

Observations from the 2020 Reunion Survey Results from the Wellesley Class of 1970

One hundred twenty-seven classmates responded to the 2020 survey, although not everyone responded to every question. Not unexpectedly, we continue to be engaged, diverse, and articulate! As a general observation, however, alumnae are less optimistic about the future for our grandchildren’s generations.

This summary will be organized by the apparent theme of the selection of questions. Where discernable, the number of respondents will be in parentheses after the question. The default seems to be 126.

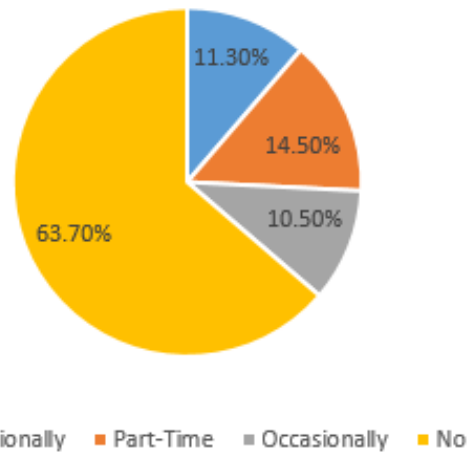
Links to Themes:

WORK, LIVING, and FAMILY
PERSONAL HEALTH
CAREGIVING

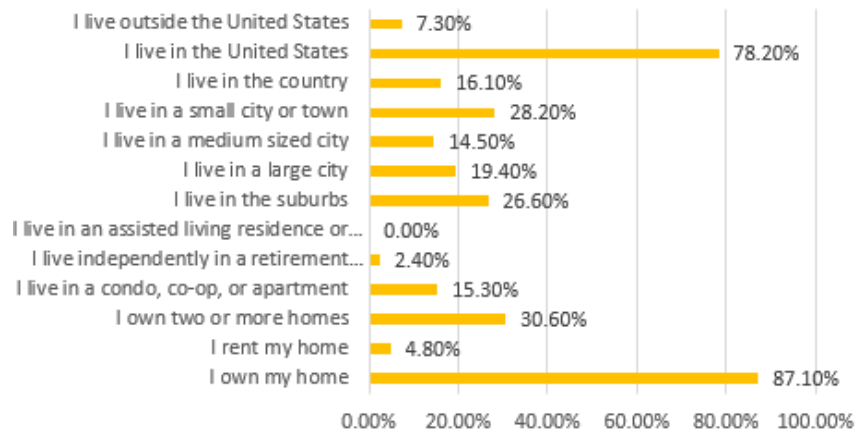
WELLESLEY AND SINCE WELLESLEY
FUTURE PLANS AND CONCERNS
REFLECTIONS

WORK, LIVING, and FAMILY

1. Are you still working for a paycheck? (124)



2. What is your current living situation (check all that apply):



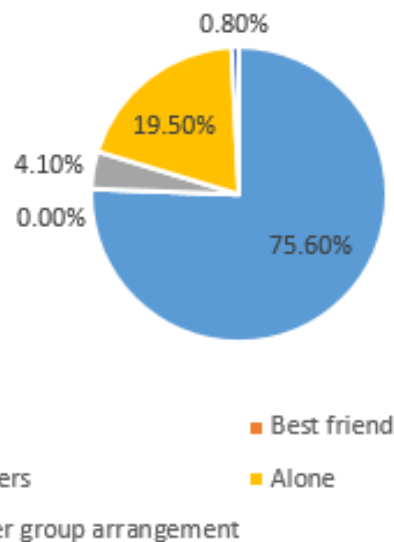
3. Do you expect to make a residence change in the future? (check all that apply):



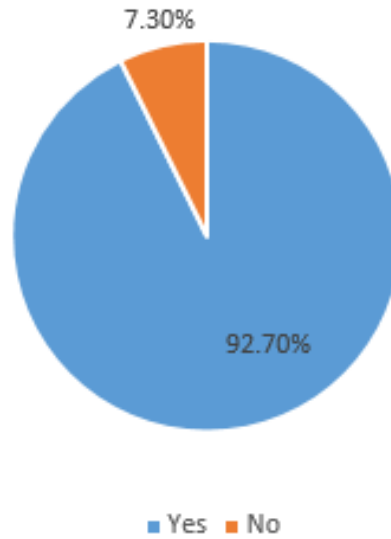
By and large, folks indicated “no,” or some intention to relocate to a continuum of care facility, or to downsize, or to move closer to family. No one indicated moving to a city (several already live in one – see previous question). Some noted they intended to change for economic reasons (2.4%), and some to move to somewhere they’ve always wanted to be (2.4%)

Eleven percent indicated other reasons, such as not being sure (4.7%), dependent on spouse’s death (0.8%) dependent on continuing health status (0.8%), already downsized (0.8%), live in an RV near the Gulf in winter (0.8%), moved last year closer to family (0.8%), Hoping to age in place – already lots of family (0.8%)

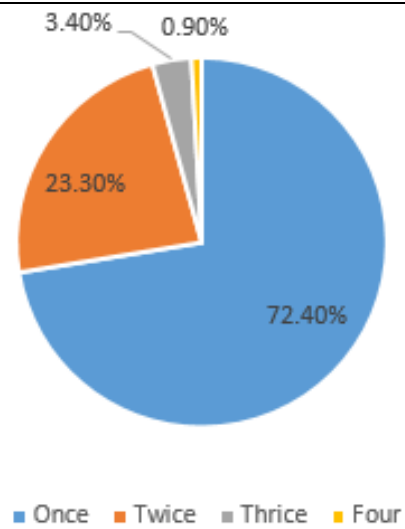
4. With whom do you live? (123)



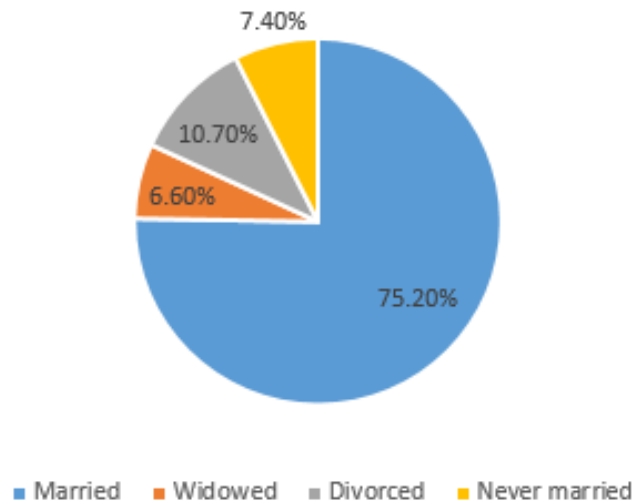
5. Have you ever been married? (123)



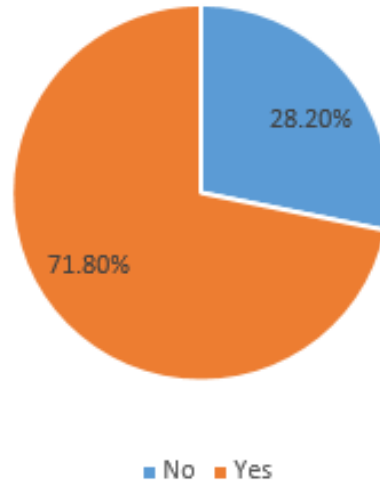
6. If "yes," how many times? (116)



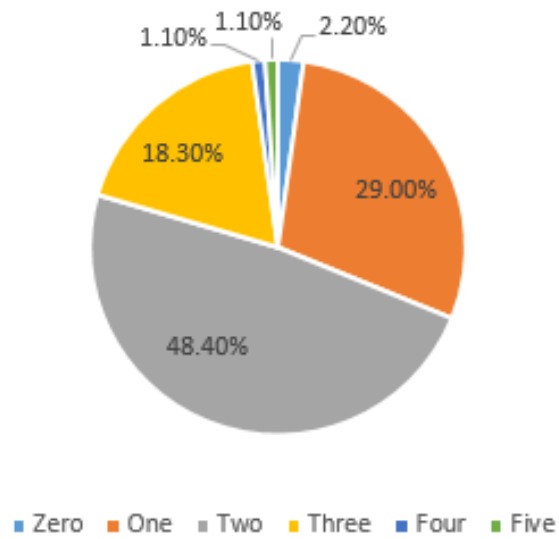
7. What is your current marital status? (121)



8. Have you ever had children? (124)

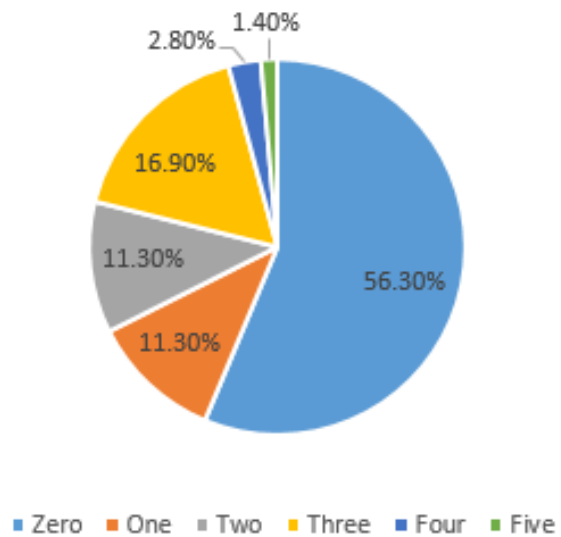


9. If "yes," how many biological or adopted children do you have? (93)

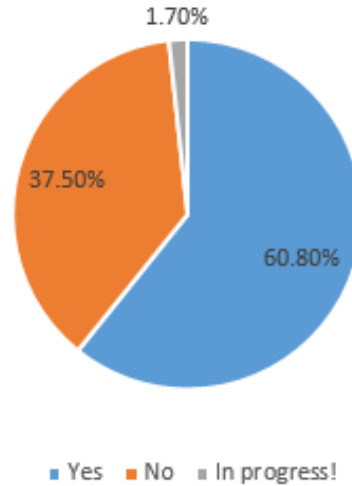


Some classmates may have lost children.

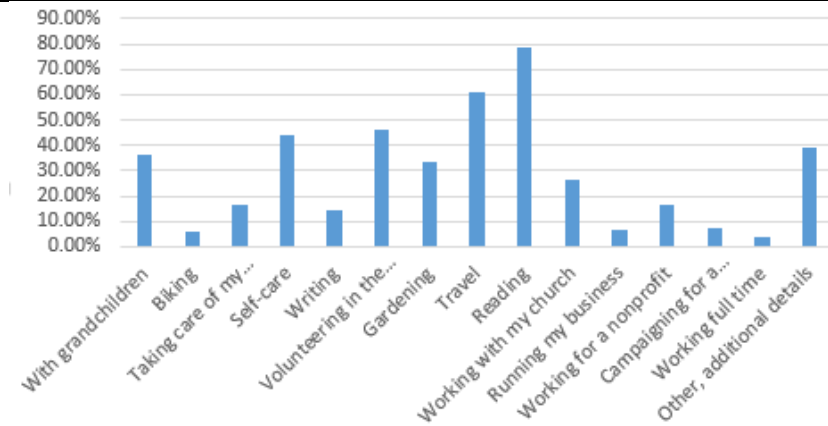
10. Number of Step-Children? (71)



11. Any Grandchildren? (120)



12. How do you spend most of your time, nowadays? (Check all that apply)



Exercise more generally - e.g. golf, bowling, walking my dog; spending time with (not taking care of) my spouse, taking care of the house, watching public TV/movies;

Working in my profession, spending time with my husband; Golf, studio potter; EdX classes; Exercise classes, crafts; Working with my dogs; Riding and keeping up my ranch; Supporting Wellesley College; Handling financial affairs for the extended family; Spending time with family and friends; Creative pursuits; Fun activities – bridge, golf, community theater; house maintenance, music practice; hosting – using my home for book groups, young colleagues, dinner parties; working & running; with my children as much as they will tolerate; election work from time to time; Exercising – walking, swimming, beaching, yoga, cardio; Caring for others, primarily friends with health issues;

Senior Center; exercise; long talks with husband; walks with dog; keeping life on track; corresponding and visiting with friends; exercise, part-time work, friends; other physical activity and practicing and playing piano; hiking, listening to music; Figuring out what candidates to work with in 2020; Raising my 19 yr. old special needs, adopted son; Various outdoor activities; Making art; Doing engaged research to show urban planners how to strengthen disinvested cities; Being attentive to friends and family; Skiing every day when there’s snow, designing; Give tours at a local historical museum;

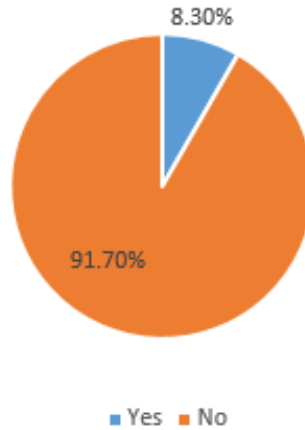
I wish I could do more, but my poor health is an obstacle; Will campaign when Democratic candidate is clear; Working for investment advisory firm; painting and sculpting; Archiving my family history; Going through accumulated family memorabilia, photos – toward downsizing;

Keeping well-informed; Mentoring young physicians on our faculty; Arts, Performing music; Continuing to improve my sense of well-being; teaching high school chemistry and modern European history;

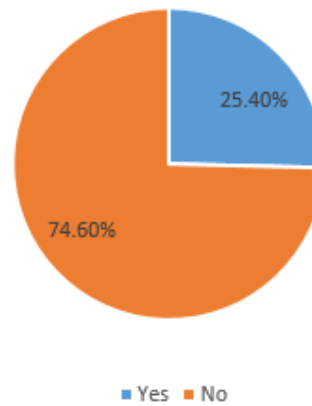
still teaching full-time; working at IBM Research; teaching law school classes, Ceramics; work with clients and trainees; Doing art, editing, playing with dog, caring for friend with dementia; Teaching, speaking part-time; creating a joyful relationship with my husband.

