old lady with the tattoo on her arm, sweeping through the heavens on her never-ending journey home.

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