



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Where have all my old friends gone? Day 5

Thursday, May 12, 2016

I used to be a fan of the "Survivor" TV show. I remember that on the day before the finale the 4 last "survivors" would walk down a path lined with the torches of those who had not survived and would say a few words about each one of them. This is a bit how I feel with this project.

While I'm glad to see those still active even if they have not been interacting with me, seeing the pages of those inactive brings back memories of their time here. Sometimes their last posts give a clue as to why they have disappeared.

One difference with the TV show is that those who did not make the "final four" were actually voted off by those who remained. Such is reality TV, but not the case here on Spark where the overwhelming majority of posts and comments are positive, helpful and supportive even when the sparker's path is different from our own.

So as I strolled the path this morning looking for "survivors" in today's group of 20, the results were somewhat depressing. 2013 must have been a bad year for a lot of people since it was the last known sitting of most of today's inactive group.

There were only 7 active and 13 inactive or missing. This 35% survivor rate brings my overall percentage down to 34 out of 70 or 49%.

Edit:

I should clarify that my project has nothing to do with my "spark class,"

I'm going through my list of Spark Friends - all 449 of them - gathered over 7 years.

I've never deleted anyone and I'm not doing it now. One thing I've learned is that old friends might drift away, but many return. Also, keeping the list intact doesn't impact my spark time at all. So I will just leave it as it is. I don't purge my photo albums of those with whom I no longer have contact, so as a personal choice I'll also keep the photos of all the sparkers I've known. I totally understand that others approach this differently. Another example of different but equally valuable paths.

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PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

I don't know about those who disappeared, but 2013 was tough for me! But, I found hope, love and encouragement here on SP! That is one of the main reasons I stick around!
1856 days ago



**GINIEMIE**

2012-2013 was my first year of retirement and when I lost a lot of encouragement outside of SP and actually put back on a lot of weight. I hang around and am able to maintain so I haven't gone higher but I haven't gone lower either. It seems I'm stagnating and haven't the energy to reboot. A lot of my sparking now days is about maintaining my sanity, friendships and not gaining any more weight. I know I need to revisit, redo and get back on track to lose weight and regain

healthy habits. It'll happen.



1856 days ago

**PHEBESS**

I'm curious how many have left because they reached goal and now have skills to maintain. But I don't know if you can gather that data?

1856 days ago

**JEANKNEE**

2013 was a challenging year for me. I would return to Spark following a 3-year Spark hiatus in late December 2013.

Interesting to see that 2013 appears to have been a tough year for folks.
1856 days ago

**CD4114015**

These are amazing blogs. I wish I could do it but the ones I really want to keep track of are the ones that I have ACTIVELY around me right now and you made me think, I sure do hope none of them/you go ANYWHERE. Then, I would have to go search them out like you did. GREAT job!
1856 days ago

**DOVESEYES**

Another great blog thanks...



1856 days ago

**ONEKIDSMOM**

2013 was a tough year for me, too, but I hung around, and 2014 was stellar. So... it goes in waves... I'm with you... love seeing "old" friends re-appear. There's no shame in re-do's!!! I have not stones to toss, I'm in a glass house over here.

1856 days ago

**LIVEDAILY**

Hmm...I wonder what happened in 2013? I admire you for continuing with this project. I wonder, if their page is no longer active, but their SP name is still present, if you can contact them via spark mail?

1856 days ago

**KURTZIE1998**

First I want to say glad we are friends, when I first joined sparks I only tracked food but went to another site because it was much easier to use. I came back here in 2014 and have stayed, it took a while to figure how this website worked and still learning. It isn't the easiest of sites compared to others. I think I was first overly exuberant and joined a number of teams and found that keeping up was taking too much of my day. I felt bad but felt a number of teams and now only in 10 (3 are interconnected 5% challenge.). Even now I find sparks can take up way too much time, and I think they can make the website a little easier especially when the ads keep popping up or when you log food it seems you always hit an ad. I like your blogs.

1856 days ago

**JOYNEW**

Re hawkthree's comment about site's usability, I have to agree! I have complained about precisely the issue you mentioned (page jumpiness due to ads). It is a pain but not enough for me to leave. I tried another app and quickly came back to Spark.

1857 days ago

**JOYNEW**

Hi! I'm still here but not as active in the social stuff as I once was. Life is so busy ... there's that overused word again! When things calm down in a few months, I may be more active here again. The connections and blogging were helpful!

1857 days ago





PHOENIX1949



1857 days ago



CD16609042



What a great way to look at SP friends. I'm glad to have you as a friend you mine.



1857 days ago



WILSONWR

It is sad how many friends drop off after time. It is great to see that almost half stick with it though!



1857 days ago



IFDEEVARUNS2

Wow! My level of activity on SP varies, but I've never walked away.



1857 days ago



IAMSUNNYHOWARD



There must be a trend with this, I originally joined in 2009, but was only using SP to track food. I must say I wasn't using it as well as I could have. Then I got overwhelmed and stopped. When I came back in 2015, it was with the idea that I would be active on the site. It has made a world of difference. I didn't wait to be noticed, I actively found others. I try to see what new members are doing and at least say HI- it is confusing at first.

1857 days ago



ANGIEN9



I guess you are referring to you spark class, right?? I will have to check out mine. Or was it the first team you were on that you were referring to above??

Your blogs are very interesting. Always insightful and you are very active on this site and in life. I am glad to see that some people are able to maintain as long as you have. I am sorry many of your friends are gone. I say, "Make some new ones." I know it won't be the same. But I don't think you can ever have too many friends on Spark People!!

Have a great day!! I love being your friend and reading your blogs.

Check out mine, if you haven't. Thanks!

Angie

1857 days ago



WATERMELLEN



I really hope someone "up there" (ie Sparkland admin) is reading this series of blogs AND the great comments because . . . there's valuable info embedded which suggests methods could be tweaked to encourage more membership MAINTenance!!

1857 days ago



HAWKTHREE



And a good example is what just happened after I hit Post Comment. I couldn't do anything on this site until I counted to 10. Couldn't go home, couldn't look at other people's blogs.

1857 days ago



HAWKTHREE



Perhaps it's because I design websites but the jumpiness of the website keeps me away when I don't need the discipline. I have to count to 5 before I can add foods because ads are loading. About 33% of the time I accidentally hit an ad because I think the jumping is over.

The 'conversations' can be difficult to maintain because you don't always see that someone is replying to you and you alone.

This site is a great resource but it's a challenge to want to use it.

1857 days ago



JIACOLO



Glad you found some positive in this situation. The support SP brings to us can be a huge part of our journey.

1857 days ago

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