CAREGIVING

13. Are you or have you been acting as a caregiver for a spouse or partner? (121)



14. Are you or have you been acting as a caregiver for a disabled child, or other relative? (122)



14a. If "YES" to either of the above questions, which of the following options did you use? (43)

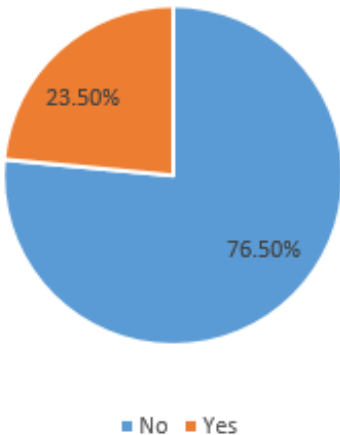


The following each had a single respondent:

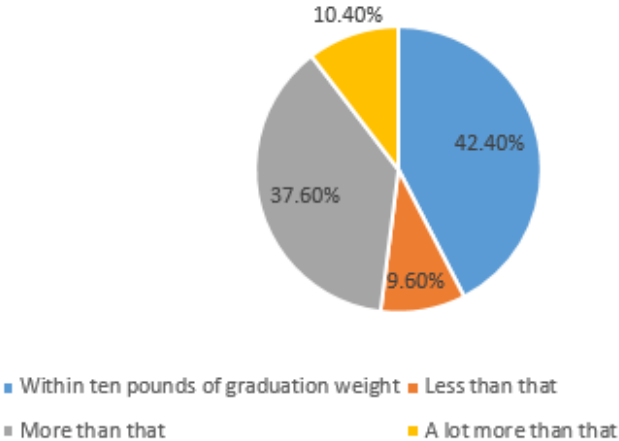
Both in-home and memory care unit; Assisted living, and higher levels of care when needed; All at different times; Boarding school; Counseling; Shift from in-home care to institutional care; Meals on Wheels, visiting nurses; one "not applicable."

PERSONAL HEALTH

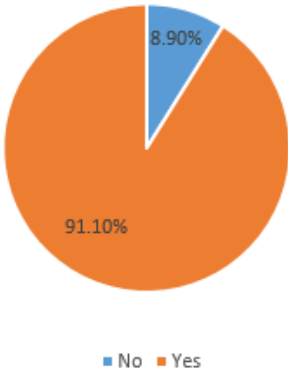
17. Have you experienced any significant health changes in the last five years? (119)



18. As I remember my weight when I graduated from Wellesley, I now weigh... (125)

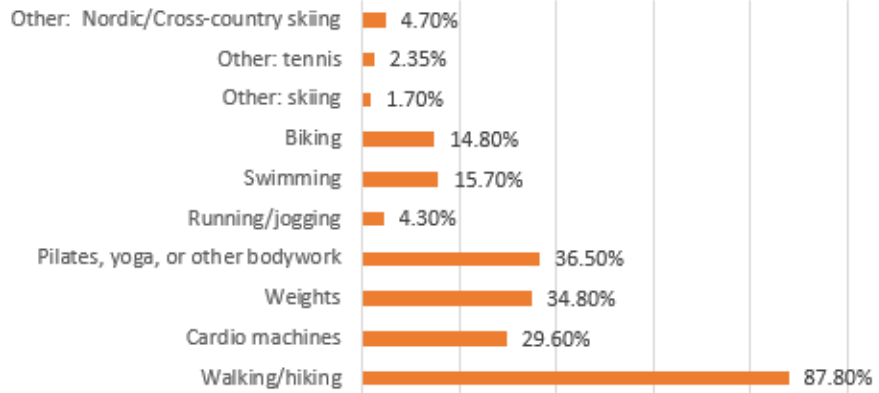


19. Do you exercise at least 3 X per week? (124)



If "Yes," what type of exercise? (check all that apply)

Primary exercises are shown:

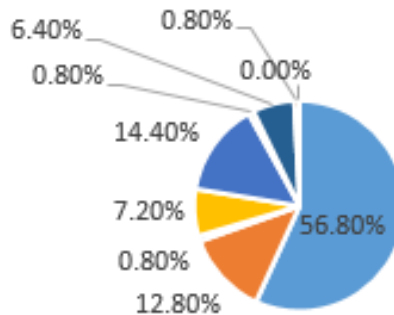


"Other" also included these one-offs:

Golf in summer, bowling in winter, qigong; aerobics; Zumba; horseback riding (dressage) and ranch work; dance, golf; stair climbing; general routine; home exercise routine and small weights, extensive stretching and core work as designated by a PT; tai chi; water jogging and Zumba; zimba, ballroom dancing; PT exercises for strength, balance; I have 'mobility issues (long story), so I do what I can 2-3 times/week; water aerobics, skiing, kayaking; shooting baskets; Cross country skiing; Occasional deskcycle in home, short walks; gardening; depends on the weather!

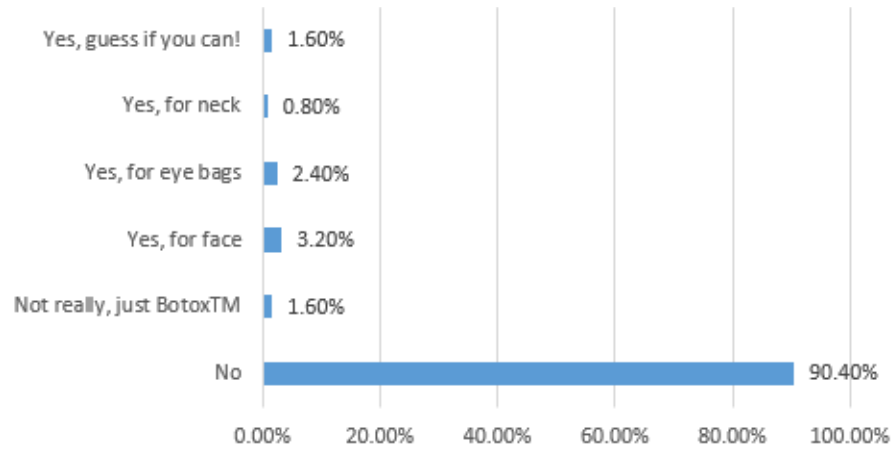
20. Have you had to replace or augment any body parts?

"Require a wheel chair" was 0.00% - hence, no line to any part of the graph.



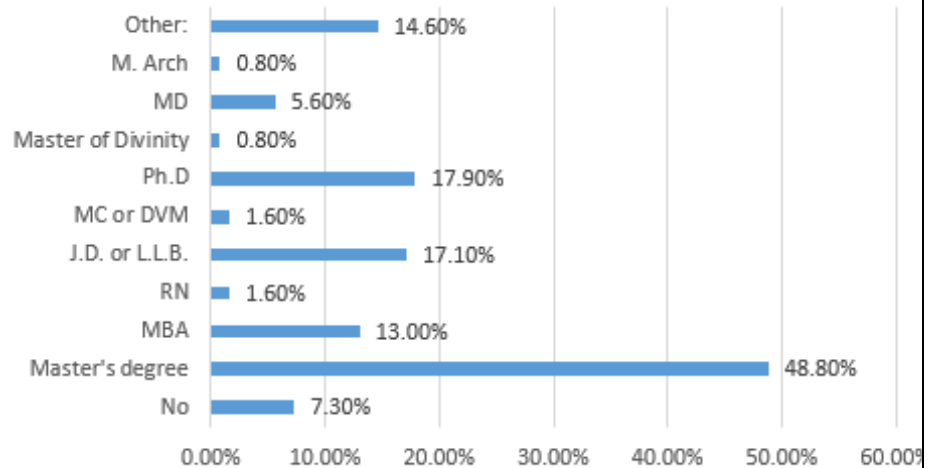
- No
- Knee or hip replacement
- Breast implants/replacements
- New teeth
- Lens replacement after cataract removal
- Body or leg braces
- Steel rods or screws somewhere
- Use a cane or walker
- Require a wheel chair

21. Have you had cosmetic surgery? (125)



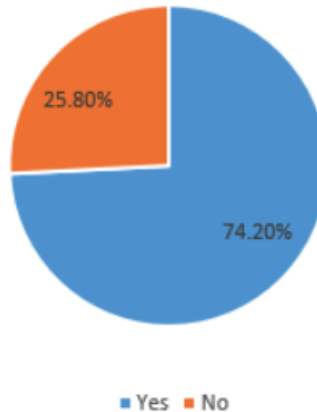
WELLESLEY AND SINCE WELLESLEY

22. Have you continued your education since Wellesley? (check all that apply)



“Other” included: MST, Harvard Extension, ABD for PHD, Continuing Ed for Seniors, Executive education programs Ed.D, B.M, two post graduate certificates, Certified Financial Analyst, Finished B.A. at NYU, Dr. of Public Health, Master of Arts in World Religions, Teaching certificate, administrator certificate, a year of graduate work, NH School Certification program – SAIF, 1st year for MBA, 1st year for Masters for teaching, 2 year certificate in Landscape Design, Part time/diploma university courses in art and Russian, Masters program, no degree, Bible study and discussion, brief time in law school, many other courses since then in (non-intellectual) subjects.

23. Would you choose the same major that you chose in 1970? (124)



I continue to be interested in history, and read more of it than I did in college.

I would have loved to stick with art history and become an art conservator, but I was not able to use either that or my real major, psychology, in my later life. In our era, few knew exactly what path they wanted to stay on, and then did it.

I'm happy with my choices then, but today I would be more knowledgeable about and attracted to STEM subjects.

I love language

MST is a Masters plus Education courses

Economics was great fun and is very important to understand personally and to be an informed voter.

I thought I was making a wise choice in terms of future employment, but the field was not where my true interests lay.

I would have chosen Applied Math or some sort of engineering, but I didn't know any better, and engineering was considered a man's field then.

Psychology has helped me in my professional job (advertising), in animal training, and just interacting with other humans.

I would consider a double major or a major and a minor

German major was not particularly useful

If I'd had any kind of counseling about a major, I would have chosen differently.

Poli Sci was interesting but not very useful. Would have been better off with a degree in an engineering discipline, or perhaps psychology. With a career in high-tech marketing, not much at Wellesley during our time was directly germane.

It might have been different given all the choices students now have.

I do occasionally think about what might have happened if I majored in political science, and some Wellesley professors suggested.

But English and liberal arts in general are great backgrounds for a career in publishing. Still.

I still find myself drawn to read history.

History major is still meaningful for lifelong learning and for my volunteer work.

I'm not sure actually

What a wonderful time I have had in the classical music world.

The market for PhDs in the languages has continued to diminish. But I cannot answer any other way, not knowing what would be a better option for a 22-year-old me now.

Being a History major has given me a lifetime context for local, national and international developments and a deep appreciation for 'the long view' of social, political and cultural trends.

But I probably should have gone to conservatory either instead of Wellesley or after.

I would probably choose a double major instead.

I wish I had majored in music, as my main professional activity was classical concert singing. Or that I had studied Art conservation for graduate work.

History/American Studies gave me the analytic framework that shaped my career

I did not do well in my French major once I reached the level of literature classes. I probably would have done better in soc/psych back in the '60s or IT/audio-visual majors today.

I enjoyed the business world and economics gave me a good introduction. I was glad to have a career that paid my rent!

I am still angry that I was not given good 'Career Services' at Wellesley! Was told Biology could only lead to being a doctor ('and likely having no personal life'), being a researcher (and having no social life), or being a teacher (ugh!) I said I was interested in Genetics and was told it was a 'dead end field'. 10 years later, getting an MBA I realized if I'd done that sooner the combo would have been 'dynamite'!

Art History

While Wellesley introduced me to art history, I didn't realize the depth of my interest in art and art history at the time.

I would have majored in urban studies if that had been possible at the time, and I would major in urban studies today.

Was the most practical to get a job in NY after graduation

I do wish I had studied economics more formally when I had the chance.

I chose my major because I thought I would be a teacher. Post Wellesley I discovered I didn't love teaching. In 1982 I found a career I loved and I didn't need graduate school for it. I ended up retiring with 40+ years of credited service.

Likely a more practical major

From the vantage point of advanced age, I like to think I'd have been a History major.

I loved the opportunity to fashion an interdisciplinary major.

I'm a designer. It's not what I do, it's what I am. If Wellesley had an Engineering Dept., I'd have been there, too.

Art and art history were my true loves - I worked in museums and got a graduate degree in art history

Molecular Biology (biochemistry) was a new interdisciplinary major in 1966.

The faculty members in the religion department were great. Although I lost my first advisor when he was not granted tenure, I had an excellent second advisor in Prof. Clifford Green. The other majors I might have chosen were music and political science.

