



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## So Grateful for my "Imaginary Friends"

Friday, April 02, 2021



As Sparkers we know each other online, but these relationships are very real especially for those veterans here. The "imaginary" designation is my DH's loving reference when he sees me on the site. He understands how important it is for me to stay connected here. He is a "Stealth Sparker" himself. My time here has changed his life as well.

Once upon a time (pre covid) similar interests and location allowed Sparkers to meet in person occasionally.

At a Race in Virginia



In New York City



Even in South America

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I don't know if or when that kind of "meet up" will be possible again, but I want to express my gratitude for the support and encouragement I find here every day.

Yesterday I posted my status as "catching up on Spark" because of some enforced downtime after my 2nd shot and I read this.

"Here you are part of people's lives and they are special to you. Sure, your goals may be different or you might not be as disciplined as others but you are walking your own path chatting with others on theirs and it is all good. I don't know of anywhere else that you can ask - do you know of a good running shoe or hiking boot and not get an answer nearly right away. Nowhere else can you say in your feed you need a bit of encouragement or that you are feeling sad and not hear from others that send you hugs or writes to you.

So, it has been a year of better choices and more activity and loads and loads of good friends and I have no plans ever of missing my daily HELLO here on SparkPeople" (MamieAllie)

I couldn't have said it better myself.

Logging in here every day provides my daily dose of motivation and all you "imaginary friends" are a big part of that. Thank you!

One final memory.

As we were leaving that race years ago, my DD Hayburner1969 (center in the first photo) pointed out one of the honored guests at the event.

Kathrine Switzer was the woman who entered the male-only Boston Marathon in 1967. I remember when she was dragged off the course simply because she was female. My DD told her how her act inspired me, her mother, to enter our town's Labor Day bike race using only MY first initial. It was 1973 and I had the only bike with a baby seat on the back. No one stopped me as happened to Kathrine, but it became clear that not only men were interested in participating. Subsequent races included a women's division.

This is a photo I will always treasure.



May we always remember those who blazed the trail before us and be grateful for those who are on the trail with us right now "imaginary" or not.

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## Member Comments About This Blog Post



**TOMATOCAFEGAL**  
Treasure friends and memories  
53 days ago



**MARTHA324**  
"Imaginary friends!" What a wonderful idea and I can 100% agree that my friends here are important. Checking in with my friends on Spark sets up the day and the mutual support and encouragement and just plain fun has been even more important this past pandemic year.



Believe that there will be meet ups are we pull ourselves out of this health crisis.



59 days ago



**AKA\_TROUBLE**  
I was the first female to be on the boy's swim team my senior year of high school. The girl friend of the guy who drove me home after practice joined, too, or I would have been the only.  
62 days ago



**DONNA\_CPS2**

Nice stories! Thanks!  
62 days ago



**PATRICIAANN46**

Well Said!

Just the other day, I was sharing a story with my husband about how much I have learned from friends on Spark, who, even if we never physically meet, I consider them to be very dear friends. We come from all walks of life, but at the core, we are women who need each other and feel safe seeking the help we do.

Thank you for a great blog. You said everything I have thought of so many times over the years.  
63 days ago



**SHAWFAN**

Such a WONDERFUL Blog, Eileen! You're right, of course! We MUST always remember our "imaginary friends" who we communicate with on a regular, sometimes not so regular basis! Who always have the right words to pick us up when we are down. No matter if they live hundreds of miles from us, they are there when we need them to be as we are to them. Thank you for such an Excellent Blog! With MANY friends here on Sparks, I know I can be assured

someone will be there if needed as I will be to them.  
63 days ago



**JAMER123**

I belong to a group of RV people and we have met several times in different parts of this country. What a wonderful group and at first meeting they were sisters and our spouses were like brothers. Sparkers are wonderful people. I am not a runner so won't be meeting up with any runners but I do cherish them and their Kindness.  
63 days ago



**ALIHIKES**

What a great blog. And I have been blessed to meet a few SparkFriends also. Always (particularly during this pandemic) my friends here are a source of support and encouragement.  
63 days ago





**RACHNACH**



63 days ago



**FAIRHAVENQUEEN**

Yes indeed! As we Quakers like to say, "This Friend speaks my mind." Love my Spark Friends, and checking in is a highlight of each day.

