



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Where have all my old friends gone? Day 17

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

"It's not our old Brooklyn anymore" That's what an old friend told me 2 years ago when I was planning to attend my 50th high school reunion. It's also the comment I got from a spark friend about this community as she returned after a long break.

No community is static. People change. Their needs change. Communities change, both real and online. I'm not naive enough to claim that all change is beneficial, but just because it's not how I remember it doesn't mean it's all bad either.

As I walked the streets of my old Brooklyn neighborhood, there were many changes. The stores were different. The corner candy store was now a dance studio. The little grocery was now a deli with an assortment of foods we never tasted back in the day. The huge bank building was now divided into several small shops.

I didn't expect to find any old friends. My family eventually joined the great migration to the suburbs and beyond. As I stopped in front of my old house (a 3 family walk-up) there was a man working on the steps. (We used to call it the "stoop"). He was from Oklahoma and recently bought the place.

I explained who I was and he told me that I should talk to the old man 2 doors down. He was taking out his garbage. I introduced myself and he said "I'm Junior P. Remember me? My Dad and Grandpa had the barber shop." His family stayed right there in the same house all those years. What a nice surprise to find an old friend!

As for my old friend who warned me that I wouldn't find the Brooklyn I remembered, I told him that I didn't expect to. Because both of us, and thousands of our contemporaries had relocated to new communities, those places weren't the same anymore either. I've heard comments of how their town has changed with all the newcomers (like ME!)

Internet time moves a lot faster than real time. I've been on Spark over 7 years. I'm a veteran, an old timer like Junior P who never went away. We both saw people come and go. New people arrive and by their very existence change the nature of the place.

As for the Spark community, if an old friend should return after an absence, I hope they will be happy to find me still here.

Today's data was extremely positive.

14 Active and 6 Inactive/Missing - That's 70% still hanging in.

Summary so far:

169 out of 310 are still sparking!

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That's an amazing 55%

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GINIEMIE

I addressed some of the feelings wrought by change on yesterday's blog. Yes change is inevitable and as you stated not always better. Changes in format if your eyes are bad can be scary, you can't find things. Changes in the way groups are here to me is unfriendly. I remember going to my groups and seeing a rolling ribbon showing who posted and greetings to others on the team--It made me want to check on my teams. Now I spin for points for a few of them and just go on to other pages....it makes me feel disconnected and I think that's the way some of our SFs feel.



1844 days ago

v



BBEAGAN

55% is awesome!
1844 days ago

v



DOVESEYES

Things change and it seems suddenly you realize how many years you have been away from a place. I t is always great to find a friend still around that remembers the same things you do. Great blog.
1844 days ago

v



YISKAMIRYAM

Awesome! I've been here under this screen name for a year and a half but have been with spark for 5 years. Its nice to see others that have been around for a good long time!
1844 days ago

v



ONEKIDSMOM

When I went errand-running with ALICIA363 last Sunday, she turned up one of the few neighbors that has hung around mom and dad's old neighborhood... good to see her!

And love that the percentages are rising as the days go on. 55% is a good number for an average, but I expect it will get event better.
1844 days ago

v



CD4114015

I agree your numbers and perseverance are AMAZING!
1844 days ago

AWESOME

v



POINDEXTRA

I'm really enjoying this series of blogs - I may just go through my own Friends list and do the same!
1844 days ago

v



KANSASROSE67

Good blog! I've been on Spark for 5 1/2 years and I'm pleasantly surprised how many others have stuck with it...70% is a pretty high number, I'd say.
1844 days ago

v

Comment edited on: 5/24/2016 2:41:26 PM



CD13758606

Thanks for sending me a goodie. And checking in with me. I am not lost, I am exploring. I just finished my half marathon in Chicago quite successful; and training hard for the Chicago marathon in the fall. Love your blog. People need to change based on their needs.
1845 days ago

v



TERI-RIFIC

Well Said!



Good observations,
1845 days ago



PHOENIX1949

Fun story about your visit and finding Junior P.

Encouraging stats on your old SP friends.



1845 days ago



LIVEDAILY

I remember the first time I went back to my alma mater. The reaction I had was not what I was expecting. I cried the entire walk from Main St. to my old dorm. It really hadn't changed that much. I don't know why I cried, but I was happy to be there.

Good numbers!!
1845 days ago



MDTWEETY

So very true! Have a great day!
1845 days ago



JEANKNEE

The neighborhood I grew up in has four old timers remaining. Will be visiting one of them in a few weeks. Papa (as we call him) has dementia and it remains uncertain how long he will remain at home. It will be good to visit.

These numbers you're seeing are pretty incredible.
1845 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL

I miss those who have left who touched me with their story or kindness.
1845 days ago



JJPLSMN

I am surprised at how high the Spark number is. Good for everyone.
1845 days ago



EEARHART1

Nice story
1845 days ago



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