Well, maybe, i meant to major in English and don't know why I didn't. Also i meant to be pre-med, but got a D in chemistry freshman year; i couldn't figure out the labs, and didn't know how to ask for help. No science classes in high school

Had a psychology minor and still find that topic very interesting-perhaps more so than my economics major.

Not sure.

I might have a different major but still take courses in my prior major.

Would likely choose economics now

As a transfer student out of Duke's nursing program, my History major allowed me to sample all the wonderful liberal arts courses at Wellesley! Of course, then I had a hard time getting a job after graduating... But it all came round right in the end.

I am not sure it really matters: it was going to take 'living' to get me where I am now

I would have taken more math

It was a better major for me than math at the time. I enjoyed it.

Art History has been my life.

Didn't really go on to use my major, but I enjoyed it.

I loved art history but had to spend 4 additional years in graduate school to fulfill prerequisites for veterinary entrance

History is still fascinating in and of itself, and further it opens windows to the past and sheds light on the present and future roads that individuals, groups, nations may take or find themselves on.

I was a poli sci major, more interested in music now.

It was Art History, which I still love. I would add more courses in history, political science and economics, however.

Vacillated on question of major. I do wish I had taken American history, possibly majored.

I'm really not sure. There are other subjects I'm interested in as well. I could have majored in music, but as I wasn't taking performing music, I opted not to.

I liked Anthropology but we only had one course at Wellesley.

I would also choose a minor

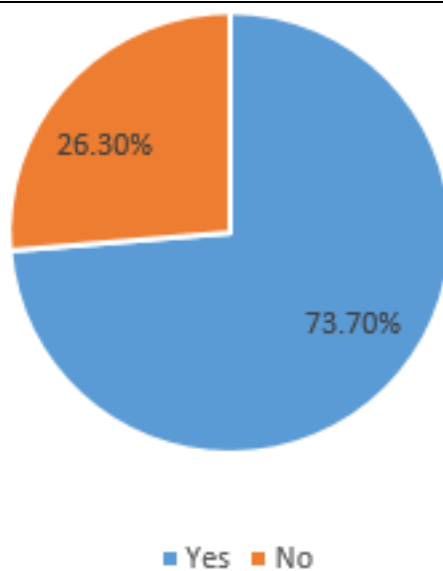
I would have chosen a purer liberal arts major, English or History, instead of Political Science.

I still find history fascinating and wish world leaders paid more attention to it.

My answer is I do not know. I liked psychology but would have had more career options with computer science. However, Wellesley did not offer a computer science major for the class of 1970.

Music has been a lifelong love of mine. Any profession I chose would have required additional training/credentials.
I would have chosen a major nearer to what I love to learn.
Maybe history instead this time, or maybe science, if I could be both young again and at the same time more mature!
I chose Political Science over History, but think i was wrong
But I wish I could have followed the path to be a legal historian. There is no question the guidance wasn't there as it was for the many men I know in legal history who got mentored by a bevy of the best.
I still love history. Thorough preparation for journalism and writing non-fiction historical books.
Needed an Unsure response category. Might have considered history rather than English.
Art history led to studio practice led to teaching led to ceramics, and here I am. Still absorbed by all form, composition, ornament, integrity.
Excellent choice.
For 1970s, one had to be a language major in order to study abroad junior year. I really wanted to do that.
Or studio art, which wasn't an option at time.
Math was great but I might have preferred Computer Science

24. Would you choose Wellesley as your college if you had it to do all over again? (124)



Yes, but with the additional colleges/universities now open to women, the choice might have been harder. I went to Wellesley to make friends with really bright, interesting women since there were not a lot in my public schools.
Would have chosen a small co-ed school.
Wellesley was definitely the right choice for me in 1970, but if I were a student today I would probably consider coed schools, too.
The right choice for me
I loved the intellectual challenge of Wellesley. I also know that I benefitted from it being a women's college.
I consider it one of the privileges of my life to have been able to go to Wellesley. It has been a lifelong source of joy.
I loved Wellesley. In today's world, maybe I would go a different way, but in the late 60's Wellesley was right for me.
Loved my 4 years at Wellesley. I often wish I could do them all over again. The friendships and experiences were some of the best in my life.

Would have preferred a coed school

Would not go to a single-sex school that had so little ability to have men as simply friends

I don't know. Wellesley gave me the self confidence and strength to succeed in what was then a male dominated field (medicine). I was expected by my family that I would go to Wellesley. I never seriously considered a small co-ed school. In today's world I would seriously consider a co-ed school. I would likely choose a coed school closer to my family.

While I might have had better direction/education elsewhere, I majored in life experience at Wellesley. It has stood me in good stead throughout my life to understand regional differences and how it impacts our country and its citizens.

The question should not have binary response options.

In 1966, I made the best choice for who I was at that point in time.

But, if I were to choose from my current perspective, I would choose a different college.

Coming from an all-girls primary and secondary education I think coed would have been a good balance. Thank heavens for classes with MIT.

I really liked Wellesley and believe strongly in its value. But strictly as a preparation for a career, i would have been better off probably at Stanford (my first choice, but I didn't get in) or Cornell (too cold) or Duke (my heart wasn't in that ... though I would up living in North Carolina and love it).

Maybe wasn't a choice. I'm glad I chose Wellesley I would have had many other coed options if I were choosing now, so I might choose differently.

Friendships can develop without competing for men

It's so hard to know . . . that's just a gut feeling

I transferred to Barnard after 2 years

Would choose a coed school, possibly one of the Ivy League schools or Stanford.

Meaning Wellesley as it was, with little diversity and a very old-fashioned approach to life.

The friends I made and the experience of living in a different part of the country have been a significant part of my life.

I have come to appreciate the value of an education focused on women as I have grown older. I have read with concern studies by the Wellesley Centers for Women on the differential treatment of female students by both male and female teachers. Sigh!!

I loved Wellesley! It was the perfect college for me and I would choose it again in 1966! However, in today's world I could not afford it and that would affect my decision were I a young person in 2020. My state university has an excellent honors program with a 'free ride' for those who qualify. My Wellesley tuition was around \$3000 a year, compared to our son's tuition at a name brand university of over \$50,000 a year. In retrospect we should not have let him or us take on that much college debt.

Wellesley remains the best possible education for women in the US.

I'm not sure. I love the all-women environment but would have loved a bigger university setting as well.

Not sure, see comment above

I wish there had been an 'I'm not sure' choice. Whether I would choose Wellesley again would depend on the circumstances.

I loved my time there. I grew so much in confidence, in knowledge about the world and of people outside my rather small town upbringing.

I'm glad I did, in some ways, but realistically I think I wouldn't do it today.

The friends I made at Wellesley and the colleagues I had from Wellesley though the years provided the support and community that made my career possible and were the best support network ever

Despite differences in paths chosen, 90% of Wellesley women are my type of women and I enjoy being with them greatly! I think the alumnae network is stronger in an all women's college.

I really don't know! Everything has changed so much - the school, the students, the cultural and economic pressures. I admit I didn't really want to be at such an 'elitist' school 'back then'. (I wanted to 'Get In', but maybe hadn't thought enough about going there. But my father insisted that I go to a single-sex school.)

Yes and I would take more advantage of its resources.

Not sure. Now there are many more options for women.

I didn't make the most of my time at Wellesley, and so am not sure it was the right place for me. Maybe I'd choose it again if I were sure I'd approach it differently.

Women have many more choices about colleges now. If I were choosing today, I think I would go to a college in a city.

Might have considered some of the Ivies had that been an option

I wanted a Harvard husband. That's what I got.

My other option was Stanford. I chose a beautiful campus where I could find a place to go no matter how I felt. I needed 4 seasons and then had highs for 3 years just admiring the New England blue skies. I formed lifetime friends. Our class size was good.

I'd go to a coed school.

I wish there had been more good coed options then.

Would likely look for a coed university

I was not happy at Wellesley. In spite of making excellent and life-long friends, I never felt I fit in.

I went to Wellesley, alma mater of my aunt and sister, because it was where my father wanted me to go. Had he not died when I was in high school I would have felt less obligated to fulfill his hope for me. I don't regret it because of my strong and irreplaceable Wellesley friendships.

Yes, in 1966. Probably No, in 2020.

Torn, because I got an excellent education but would likely not choose a single sex college.

I would have preferred a coed institution.

If it were 1966, then Wellesley would definitely be my first choice. But not in 2020. Today I would choose a large coed university —Harvard, Stanford....

I think all women colleges are outdated quaint relics of a bygone era.

Wellesley is a place for women to thrive and be in charge of their lives. I happily went to a co-ed, public high school, but going to a women's college was essential to my personal and intellectual development.

I didn't look around. My mother and grandmother went to Wellesley, and my daughter Lucy.

Might have chosen to go to a Christian college but I did not become a Christian believer until several years after I graduated from Wellesley, so that would never even have occurred to me to consider pre-Wellesley. But for that consideration, I would choose Wellesley again.

Hard to answer this question, because now there are so many co-ed choices for women.

What luck to be able to transfer in to Davis dorm, just in time to play 'LXX' in Junior Show! That made all the difference...

The all-female environment did not prepare me for the real world.

I love Wellesley and being a Wellesley alum. If I had to do it again, I MIGHT have gone to McGill, where I got in and my father wanted me to go.

Affirmation of attending a single-sex college. Circle of friends who have inspired and supported me throughout my life.

It was the most formative watershed time in my life and one of my happiest places.

Not sure if the question is whether we would make the same choice today, or if we put ourselves back in 1966. I would not choose to attend Wellesley now, because of basic disagreements with its orientation—I don't consider it any longer to be truly a women's college. If I am going back to 1966-70, it was different. I went Early Decision and so didn't really choose among other options on the

table. Sophomore year I almost (or actually?) applied to coed college(s) in the Midwest, for a radical change. That process caused me to reflect on my experience at the Wellesley and thereafter I felt, and now still feel, the College had been, and was, right for me to stay for the 4 years.

It still provides an excellent education in a place of great beauty. I live near a fairly large public university and it still would not be the right place for me, just as it was not in 1966.

If we were in the same circumstances. Higher education has changed so much since 1970 that I'm not certain what decision I would make if I were making it in 2020.

If I had current choices that my daughters had, I probably would have chosen a coed college.

I think I would have fared better if I'd been in a co-ed school.

I would choose a coed school

I loved being in a small college with a country campus that was close to a great city. I had wonderful friends and stimulating teachers. I loved the variety of courses and the ability to elect some pass/fail. I enjoyed the college government system that truly gave students a voice and I loved crew and, don't laugh, I loved the Fundamentals of Movement class.

Wellesley was very difficult for me. I had a difficult time memorizing and writing exam essays and had difficulty memorizing. I think I might have had an easier time at MIT.

Wellesley had a negative impact on my self-esteem. If it were not for the emotional support and research opportunities provided by one of my professors, I would not have gotten into graduate school.

As applied to me at age 18, yes. Now at age 71, no.

No comments. Wellesley was the correct choice for me.

Yes, if the choices were the ones available then.

Well, maybe not - I am very grateful that I ended up there, but I wonder what other things I might have learned in a more varied environment. I'm glad I did not have to compete with men, I think I would have chickened out, but maybe I would have learned how.

This choice shaped my life. I doubt I would have gone to law school had I gone elsewhere, and that choice developed into a great career at a time when women didn't have many chances.

Can't be sure as the choices now are broader, right? I was thrilled to go to Wellesley but I think we missed the co-ed choice by only a few years.

It was not a happy experience

Wellesley was expected of me, a private school and (reluctant) country club product of Westchester County. Matriculating was a failure to imagine other possibilities.

Need a 'maybe' box.

I can't fault Wellesley necessarily, but those were hard years for me. I found many young women to be on the snobby side about social class and who you dated.

Unsure - too many variables

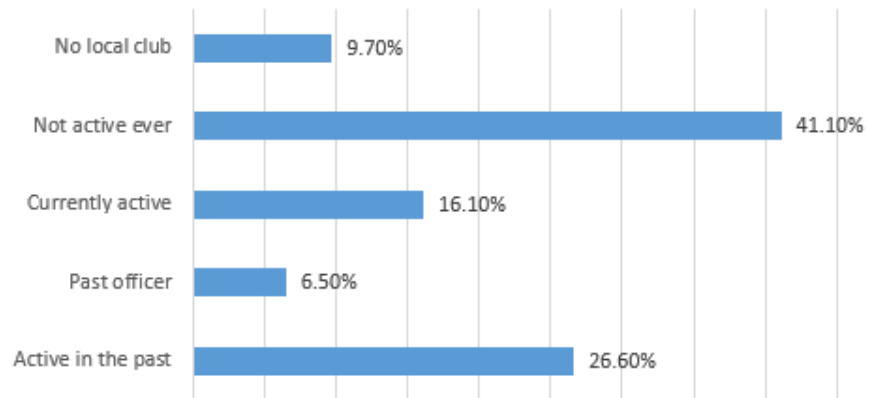
Although not totally sure, as there are more options today.

I don't believe in single-sex education. I far preferred my co-ed public grad school.

