



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## A Surprise in Walmart

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

After my run yesterday, I stopped at Walmart to buy Christmas presents for a local charity drive. As I was pondering the many varieties of Barbie Dolls, I heard "Eileen?" The woman looked vaguely familiar. She continued "you don't remember me, do you?"

I had to admit that I did not. When she said her name, I remembered the Masters in Educational Technology program in which I was enrolled 18 years ago. I recognized her as the director.

What a memory she had! Here we were in a town hundreds of miles away from the University in a completely different environment and she recognized me and even remembered my name. She was a very "hands on" director and we interacted quite a lot back then.

By coincidence DH & I retired to the same town in which her husband had grown up. They came back to retire as well. Small world, as they say.

As I related this incident to my husband, secretly pleased that my decades older self was still recognizable, my ever practical DH pointed out that I was still in my running clothes - tights, race shirt and hat. "You were probably wearing the same stuff, the last time she saw you!" LOL

Note: I was 50 years old when I enrolled in that program. I already had a Master's Degree and was working as a Technology Coordinator after decades as a Math/Computer Science teacher. However, I always tried to model the behavior I wanted to instill in my students - to be a lifelong learner.

It's the same as my daily Spark login. There's always something new to learn or to motivate me.

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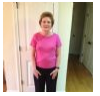


**MARYJEANSL**

That is such a neat story! I had a somewhat similar experience recently when I was in my hometown taking care of my mother over Thanksgiving, and I ran into a high school friend at church. But not really that much of a shock, in the town where we had both grown up, and where she still lives.

1648 days ago





**PGBACK**



Eileen!  
1651 days ago



**ALICIA363**



Happy Thanksgiving!



1658 days ago



**SUNNYBEACHGIRL**

Staying healthy is its own best reward  
1659 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**

What a wonderful surprise you had!! It's always good to keep those little grey cells active and stimulated!!  
1659 days ago



**DS9KIE**



1659 days ago



**MARYALICE411**

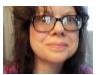


1659 days ago



**DOVESEYES**

Wonderful I love this :)  
1659 days ago



**SUNNYCALIGIRL**

Sounds like a great meeting. It's surprising who you can run into in Walmart!

1659 days ago



**PRNCSCUP1-2FULL**

How perfectly awesome! Oh, those practical hobbies! But, still.... That running keeps you young!  
1659 days ago



**PEGGYO**

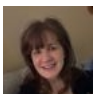


1659 days ago



**DR1939**

I completed my PhD at 50. Our youngest daughter will complete her Doctorate in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner this year. She is 52.  
1659 days ago



**KELLIEBEAN**

What a great surprise. I love that you're a lifetime learner and you are a great example for me to follow!



1659 days ago



**PHEBESS**

Wonderful story and yes, small world!  
1659 days ago





**SMILINGEYES2**

I also love learning. There is so much out there.



How great to run into an old mentor/friend. I wish I had her gift of name recognition.

Enjoy your holidays.  
1659 days ago



**CD17264479**



How wonderful! I truly admire your lifelong learning. 🧡

1659 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**



1659 days ago



**WILSONWR**



That was a big surprise. And you're right - that Director had an amazing memory!

1660 days ago



**GINIEMIE**



What a lovely surprise. I always am grateful when someone remembers me, sometimes I recognize them and have to ask their name. Sometimes I know I've seen someone and I have to figure out where? when and how? It's fun when neither of us can remember where we met, we start playing guessing games, work, school, volunteering, church, grocery store-I meet a lot of people that way thanks to Erik who doesn't know a stranger.

Happy Thanksgiving, 🍂 you just added something to be thankful for 🙌🧡💖🤗



1660 days ago



**50YEARSWIFE**



How wonderful that you reconnected with someone from your past. 🚶🏻‍♀️

1660 days ago



**CD4114015**



What an **AWESOME** blog! On several counts. I always wondered your first name...but am never nosey to others so was patient and there it is! THANK YOU.

You were an awesome teacher too...your attitude. JEANKNEE is also like you VERY smart and an excellent teacher!

And what a cool story about running into old friends/acquaintances!

And Happy Thanksgiving to you and family! 🎩

1660 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**



Lifelong learning will keep us young... and battle off some of the uglier conditions of "our age"!

What a great thing to have a "surprise" connection pop up! 🚶🏻‍♀️ **KEEP SPARKING!**

1660 days ago



**HEALTHYME98**



I loved this! Thank you for sharing!

1660 days ago

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