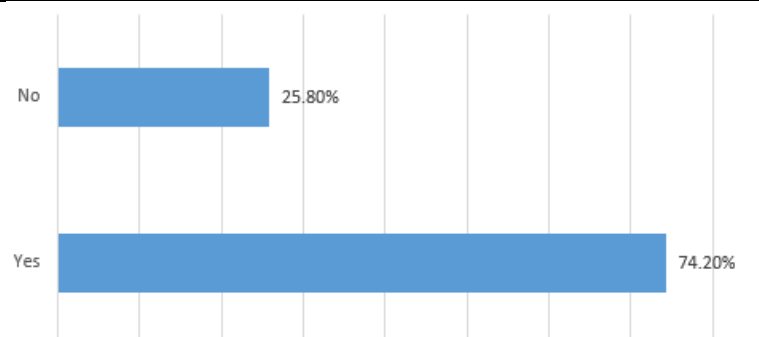
It's such a great school and enhances a woman's experience

I was fulfilling my mother's fervent dream which her parents couldn't afford, though they did put all 4 daughters through college in the 1920's! Was brought up with brothers and would have been happier at a co-ed school where men could be friends & classmates, and not just dates.

25. Are you/Have you been active with a local Wellesley Club? (124)



26. Do you support Wellesley through annual contributions? (124)



If you answered “No,” what would change your mind?

I do it when I think of it, not opposed to giving. I also have other causes that need my money much more than I believe Wellesley does.

I have other priorities for annual contributions

Have done so once in a while. Just not annually.

No, living on a fixed income, cannot afford it.

Nothing because money is very tight

If I had more resources, I would include Wellesley in my charitable giving. As it is, other issues are a higher priority for me.

I did for the first 35 years and then my own children went to college and after that was involved in grassroots nonprofits that needed our help - so Wellesley went on to the back burner. I am surprised I have not been contacted about a 50th reunion gift however!

I support Shakespeare Society

I have contributed off and on over the years but most of my charitable giving goes to Christian organizations and causes, which have become a guiding purpose of my life.

Nothing. I give a lot, to organizations that really need it.

I supported yearly in the past, now sporadically

I do not have enough income to make ends meet. I have almost nothing left for contributions.

A larger income

I do contribute, but not every year.

Wellesley is obviously doing fine - there are too many other charities that are in dire straits.

Nothing. I have other priorities.

Try me.

27. Are you planning to attend our fiftieth reunion in June 2020? (122)



If you answered "No," what would change your mind?

Sorry, have a trip to Greece planned

If my close friends were planning to attend

Close friends from Wellesley attending, but that is sort of a 'when Hell freezes over' situation

Again, maybe wasn't an option. Thinking about it.

if a lot of my Wellesley friends were going

A lot of money

My husband cannot really travel and I do not wish to leave him.

Nothing. My husband has Alzheimer's and is still living at home. It is just too complex to find a caregiver at this stage of his disease (early-mid). We live in CA. We have no children in the area.

Nothing - I have family obligations (son's wedding and a sibling reunion) just prior to reunion that will take all my energy. I'm still recovering from a year of treatment for multiple myeloma and although in remission, I have to pace myself.

If they moved my son's high school graduation or canceled activities on Saturday.

My mother is 103 and not doing so well; I spend considerable amounts of time visiting her. If she dies before reunion, I might go.

Nothing (2)

Change in family commitments

Hope to attend but may need to have some mobility related surgeries this spring which could make attendance difficult.

Haven't decided

I really wanted to. I do not think that my heart failure will allow me to attend. It is such a disappointment. Besides I have no idea where I could come up with the money to attend.

Nudging from friends

I'm coming!

I am currently undecided. Safe delivery of my son and daughter-in-law's twins. Absence of coronavirus .

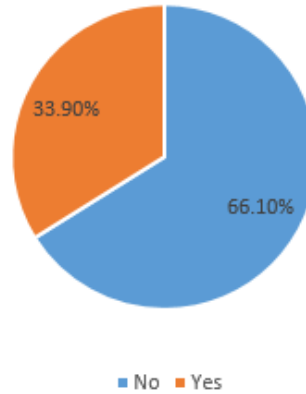
Contact from Wellesley friends or projected regrets

Not sure.

If conflicting event is canceled.

Nothing really. None of my friends would be going. One transferred and died, one transferred to Yale, and I'm not in touch with any of the others.

28. Would you have considered yourself a political or social activist at Wellesley? (124)



If "Yes," what were your issues?

- Peace
- Civil Rights
- Reminding the campus that not everyone is a liberal
- Vietnam War, inner city education
- Vietnam War, women's rights, poverty eradication
- Viet Nam
- One of the reasons I transferred was the dearth of political activism during the Vietnam War; I became much more active at Barnard
- At most, I traveled to NH in support of some political candidates. My parents highly discourage anti-war activities, and I listened to them at the time.
- Opposition to the war in Southeast Asia. Women's liberation.
- Anti-war efforts.
- Opposed to the Vietnam War; opposed to the bombing and invasion of Cambodia.
- Modestly. Anti-war protests and action.
- Vietnam War
- Civil rights (participating in the Civil Rights Movement)
- The Vietnam War (opposing the policy, not the soldiers)
- The draft (and the fact that the males of our generation had to deal with it but the females didn't)
- Anti-Vietnam war, racism, feminism
- Civil rights and the Vietnam War
- Or actually: 'Not really', though most 'everyone under 25' seemed to be 'activist' back then.
- As a follower, not a leader, I participated in pressing for reforms to academic requirements and 'in loco parentis' restrictions and demonstrated against the war.
- Anti-war
- Ending the war. Ending racial and gender discrimination
- Vietnam, Civil Rights
- Women's issues, war in Vietnam, public education issues
- Poverty, social justice, war
- The Viet Nam war and the draft overtook my concerns about *ministrare, non ministrari*.
- I was against the Viet Nam War.
- Anti-war (the war in Vietnam and Indochina) and racial justice (recruiting more students of color from less well-off families).
- Environment and Athletics
- I campaigned to be able to live off campus (we were first group of 10 to do so)
- I demonstrated against the frat that sponsored relay races on our campus (essentially turning us into clowns)
- I marched against the war
- War in Southeast Asia in particular. I was also a 'political activist' in the transformations of our years (late '60s) in college government and the shift from in the culture from being under the administration's control 'in loco parentis' to being considered young adults with all (risks and rewards, choices and accountability) that entailed.

Vietnam, Black Panthers, Women's Liberation

Involved to the extent that my boyfriend was very involved in SDS.

The War

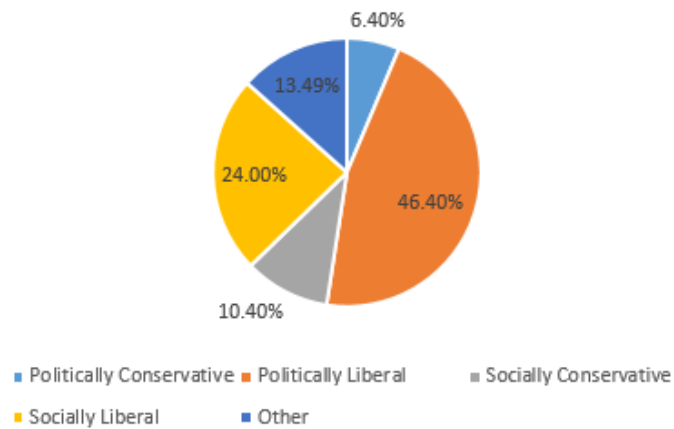
I was involved with College Government, so beyond the obvious national issues of the Vietnam War and local issues of rent control, I was involved in the student issues of liquor on campus and moving toward 24 hour parietals. Dates us doesn't it!!!!

Vietnam War, need for rent control, racial segregation/discrimination, feminism

The Vietnam War

All the usual suspects

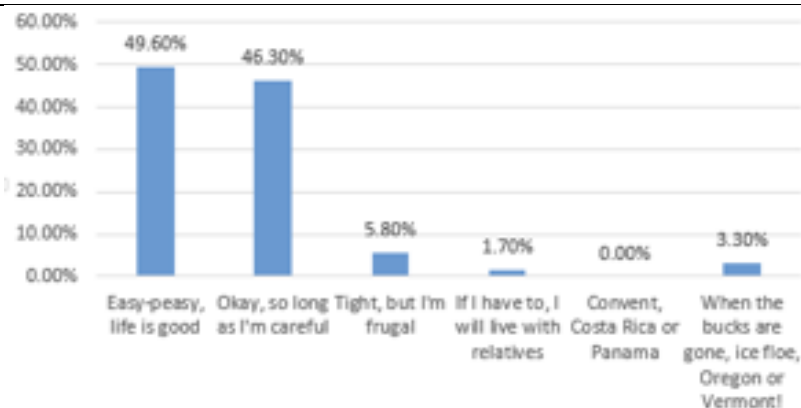
29. While at Wellesley, did you consider yourself to be (choose the best fit)



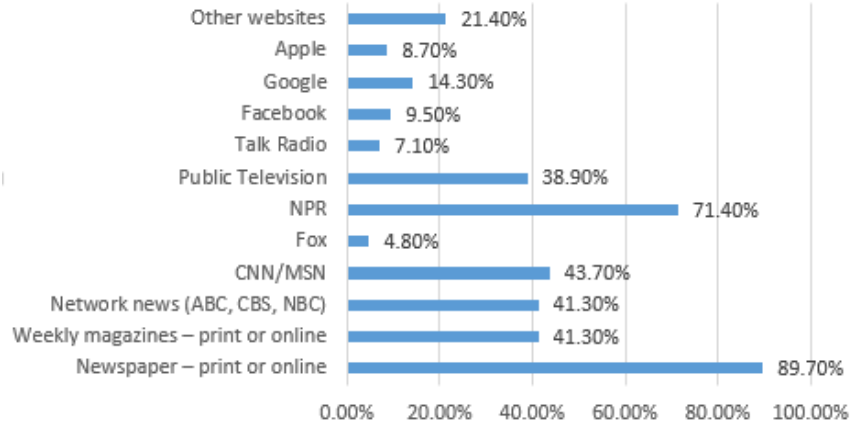
“Other” included: Evolved from conservative to liberal; Somewhere in-between; Fiscally conservative, socially liberal; I didn't have much of a clue; Moderate politically and socially; both politically and socially liberal; Mostly clueless; Generally conservative; Moderate Politically and Socially; socially liberal, fiscally conservative; Moderate; From conservative background, but coming out!: politically and socially; Radical, now called progressive; A moderate, and non-political, insofar as that was possible; Evolved from moderate Republican to moderate liberal at Wellesley; Too uninvolved; I had been living in a boarding school in Europe so really did not know about politics.

FUTURE PLANS AND CONCERNS

30. How is your life looking finance-wise? (check all that apply)



31. Where do you get your news? (check all that apply)



If you answered “Talk Radio” above, please list your favorite stations or radio hosts:

NPR
 Wyoming Public Radio and all the Podcasts associated with NPR.
 why in the world didn't you identify MSNBC above
 BBC
 NHPR and I miss Diane Rehm terribly
 WGBH in Boston, WBUR in Boston, WCAI on Cape Cod—all NPR affiliates.
 WYPR
 WGBH Boston
 KQED Public Radio, San Francisco
 Brian Lehrer WNYC
 BBC.
 KCBS San Francisco

If you answered “Other Websites” above, please list your suggested sites:

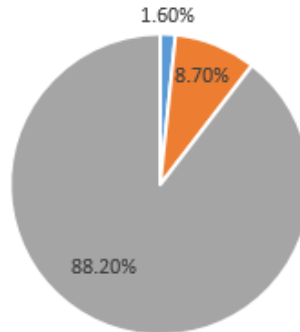
I am shocked that you did not include MSNBC!
 MSN News
 Instagram
 MSNBC
 BBC News
 CNN
 Daily Kos
 Guardian, Washington Post
 BBC News shows on cable TV
 Talking Points Memo, Axios, Slate, various wonky health policy blogs
 VT Digger - a state nonprofit news organization
 Curbed Detroit, Click on Detroit, Metrotimes
 MSNBC, VPR.
 The Guardian, The Times of London
 HuffPost, 'America' magazine (on line version of Jesuit magazine), Sojourners (sojo.net, on line version of progressive evangelical Christian magazine), Tikkun (tikkun.org, on line version of spiritually progressive Jewish organization), various peace organizations (such as the Friends Committee on National Legislation), The Council for a Livable World, and other progressive news outlets on line.
 WTF just happened today, daily blog
 BBC television mostly rather than website.

Bloomberg, Investment websites
BBC, CNN, Wired, Bloomberg, NYT, Washington Post
Vox, Axios, Slate
Podcasts, The Daily, Up First
BBC and CBC
BBC, NEW YORKER, HUFF POST, and I follow links. Tortoise.

It depends on issue. I often Google for other sources of information

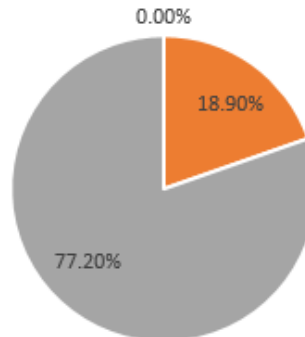
32. 1970 saw the First Earth Day Celebrated on Campuses. Nowadays, what environmental issues concern you?

Climate Change (125)



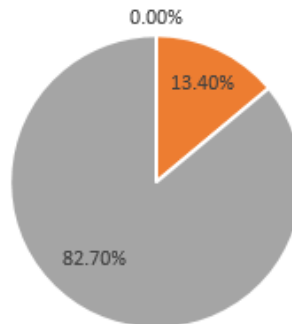
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Protecting Our Air Quality (122)



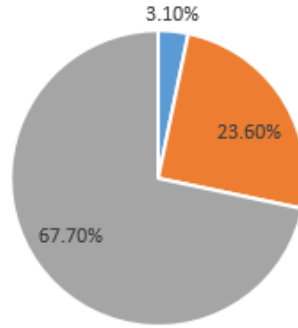
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Having Clean and Abundant Water (122)



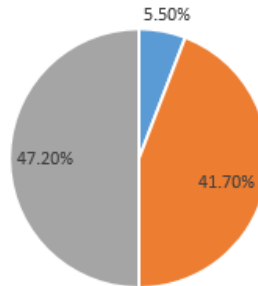
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Effects of Pesticides on Pollinators and Birds (120)



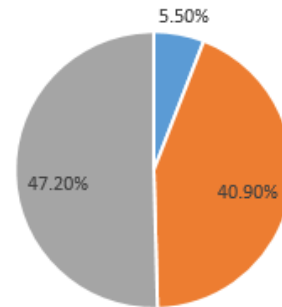
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Pharmaceutical Contamination of Drinking Water (120)



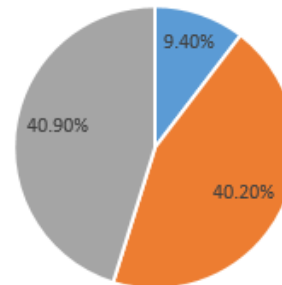
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Industrial Animal Farming Impacts (119)



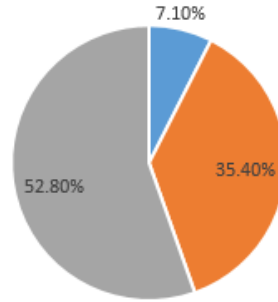
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

PFOs and PFOAs (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid as in Scotchgard, or making Teflon) Contaminating Drinking Water (115)



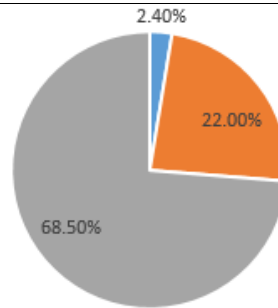
■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Microplastics in Our Food and Water (121)



■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

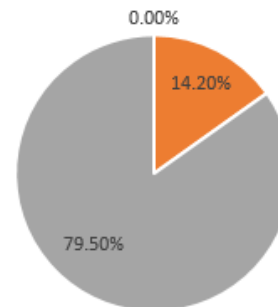
Increased Acidification of Our Oceans (118)



■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

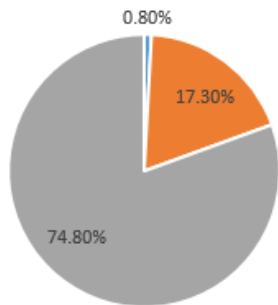
Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans (119)

No one is "not concerned."



■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Species Extinctions Due to pesticides, Habitat Losses, Changing Climate, etc. (118)



■ Not Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Very Concerned

Please Describe Any Other Environmental Issues that Concern You:

Floodplain loss

I am involved with land conservation. And I am very concerned about tree canopy.

Loss of forests

You pretty much covered the territory!

Sea level rise

Failure to recycle, lack of safe options for trash and recycling, nuclear waste

Temperature rise.

Rising sea levels.

Destruction of habitat, forests

Industrial crop farming: pesticides, herbicides, soil loss

Loss of coastlines and in some cases parts of states and countries

Hazardous waste contamination and cleanup

Environmental justice

Surveillance Capitalism, in the words of Shoshana Zuboff. Loss of privacy.

In finding solutions for more sustainable energy sources for heating and mobility, taking on labor aspects is key - income-earning alternatives for miners, avoidance of child labor in lithium sourcing, etc.

We are the worst species to inhabit this earth

Invasive plant material in water bodies.

Climate migrants adding to the already enormous number of displaced people

Fracking, disturbance of precious public lands for profit, dangers (pesticides, other chemicals) to some of our most vulnerable population of farm workers

Changing to mostly plant-based diet.

Loss of forests and tree cover

Sites contaminated by past industrial uses. Disproportionately harmful effects on people in poverty.

Teaching young people about the environment

Rise in levels of the Great Lakes

Excessive waste

Impacts of energy production. I've been involved professionally in renewable energy since 1972.

Light and noise pollution.

Across the globe, poor people are disproportionately affected by all the climate and environmental issues listed above.

Protecting the BWCA (Boundary Waters) and other national parks and monuments from mining and other detrimental practices.

Too much carbon in the atmosphere; destructive industrial farming practices, protection of our water supplies, loss of biological diversity....

Threats to the National Parks, Monuments, and Historic Sites.

Lack of resources going into local, regional and national parks

Distortion and misrepresentation (lies) of science facts in government reports and decisions under current administration.

Really all of the above. And I'm concerned about the social/fiscal disparities in all the categories.

Food and other packaging that is not recyclable

Corporate greed that puts their bottom line above destruction of our planet as we know it.

Trash and wastes that are disposed of beside the road and in back roads. Also concerned about agricultural waste run-off in streams and creeks and rivers because of overuse and inadequate buffer space.

Availability of natural green spaces, protection of open spaces for wildlife and human sanity.

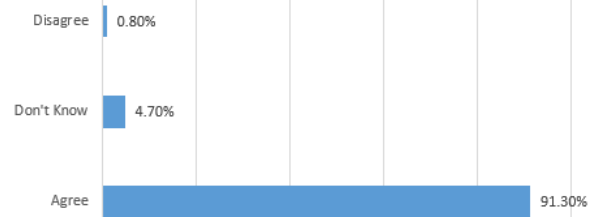
You have now made me more anxious than ever. Good, I suppose.

33. Do You Believe.....

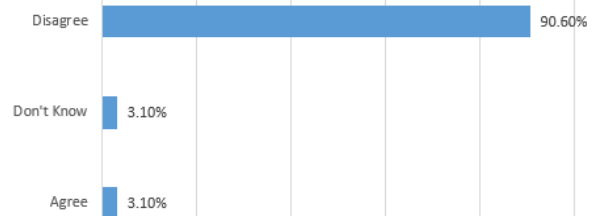
The Climate is changing? (125)



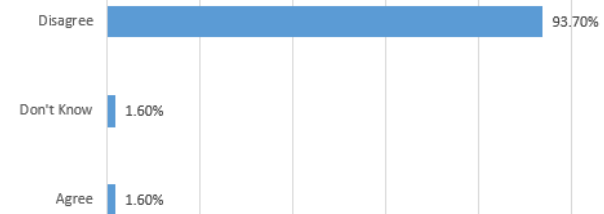
Man is a major contributor to CO₂ emissions? (123)



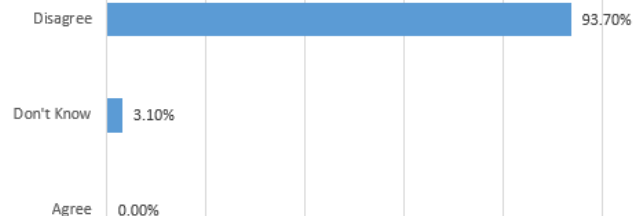
That Clean Water Regulations Should Be "Rolled Back" or Eased? (123)



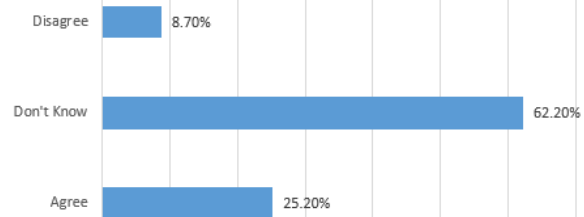
That Clean Air Regulations Should Be Relaxed? (125)



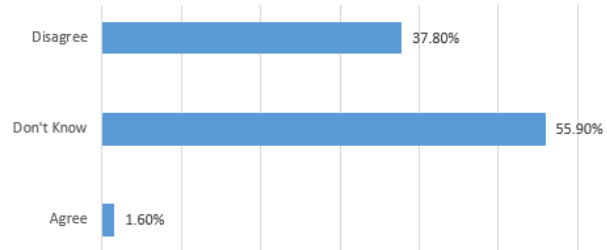
That the EPA Should Be Abolished? (123)



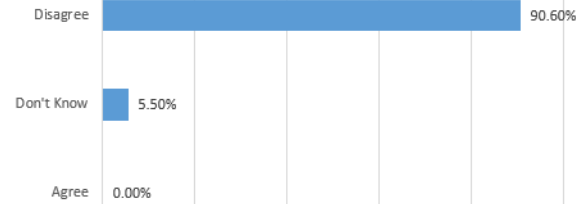
That a tax on carbon would be the most efficient and fastest way to reduce CO₂ emissions? (122)



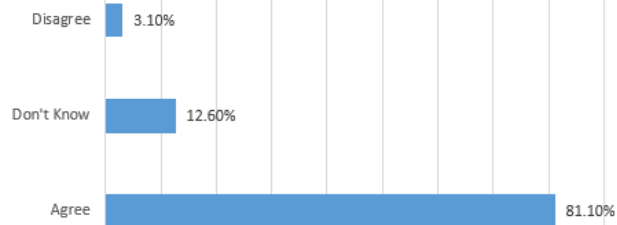
That “Cap and Trade” is a sufficient remedy? (121)



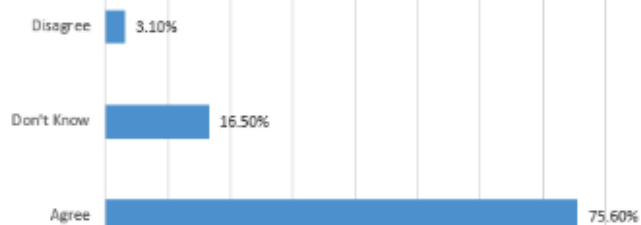
Corporations Should Inspect Their Own Meat Processing Plants and Not the USDA? (122)



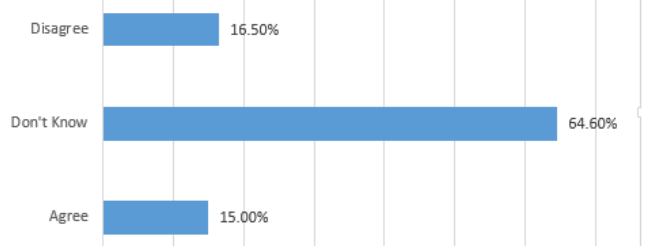
Solar and Wind Investments Should Be Incentivized? (123)



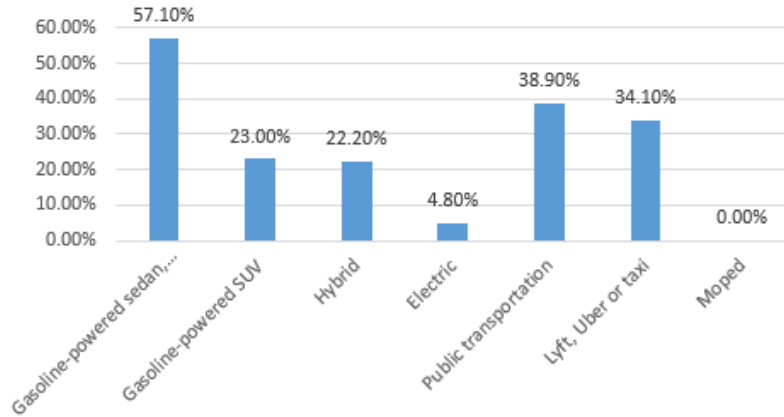
There Should Be More Rigorous Testing of New Chemicals Before Marketing? (121)



Technological Investments/Solutions Will Save Us in Time? (122)

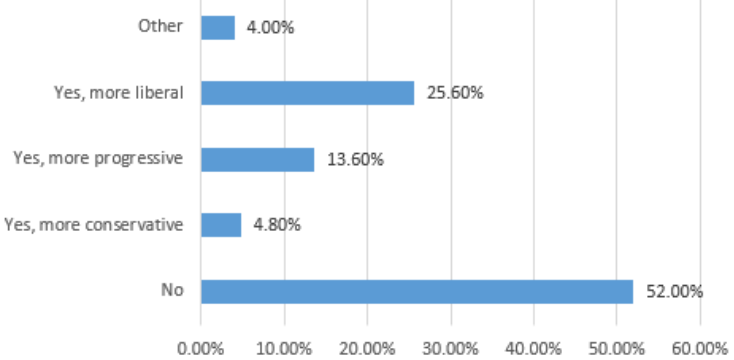


What do you use for transportation? (check all that apply)



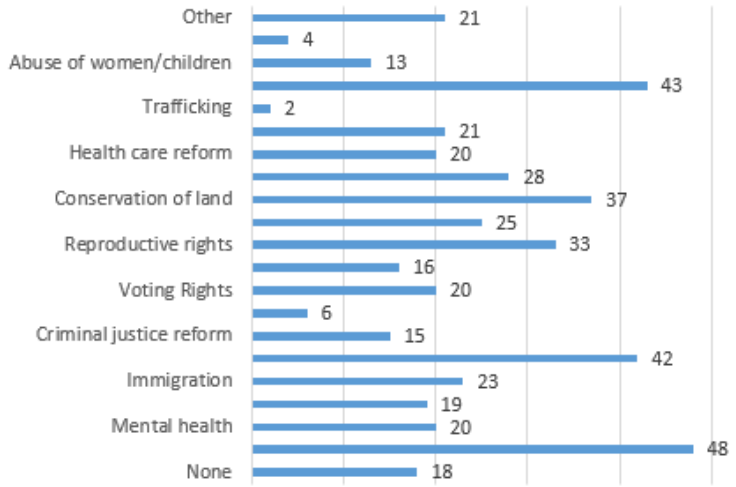
Other comments: truck (how come this isn't among the options?) Diesel truck to pull our trailer; I had a hybrid. That model was discontinued. I await sufficient electric plug-ins; Electronic forms of interaction; bike; feet; foot; I avoid using my cars as much as possible. Walking (4 responses); Live in two walkable small towns; Bicycle (6 responses); gasoline-powered sports car; Mostly I am a pedestrian; We don't own a car; We downsized to one car (Honda Civic); Smart car; diesel sedan; I don't drive much at all and prefer public transportation; truck; able to walk many places in urban area; subway; airplanes for long distance; Uber and public transportation when available; Zipcar or rental car occasionally.

34. Have Your Politics Changed Since Wellesley?



Other: More economically conservative, still socially liberal; Not changed politically but more conservative in certain social issues; Have not changed since graduation but just much better informed; More involved! Independent; Initially became more conservative but lately returned to liberal

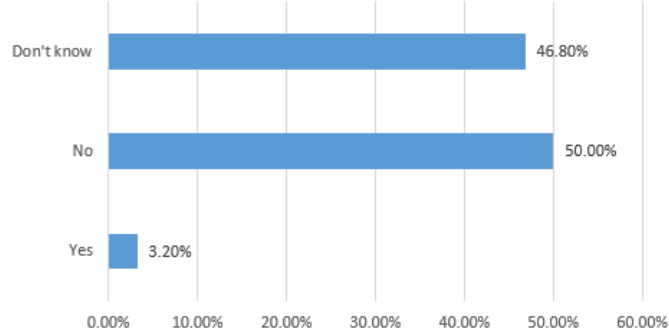
35. What significant contemporary issues are you involved in? (check all that apply)



Other includes: Animal rights; sustainable energy; Funding of libraries; Promoting reading and education among underserved; violations of due process and equal protection; all forms of discrimination; Workers' rights; Eradication of invasive plants and education about same; research to cure cancers; community development/quality of life issues; alleviating poverty; nutrition and the Industrialized Western Diet; Support Justice and human rights for palestinians; Racism; Providing resources for non-profit journalism; Reproductive Rights; Children's education and health; with several folks indicating that "involved in" for them means causes to which they donate.

REFLECTIONS

36. Do you believe our grandchildren will have a better life than you have had? (124)



Comments?

Overuse of technology to the point that people have fewer interactions directly with other people, more divisive positions on the internet, etc.

Very sad, but I see them burdened by our mistakes.

I am really worried!

The problems may well be different, but no life is free of major challenges, some from within, others imposed by society, the political climate, the environment.

Young people seem pessimistic about the future.

If things continue as they are, with a lunatic in the White House who doesn't have the sense God gave a newt, we are going to continue on a downward slide that includes destruction of our democratic institutions, collapse of our environment and economy, and severe social calamity.

I am really worried!

I'm afraid that humans will speed up a mass extinction of our species if we don't take appropriate actions now and continue to in the future. I think technology which is now such a boon to mankind will end up changing humans for either better or worse. Hoping it's for the better, but I have many doubts.

Trying to stay optimistic, but truly don't know

Global warming and wars over water rights (not necessarily in the US) sill make life much more difficult. I also fear class wars in the US.

Our daughter works two jobs, one a low pay. We help, but her health is jeopardized by her long work hours.

It's hard to understand the positive aspects of technology for the grandchild generation when it's easy to see what we had that they are missing - freedom to roam, the ability to self-entertain, love of reading, etc. Will TikTok make up for those areas of their brains that don't develop because they can't read/write cursive? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, I have learned the Floss and have become computer literate and able to use an iPhone with ease.

Many things will be better, but many will not. And things that our generation would think are 'better' will probably not be assessed the same way by a future generation. It's too subjective a question, based entirely on what an individual is used to that is forming their opinion.

Climate disruption is going to make life hell.

I am sure their life will be different, probably better in some ways and worse in others.

Income disparities will make opportunities diminish for those without sufficient education and local economic opportunity.

My three grandchildren are all girls, and there are more opportunities for them as women to pursue their dreams and advance in whatever career they choose than there were for me. Yes, their cost of

living will be higher and I worry about the burdens of climate change on them, and taxes they will face as there are fewer of them to support social security and social services for our generation. They will probably live in more modest homes and have less income, but they already are learning from us and their parents that the key to a rich, full, and happy life lies not in possessions but in family, relationships, freedom to pursue your dreams and find meaning and purpose in your work, faith in a loving God, and a rich spiritual life marked by gratitude, loving service to others, playfulness, creativity, and joy.

No time for much involvement at present but concerned about all above issues and disability rights. Currently not optimistic. Actually said to spouse today that I am not sorry that I will die soon, given the state of this country and the world.

This will depend upon the intelligent use of new technologies.

We are leaving them with a mess that may exceed their ingenuity to remedy. I believe runaway greed (corporate and personal) and today's empty, loud, often self-preserving political rhetoric is flooding our current efforts to make our grandchildren's lives good ones.

But I have hope that they will figure out how to do so. A grandson asked for an end to climate change for his 11th birthday.

I think we are leaving them with a world that will experience growing scarcity of resources and livable places, of increasing tension leading to more war and disruption of societies. Climate change exacerbates all of these negative impacts on life, even here.

I hope so, but I despair that things will improve.

It depends on whether we address these challenges now or defer them to our children and their children

Baby Boomers graduated into a booming economy with jobs for a range of IQs and abilities. This is not true today. The very bright, focused and ambitious kids will do well, but the others will not have a better life.

Worrisome.... The current Administration (a NIGHTMARE, of course!) is clearly accelerating the destruction of the natural world as we know it. Is it too late??? I AM worried for our grandchildren and the possible failure of the physical world they're inheriting.

If the Republican Party can somehow be brought back to sanity, we have a chance to address climate change and economic inequality. If not, I don't have much hope.

Will be living on a degraded planet with much more social upheaval as a result of rising seas and other climate change results.

I think their lives are beyond my imagination. What would my father think of Instagram and the men and women who spend time on it?? You couldn't print his comments in this family oriented survey.

My activist daughter does not think she will have as good life as we had. I felt my parents' life improved every year. With the Vietnam War I felt that upward trend stopped, if not declined. I have a good pension. My daughter as a teacher does not see economic stability. Both my parents were teachers and they managed to travel and send 3 of us to good universities.

Unknown climate changes pose a huge risk.

Too many variables to know.

I can't imagine, given the way things are headed with our climate, economic inequality, cost of education, damage to our democracy.

Degradation of the environment end our democracy make it challenging to have faith things will improve, but I cling to my faith that Americans ultimately make good choices.

Humans are too successful as a species.

The environment will be a disaster but maybe people were finally be motivated to do what they can to make life as good as it can be for as many people everywhere as possible.

I am very concerned that we are passing on some extremely serious problems to our grandchildren.

There is no Planet B.

I have been worried about our society ever since business schools stopped teaching ethics back in the 70s and 80s. I believe the lack of real Judeo-Christian ethics has led to a devolution in our democracy and allowed a greed-based and conscience-less corporate ethos to thrive, endangering our society and, ultimately, the freedoms we all love.

Probably not

I hope for better, but I know for sure they will have a different life than I have had.

Deterioration of the environment and population growth will cause fierce competition for food and water.

Concerned about the impacts of climate change.

We all have work to do.

Not if Trump and his henchmen run our country much longer

I am not sure what would be considered a 'better life'. Certainly I personally have had a very good and privileged life: stable family life, strong foundation in Christian faith and the fellowship of Christian communities/churches in Japan and the USA, excellent educational opportunities, marvelous husband, excellent health and access to healthcare for myself and family, good jobs with benefits, the opportunities and abilities to be financially generous. Not sure how our grandchildren could have a 'better personal life' measured against these indicators BUT I hope and pray they will have a 'better life' if discernible progress is made against racism, worship of the military and violence, economic and other injustices and inequality, exploitation and despoiling of the precious environment, and progress is made in building a civic culture that actually is concerned for the common good and the vulnerable, gun control, the hard work of peacemaking and bridge-building, advances in understanding and treatment of behavioral/'mental' health issues, and so on.

These are tough challenges but perhaps not hopeless if there is determination, courage, and cooperation.

Have hope

Very worried about my hypothetical future grandchildren

I would like to hope it will be as good as for our generation, but there would be more equality of opportunity for all.

I think we need to get a move on improving climate change, gun safety, health care if we expect their lives to be better.

Climate wise no. Otherwise, maybe

Not unless we take immediate measures to drastically reduce carbon emissions

Looming climate disasters, worsening inequality and political gridlock do not bode well.

Education has gotten too expensive. Many college grads do not have the salary to pay off their student loans. The cost of housing is too expensive. Salaries have not kept up with the cost of living.

By our generation's expectations, they will not. By the new generations' standards, probably.

How could they possibly?

I fear the impact of climate change on their lives; the pressures of populations; the destruction of the natural world and extinction of species, the rise of AI and widespread surveillance of citizens— their world will not our world. They will be less free.

I was a white upper middle class educated woman in the richest country in the world during the most prosperous era in that country, free from war (at home). NO ONE will experience that in the decades to come.

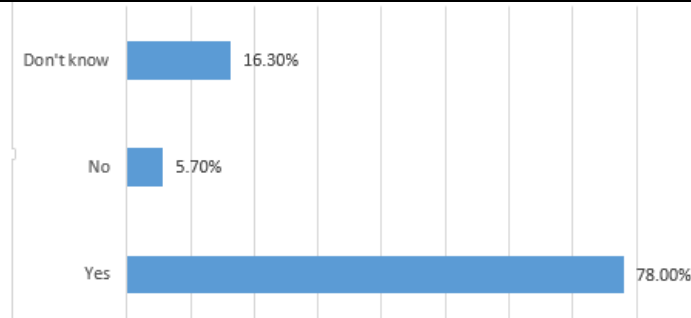
I was lucky to grow up an American in the 1950s—a spoiled generation with unsustainable habits.

Not unless there is major political change.

We have absolutely no idea! Look at the Coronavirus.

We're using up too much of America's wealth and natural resources, and destroying the environment.

37. Do you believe you have "made a difference" with your life? (123)



Comments about your answer?

I guess it depends on what 'made a difference' means. In the grand scheme of things, no; in smaller, more personal ways, yes.

I try to make life better for those around me and do random acts of kindness. I have made a difference to those I love. That is all I can ask for in these dark times.

I've lived life my way, for the most part. And that hasn't always been easy or popular or validated. So it's hard to tell whether anyone else ever took notice, let alone was influenced by anything I did.

Teaching enabled me to influence many students

I worked with children and young adults for my entire professional life.

Not much in my working life, although I thoroughly enjoyed it. Now as an owner of a horse and cattle ranch in Wyoming I have improved the property I bought and I'm pretty sure I've made the lives of the people who work for me better.

My career has focused on women's access to reproductive health care around the world and I feel that my work contributed to that goal.

One of the unsung benefits of teaching...

While most aspects of my response are confidential, I have taken action more than once to save a life or nudge individuals in the right direction where and when needed. In every case this has required me to step WAY outside my comfort zone/frame of reference, but enough time has passed to see the positive results. And sometimes this has required something as small as being a good role model or a listening ear. In every case I have asked myself whether I have done enough to attend the individual's funeral with no regrets. So far, so good and no funerals to attend!

Not on a global scale. But I do believe I have helped some individuals make more of their careers.

I never feel I have made enough of a difference. But I try. And I think I've contributed to bettering my community.

I thought about this when lying in the hospital, possibly dying. My life has made a difference only to my close friends and relatives, and it has been through relationship, love and caring. I have not achieved anything notable professionally or politically. I have lived a satisfying life in accordance with my values and interests. However, I wonder if I 'should have' done more.

Kind of depressing that we have to keep addressing all the same issues over all these decades

I spent my professional life in public service (local and state government) and think I made a difference through that work.

Also have been a volunteer mediator to help people solve problems and disputes in their lives

Mentored many people. Contributed to innovations in education. Committed to improving opportunities through education.

A little bit.

I believe that my positive interactions with others have been making a difference by helping them feel better about themselves. The biggest difference I have made is to raise my children to be adults who are making a difference through their own lives.

I surely hope that I have, in my specific situations.

With some family, with some friends, with some clients, with some students. My beloved soul sister Karen Ranks Mueller (class of 1969) told me my calling was to work with individuals and small groups. She was right.

Mostly little things, but I believe and hope that I have made life better for others, and will continue to do so.

I hope I have made a difference, even if small.

In a small personal way, I have made a positive impact on my students and by raising children who share my priorities for the world. I have endeavored as an artist and an arts organizer to bring the positive effects of music to my community.

I've been lucky to be in journalism, and I believe that has enabled me to serve democracy

I have worked to broaden access to health care for the low income and disadvantaged populations and to prevent rolling back progress in improving coverage and despite setbacks have seen progress.

My volunteer work has made a difference.

To my step children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

To Westover School where I've been a board member and contributed

To my local communities

I'm chagrined to admit that.....

I had a career—journalism—that was inherently publicly influential. As a citizen, I involved myself in many local issues and campaigned for good candidates. And as a parent I helped raise three productive adults.

Have tried to be a good citizen, but have done nothing to 'change the world'

I was a teacher.

By helping veterans, their survivors and dependents with claims and benefits for over 37 years, I have seen life changing results.

Yes, but not as large as I had hoped.

I know I have made a difference in the lives of the people closest to me.

I like to think that my activities on behalf of the disabled have made a difference, including from the contributions of our son who has a major disability. I hope my volunteer work in making art more accessible has helped others.

Any difference has been small and personal.

I have consciously set an example, in both my personal and my professional life, and I have mentored and sponsored several young women.

I tried to be a good teacher, to encourage all my students to become their own 'teachers'. I am proud that I got every one of my college students to talk in every class by posing a question and going all around the room for everyone's answer - before opening the discussion up to replies. It worked especially well for shy women students who wrote good papers but who were reluctant to raise their hands and speak.

As a teacher, I believe I have made a difference in many students' lives. As a mother and grandmother, I have made a difference in my kids' and grandkids' lives.

I worked for 26 years to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was a conscientious and 'hands on' parent to my two children, especially when they were little.

Just a little light

Through my law practice I have helped many people avoid problems or rectify them and through medication I help people find less expensive and often better solutions to their issues. Best of all, through Christian Conciliation, I have been able to help solve otherwise intractable problems, reuniting families and helping businesses be more productive, and restoring relationships rather than simply stopping damage.

In both jobs and nonprofits

In small ways, not large scale. With the people in my family, friends and those with whom I spend time individually, from smuggling addicted neonates to visiting the elderly in nursing homes.

Healing team at my church

Through my the values that I gave my children

There is so much to be done!

I believe we all make a difference, in different ways. It is all about consideration and kindness toward others. It is a day to day thing.

Teaching has been very affirmative.

I nurtured the growth of a vet clinic that hired very special women and served the community by providing jobs; I guided new immigrant refugees to the best of my ability to help them survive their first years in the USA; I currently work with the homeless and hungry hopefully letting them know that we care

On a small scale, being involved with several local non-profit organizations that do good work in our community. And we managed to raise two wonderful daughters who are in turn doing good work in their respective communities and raising their own children well.

Yes, but not sure it's a long lasting difference

I would like to think so. I am not a mover and shaker but I do try to work locally on important issues.

I hope so, but would leave the answer to that to others.

Helped hundreds, maybe thousands of cancer patients. Raised my children to be thoughtful contributing citizens

But not as big a difference as I want and hope to!

I have at least raised three children who have become kind, generous, and caring adults, who are actively involved in their respective communities

I have tried to model a positive attitude and encourage people to problem solve and appreciate what they do have instead of what they do not have.

Teaching gave me a chance to make an impact on the lives of troubled children.

Two wonderful children and 5 wonderful grands..... but I had expected myself to do more beyond that sphere.

Only by setting an example for younger women

Not much of one, but as the mother said in Jojo Rabbit, 'They did what they could.'

I have changed the lives of a few young people.

I know I did some good for the kids I taught. I've tried to be friendly and kind to all sorts. I have raised two sons to be good householders, husbands and fathers. I directed some crazy kids in some amazing plays.

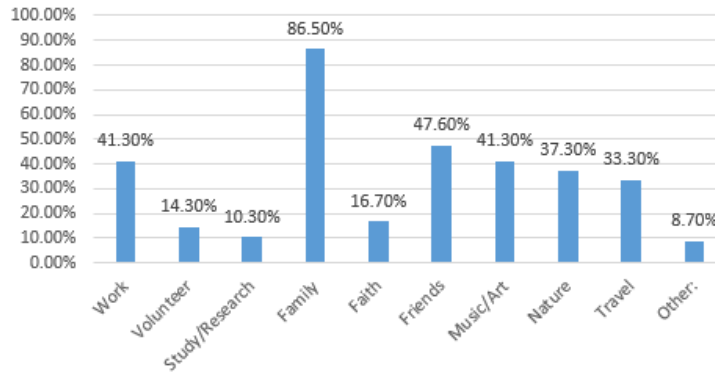
I have made contributions to my field; raised a child to be a good person.

Primarily through my work with survivors of childhood abuse, neglect and other trauma throughout life as well as being involved training and mentoring of other professionals to treat similar populations.

I hope so, but don't know for sure.

As a college professor I made a difference to my students. As a researcher, I made a contribution to my field (women's history).

38. What has given you the most joy in life? (Pick 2 or 3) (base 126)



Other included one-offs:

Career; running and hiking; Writing in my field; Discovering that “living my uniqueness is my Highest Calling” and striving to do so; Husband; Friends and travel, Solving problems either at work or in life; Donating to good causes; Dance; Reading; Writing (which is work but doesn’t earn much money)

39. What do you most want to know about your classmates?

- What did you expect of your life 50 years ago and how different has it been?
- How do they best cope with getting older and all its challenges?
- What makes them happy?
- How do you handle the growing awareness of your mortality?
- Hopefully to discover that they have found joy
- What they plan to do with the rest of their lives
- Have their lives been happy and successful? How do they see the world we live in right now? What do they hope for their grandchildren?
- Do you think you broke any new ground for women?
- How old do you FEEL?
- How are they spending their time in retirement?
- Have they kept on learning?
- What has most changed about you compared to Wellesley days?
- What they are up to now.
- Are they content?
- Are they happy?
- Thoughts on retirement, whether they are or they aren't.
- Has anyone else almost died, and how did it change her?
- How many dye their hair.
- What they ended up doing between then and now.
- How are they dealing with the inevitable changes that come as we age?
- I am always interested in what others have to say about changing roles, responsibilities and finding balance between the many challenges, demands and needs we all face.
- What has given you the greatest joy in life, and what has been your greatest obstacle to overcome?
- Their politics and why
- How have others navigated the challenges?
- What life has thrown their way.
- Whatever they are most keen to reveal.
- How they are coping with old age.
- Open to everything
- What has mattered most to them over the last 50 years?
- Where do you live now (locality, type of abode), and how do you think you'll be changing those?
- How their lives came out!
- How many have NOT retired from paid employment.

- How they spend their days
- What they are excited about
- What are they learning? What are their everyday pleasures?
- Whatever they want to share.
- How they get the most out of every day.
- How they have handled health challenges.
- How are they adjusting to retirement??
- How they are making meaning out of retirement; how they are preparing for their future as even older people (especially in terms of living arrangements)
- How would you actually reduce your own carbon footprint?
- Do you remember me?
- The different ways they have crafted 'retirement' and learn from their journeys
- What are you up to these days?
- Grandchildren?
- Best Wellesley memories....
- Whatever they wish to share about themselves, but definitely something authentic, not a list of accomplishments. I know Wellesley women are accomplished.
- I'd like to know "how they are faring now that we are in our seventies?"
- About their spirituality.
- How are they handling memory loss?
- How many are comfortable with modern technology?
- What they intend to do with the time they have left....
- Are they OK? How do they feel about their lives so far? How are their families and careers? How do they remember their undergraduate years at Wellesley?
- What made them happy, what did they learn, what do we share
- Do they feel they have progressed in life?
- What twists and turns their lives have taken
- What interests them now? What they care about.
- Who is around that I'd like to reconnect with and would like to reconnect with me?
- Who has really made a difference in this world? (However widely and diversely defined)
- What is currently important to them?
- What gives them joy and how they deal with what causes them unhappiness.
- What they are doing now, how they got to where they are, what are they excited about?
- How they are coping with aging and with the toxic political climate in our country
- What are you doing now? What is important to you?
- I've often thought that I had a relatively low-status job (public classroom education) as compared with others in my class. I've come to think more highly of it in recent years. How do others view their careers?
- I just want to meet and talk.
- What is important to them now?
- How they have coped with challenges
- What they are passionate about
- No - each unique story is fascinating.
- I don't want to know, I just want everyone to feel all right and satisfied with ourselves.
- Who broke out of the Wellesley stereo-type.
- What they are doing to make the world better!

- Life's highs and lows and how they've dealt with those.
- What their passion is.
- What they're doing now, what's important to them.
-

40. What do you wish your classmates would ask you?

- I wish my classmates would ask me to visit them at their chateau in the south of France.
- Can we come and visit you?
- How is life?
- There really isn't anything specific
- That's kinda up to them!
- Do you think you broke any new ground for women?
- Can I visit you if I come to see Wyoming?
- Ask about my travel experiences and my family.
- Are you content with your life?
- What I am up to now.
- How have you changed since graduation?
- Am I happy?
- Want to go outside and look for sedges?
- Anything!!
- Why to make charitable contributions.
- Whether I still miss living in the United States (except for missing friends, no).
- About my grandchildren
- Anything others would like to know.
- Same as above
- Not sure
- What life has thrown my way?
- Whatever they are most keen to know.
- What gives you joy?
- I get to talk to them about journalism, thankfully
- How Wellesley influenced my career and dedication to working with low income populations.
- What will we do when we can't take care of ourselves anymore?
- No idea—I'm not that interesting!
- What do you enjoy doing these days?
- About my garden
- What is the most beautiful sound or sight you've enjoyed lately?
- Anything they would like to ask.
- Do you believe in God?
- Whatever they are curious about.
- How's the Climate Change Yacht Club doing?
- Anything they'd like to know!
- What am I up to these days?
- What do i care about in 2020?
- How do I manage to live life as fully as possible despite very poor health?
- Do I have any photos to share of my husband, children and grandchildren? Why am I still in the Catholic Church even though I consider myself a feminist?
- How and why I am a Christian.
- The positive effects of a tax on carbon on reducing CO2 levels.
- I wish we could have an open dialog about current alternatives and risks in our lives.
- Let's go out for coffee!
- Anything, really, that someone is interested to know.
- What is currently important to me?
- Steps to be taken to win back the Senate in November

- How I am coping with aging
- Ask me about my love of music and travel.
- Nothing in particular
- What is important to me now?
- Ask me about my grandchildren. Really.
- About my family, grandkids, current activities

41. Read any good books lately? What are your suggestions?

*A quick look noted these repetitions (all book recommendations are listed):
Where the Crawdads Sing (2); Overstory (7); Becoming (4); The Dutch House (2):*

- Recently re-read Marilynne Robinson's books (Gilead, Home, Lila) - profoundly thoughtful, spiritual books; James Carroll's Warburg in Rome, Louise Penny's series of mysteries set in the Montreal Townships. Martin Walker mysteries if you love France and food.
- Any Scottish mystery by Peter May; Circe by Madeline Miller; The Patch by John McPhee
- Lots.
- Decanted Truths
- Reinventing Hillwilla
- The Gift of Rain
- Where the Crawdads Sing
- The Shipping News
- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
- Yes, A Gentleman in Moscow and Eleanor Oliphant in Perfectly Fine
- The work of CS Sansom always holds my attention. Also Jacqueline Winspear, Ann Cleves, Morag Joss and Elizabeth George.
- Overstory by Richard Power; Ordinary Grace by William Krueger
- Since I'm fairly alone here I read less fiction that I used to, and spend more time keeping in touch on social media.
- Sonia Purnell, A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II.
- Michele Obama, Becoming.
- Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird.
- Anthony Trollope, Dostoevsky, Jonathan Bayliss
- S.C. Gwynne 'Empire of the Summer Moon'; Emma Donaghue 'Akin'
- The Weight of Ink.
- Empire of the Summer Moon, S.C. Gwynne
- A Gentleman in Moscow; Just Mercy; Pachinko; Hillbilly Elegy; The Kitchen House; America's First Daughter;
- Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. The Maisie Dobbs mystery series, by Jaqueline Winspear.
- The Overstory
- A Constellation of Vital Phenomena
- All the Light We Cannot See
- A Gentleman in Moscow
- My Antonia
- Ken Follett's Trilogy of the 20th Century; The Dust that Falls from Dreams by Louis de Bernieres; A Son of the Circus by John Irving; Ines of my Soul by Isabel Allende. I could go on and on!!
- The Mirror and the Light

- Commonwealth
- The Overstory
- Ellen Gilchrist; Kate Atkins; Hilary Mantell; P.D. James; James Salter; many others
- Way too many to list. I read four or five books a month, mostly literary fiction. Just recently, I have read and enjoyed The Dutch House, The Topeka School, Trust Exercise, These Ghosts are Family, and Heroes of the Frontier.
- Stoner. A classic.
- The novels by Elena Ferrante, moving testimonies about friendships among women.
- The Library Book by Susan Orlean
- Many. Reading has been a great gift throughout my life.
- The Gifts of Imperfection, by Brené Brown, Hazelden, 2010.
- The Whole Brain Child: Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture your Child's Developing Mind, by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina P. Bryson, Delacorte Press, 2011.
- Grant, by Ron Chernow, Penguin Press, 2017.
- Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J.D. Vance, Harper Collins, 2018.
- The Broken Way by Ann Voskamp, Zondervan, 2016.
- Just Mercy
- Always! Jon Gertner's 'The Ice at the End of the World' and Barry Lopez 'Arctic Dreams'.
- Fiction - Elizabeth Strout 'Olive Kitteridge' and 'Olive, Again'. Cathleen Schine 'The Grammarians'.
- Lots of mysteries. Michelle Obama's Becoming.
- No, none lately.
- Lots!
- Becoming by Michelle Obama, Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver, The Library Book by Susan Orlean, No One Cares about Crazy People by Ron Powers, Chances Are by Richard Russo, The Dutch House by Anne Patchett, Doing Justice by Preet Bharara, White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
- Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker; The Dutch House by Ann Patchett; 1632 by David Weber & Eric Flint (great sci-fi collaborative series); White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo; The Last Policeman by Ben Winters. When you have cancer you read a lot of trash, but these were keepers.
- Too many to name, but here's a great one: The Overstory.
- Night Tiger, Before We Were Yours
- Non-fiction, especially about US history and events from about 1830-1930. Not sure why, except reading about some of the scandals, corruption, governmental mistakes, failures, and calamities, and knowing they were survived, is comforting.
- Everything by Geraldine Brooks and Kate Atkinson.
- How to Hide an Empire by Daniel Immerwahr. Books by Lynne Olson, including Last Hope Island and Madam Fourcade's Secret War. Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Kathrine Boo.

- Other Animals: Drawings and Journals by Merce Cunningham
- Yes! Family Properties by Satter, Soul of America by Meacham, Once a Great City by Maraniss, Dawn of Detroit by Miles.
- Disordered Mind
- Becoming by Michelle Obama
- too many to list!
- Death and Life of the Great Lakes: Dan Egan
- The Overstory: Richard Powers
- Tightrope: Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- The Library Book, After Emily, Where the Crawdads Sing, An Odyssey
- Wohlleben, Peter, The Hidden Life of Trees (Vancouver/Berkeley: Greystone Books, 2015).
- Thompson, Susan Peirce, Bright Line Eating (Carlsbad, CA/ New York: Hay House, Inc., 2017).
- The Man in the Red Coat
- Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively. Pamela by Samuel Richardson for a course I am auditing. It is better than you might think.
- Any books by Lynn Olsen.
- Perhaps too many to mention, but I'd suggest a short but powerful book entitled, On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century, by Timothy Snyder, a Yale history professor. The connections between our current times in the U.S. and Germany in the 1930s are chilling, to say the least. I have bought many copies of this book to give to others.
- Eric Metaxas, If You Can Keep It (about our American democracy).
- Jeff Dollar, Letting Go of the Need to be Right
- Ken Sande, The Peacemaker
- Travels with Lizbeth, by Lars Eighner, about homelessness, the art of writing, and love for a dog.
- Middle England, a novel, by Jonathan Coe
- The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michelle Richardson
- Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, by Eric Metaxas
- Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy
- How Not to Diet by Michael Greger M.D.
- The Fifth Risk: Undoing Democracy by Michael Lewis
- Finding Meaning by David Kessler
- Educated by Tara Westover
- 'The Big Question: Why We Can't Stop Talking About Science, Faith and God' - Alister McGrath, an Oxford physicist and prof. of science and religion; 'On The Altar Of The Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War'- Harry Stout, Yale professor; 'Super Chief: Earl Warren and His Supreme Court, a Judicial Biography'—Bernard Schwartz; the '#1 Ladies Detective Agency' books - Alexander McCall Smith, super delightful, they nourish and instruct your mind and soul in the nicest way; 'Prairie Fires' - Caroline Fraser, a very startling book, turns the 'Little House' world and author (LIW) upside down (as should be, it turns out); 'The Parthenon Enigma'- Joan Breton Connelly, NYU professor, MacArthur Fellowship 1996

- the Girl who Smiled Beads, the Museum of Modern Love, This is Orson Welles, Monk!, Little Fires Everywhere, and Dreamland were all standouts for me. These are my suggestions to my classmates.
- 'A Blueprint for War: FDR and the Hundred Days That Mobilized America' by Susan Dunn. Fascinating parallels with present day.
- Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waities Waring by Richard Gergel
- (Audio book)
- Stephen King's 'The Institute' (and I'm not a King fan in general)
- 'American Dirt'
- Kate Atkinson's 'Case Histories'
- Margaret Atwood's 'The Testaments'
- Black is the Body (Emily Bernard)
- Born Survivors (Wendy Holden)
- Thank You for Being Late (Thomas L Friedman)
- Always Look on the Bright Side of Life (Eric Idle)
- Bossypants (Tina Fey)
- The Friend by Sigrid Nunes
- The Sense of an Ending, Testament of Youth, Akhil Amar's books on the Constitution, Dance with a Poor Man's Daughter, Becoming Mrs. Lewis
- 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delila Owens
- The Overstory, Grapes of Wrath, Little Women
- 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama. 'The Sixth Extinction' by Elizabeth Kolbert
- I do not make suggestions anymore.
- The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman
- I re-read my Patrick O'Brians (Master & Commander series) over and over.
- Get a Persephone books catalog and order
- My stack is too high, BUT
- Democracy at War by William O'Neill
- Her Husband: Hughes and Plath—A Marriage by Diane Middlebrook
- Voices from Chernobyl by Svetlana Alexievich
- The Heirs by Susan Rieger
- Bernadine Evaristo: Girl Woman Other.
- East West Street
- Sally Rooney. Mysteries by Denise Mina and Phil Rickman. Austen, and Georgette Heyer as second string. Trollope and Dickens always.
- Richard Powers, 'Overstory.'
- On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous. Ocean Vuong
- Rereading Willa Cather, and dipping into Thomas Hardy again.
- Anything by Alice Hoffman or Ann Patchett.
-

42. Is there any advice you would give your classmates for the next five years?

- ENGAGE!
- Do what you can to stay healthy, be happy, and enjoy whatever life offers you.

- This was my father's favorite joke, and since I would not presume to give any real advice, I'll use his idea:
- Keep your mouth shut, your bowels open, and make two copies of everything.
- Stay healthy. Enjoy family and friends.
- Keep moving!
- Make time for fun
- Always keep your stick on the ice.
- Exercise!
- Work out. Keep your body active and fight through pain to do it. Grit your teeth and accept the pains that come with old age, then ACT like you're still young with your life ahead of you.
- Travel while you and your loved ones have good health. We never know what is around the corner.
- Keep exercising your mind and body.
- Do not be afraid
- Take care of your body and mind. It is easy to make those take a "back seat" when you are a caregiver. But unless you do that you won't have the mental or physical strength to help others.
- Take a deep breath and don't worry so much. You'll live longer.
- Don't judge yourself against others, or against external definitions of 'worth'. Set your own sights on what is important to you, and go for it.
- To the extent health & finances permit, WINN - When If Not Now. Relevant for connecting with friends & family, engaging in the world, enjoying yourself. Coming to Reunion is part of that!!
- Walk and exercise as much as you're able
- Don't procrastinate doing what you really want to do
- Stop buying so much stuff, especially new stuff.
- Give money and stuff away.
- Enjoy nature more and act to protect it.
- Practice gratitude. Exercise!
- Stay connected, help others and you will help yourself, stay physically active
- 'Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7)
- Take good care of yourself, love and nurture yourself.
- Hang on!
- Don't leave it until the last minute to enjoy what and whom you love.
- Don't delay doing the things you want to do.
- Live every day like it's your last. It sounds trite but believe me when you get a terminal diagnosis, it makes a lot of sense. And on that bucket list, don't forget the things like 'Spend more time with my husband', 'Tell my friends that I love them,' spend time doing fun things with your friends. Bucket lists are not only for big events. Don't forget the small joys that we so often overlook. You can't check them off, but they should always take precedence.
- I'm looking for theirs.
- Treasure the time you have and tell those you care about that you care
- We are old enough and set in our ways, no advice required or useful.

- Stay in touch! We'll need each other, I feel sure.
- Same as I'm giving myself: to do everything I can to make my aging body last as long as possible so I can continue to enjoy family, travel, and nature.
- Try to stay healthy and hope to see you at reunion in five years.
- Keep an inquiring mind, look for stimulating experiences, be flexible as life throws curves
- Seek fun wherever you find it.
- Embrace joy.
- I take great pride in no longer offering advice.
- Work at being fit. Silver Sneakers or Silver and Fit is a tremendous program. For \$25/year
- One can take Yoga classes 5x/week, work out at a gym and with cardio machines, etc. There is a socialization component, too. My husband was not interested in exercising. It took less than a week and he became a devotee.
- Speak out!
- Maintain an upbeat attitude; a positive attitude has a multiplier effect.
- I've learned how to manage my addictions, some of which I've known about since college.
- Live your best Life - and prepare for becoming an elder so your children don't have to worry about anything when the time comes for them to take over!
- Go for it!
- Apparently it's later than we think, so cherish each day and each precious person in your life.
- Appreciate your family and friends. Make a contribution to our world, even if it seems small to you, but also don't forget self-care.
- Time seems to be passing so quickly now and we all probably realize that this life won't go on forever. Seriously think about what comes next, when the lights go out. Ask yourself who Christ is. I used to think he was some great teacher (like Buddha or Mohammed), but discovered that He is so much more. Hope you discover that too!
- 'We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind.' (from a 19th Century Swiss theologian)
- Enjoy all that is around you!
- Take care of yourselves; love yourselves; be kind to yourselves.
- Take time to delight in birds and flowers and trees
- If not now, when?
- Get together often with friends
- I would not presume to give such advice!
- Keep informed, keep thinking, keep inspiring and caring about the younger generations
- Don't worry or stress. Be grateful for whatever you have. Enjoy life. Stay as physically active as you can
- Respect, talk with, LISTEN TO, and try very hard to understand people with whom you (even violently) disagree.

- Work hard to increase and maintain functional strength and balance.
- Be nice to yourself.
- Figure out how to downsize
- Take care of yourself. Try to feel joy and gratitude each day because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. Try to see the glass as half full rather than half empty. Relax, have fun, play.
- Be open to others. Think before you speak. Factor processing time into the decision making process.
- None really
- Be kind and have courage
- Dessert First.
- Stay calm.
- Savour the moment.
- Don't stop.
- Persist
- Laugh. Be generous. Be kind.
- Take up Ballroom dancing - it's the physical activity most associated with deterring age-related dementia. It engages physical, mental and social capacities and is great fun.
- Look for beauty and joy in the everyday.
- Stay healthy, stay active, contribute.

43. Who Do You Want To See as the Next President of the United States?

- Not Trump, not Sanders, not Warren; Biden only if there isn't another choice; Klobuchar for VP - with all the old people running, someone young and smart needs to be VP.
- Anyone but Trump
- Someone who can get us back to civil discourse and responsible leadership, but most importantly beat D. Trump. Haven't seen who that will be.
- Elizabeth Warren. Anyone but Trump.
- Trump
- Governor Pete
- Elizabeth Warren, with Amy Klobuchar as VP
- Elizabeth Warren
- A Democrat, and it doesn't matter which one!
- I wish I could come up with someone as smart as Obama with more conservative politics.
- A Democrat
- Amy Klobuchar
- Any Democrat
- Not sure - but definitely a Democrat - and to get rid of Trump
- Undecided
- A woman Democrat!
- Donald Trump
- Any of the Democrat candidates.
- Democrat
- Nikki Haley
- Biden
- Not Trump
- Anyone but Trump

- Michael Bloomberg
- Any Democrat; ask again after the primaries
- Any Democrat who has a progressive agenda and is effective in implementing it—Anyone but Trump
- Any sane person vs Trump, preferably a moderate Democrat.
- Anyone but Donald Trump
- NOT Donald Trump
- A woman! Amy Klobuchar or Elizabeth Warren.
- Bernie Sanders
- Just about anyone other than the incumbent.
- NOT TRUMP!
- a Democrat
- Whom..... a woman, a moderate Democrat, someone whom I can respect.
- Right at the moment, my preference from the current list of candidates is Amy Klobuchar.
- Oh gosh! Any sane adult - that excludes Trump and Bernie.
- Anyone who can beat Trump
- Anyone other than Trump.
- Biden or Bloomberg
- We desperately need someone other than Donald Trump. I will vote for the person who runs against him.
- Not Trump
- Joseph Biden
- Anybody but Trump.
- Someone other than Donald Trump.
- A democrat
- Any Democrat. Elizabeth Warren would be my first choice.
- Any Democrat who can beat the hideous and damaging Trump.
- Anybody but Trump
- Madeleine Albright's recommendation
- I wanted Hillary - now anybody BUT Trump - and I think Mayor Pete would be a breath of fresh air (but unlikely to be elected - so I will vote blue no matter who to get Trump out of the White House!
- Anybody but Donald Trump
- Someone wise and sane
- Anybody but Trump, with Elizabeth Warren on top of the list.
- Any Democrat
- Nikki Haley, but she isn't running until 2024 :-{
- Pete Buttigieg
- NOT Trump
- I despair: NOT TRUMP
- A wise woman who can smile with confidence who cares more for the world than herself
- Anyone but Trump! Prefer Amy Klobuchar or Joe Biden
- Anyone but current occupant of WH
- Not Trump or Sanders
- A moderate democrat

- Anyone but Trump, seriously Joe Biden will do nicely.
- Joe Biden
- Joe Biden; I previously chose Elizabeth Warren, but she dropped out of the race.
- I voted for Elizabeth Warren.
- Whoever the Democratic nominee is
- Someone thoughtful, careful, flexible and strong. Biden is not strong enough and Bernie is not flexible enough.
- I guess Joe Biden but honestly Hillary Clinton
- Isn't this the wrong question?
- Anyone but Trump.
- I WANT Elizabeth Warren but I can't have her, so Biden.
- Elizabeth Warren—okay, I'd vote for Biden or Bernie, depending on who gets the nomination
- a competent Democrat/anyone besides Trump!
- Elizabeth Warren (even though she's dropped out)
- a woman