63 days ago



**JUNETTA2002**

Thanks for sharing

63 days ago



**CHERYLHURT**

Every day...

63 days ago



**JUSTJ2014**

Amazing read and thoughts to share. Thank you to Spark People and all our Imaginary

friends. 

63 days ago



**KOHINOOR2**



Thank you for for sharing!

64 days ago



Comment edited on: 4/4/2021 1:31:44 AM



**1ZIPPYC**

For 10 1/2 years SP has been a special place I look forward to coming to everyday! The friends on here make it special. That's great you've met some spf's.

Awesome blog!

64 days ago



**CD26438932**

Wonderful and very true for the majority I am positive



64 days ago



**RKOTTEK**



64 days ago



**DIANEDESSMILES**

I'm a foster grandmother in a local elementary school last year the librarian read the 2nd graders about Katherine Switzer! It was so interesting to watch the 6 little girls we had in the class. Afterwards being "Grandma" to the kids I explained how when I went to the school they are in (I told them I was there 50 YEARS AGO and I was!) LOL Their little eyes were HUGE!! Then I told them "When Grandma went to school here, did you know if I wore pants they HAD to be under my skirt? "Noooo!" "AND when I came inside I had to take them OFF!" Then I went on to explain the very next year when I went to Jr High (7th to 9th) we WERE allowed to wear pants, BUT NOT JEANS!! So the next day over 80% of us girls showed UP IN JEANS! (I didn't as many us didn't own any we wore our brothers or another males)!! What could they do? I let them take guesses. "They couldn't kick us ALL out they were NOT HAPPY and had a few meetings, but we continued to wear them. The following week it was announced "Girls can now wear jeans to school in the \_\_\_name of the city\_ school system." A TRAIL BLAZER I AM!!

My Grandkids LOVE this story also.

64 days ago



**SPARKPEOPLE1951**

I agree, I so look forward to see what my Spark Friends are up too. I had been trying to loose 20# for years. I would loose 5 # then gain it back. But being on sparkpeople I know if I just keep drinking my water, eat my fruit and veggies ea. day and get at least 10 min. of exercise ea. day. Things will change. My avg. is about 1 or 2 # per Month. I go up and then go down but so far I am



down 11#. I feel blessed for all of the sparkers who have come into my life. Glad to have you as a



spark friend. I know I will get to my goal weight and I have Spark Friends to thank for that!!  
64 days ago



**AZMOMXTWO**

I was never as inspired to do what they told me I could not do before I got on Spark People I now often times do what I have been told in the past that I can not do

other people encourage me and keep me going when I feel defeated

this is an amazing site  
64 days ago



**MARKSMOM3**

Well Said! GREAT JOB! KEEP IT UP! KEEP SPARKING!

64 days ago



**JPPERSELL**

I love my fellow Spark friends on here. They bring such joy to my life. I love to hear about their lives and the things they have done like yours. It simply motivates me even though I have never met them in person they are very real to me. They even give me motivation when I am struggling with my weight. I do have a hard time losing. I go up and down and I eat within my calorie range but really I don't worry over it because as long as I eat within my calorie range and exercise the way I should I am doing fine and the weight should come off soon. I even have a move management group I attend on a telehealth where I learn to eat right and read food labels and things like that so I know I am doing all I can to lose the weight. But I am getting off topic. This to say my spark friends get me so motivated to try and I love them so much. I don't know what I would do without them and you so thank you very much. I hope to meet you one day when it is safe to do so.

64 days ago



**THOMS1**

Yes, thanks to all of the sparkers who have supported me now and in the past. I thank you one



and all.

64 days ago



**KITTYHAWK1949**

THANK YOU! 😊 KEEP SPARKING!

64 days ago



**PORTIAWILLIS**

I left spark for a few years and had forgotten just how nice it is to meet and get to know the online sparklers. I love all the pictures and stories. So encouraging and up lifting. It helps to have



others that are struggling or have been struggling to live a healthy lifestyle.

64 days ago



**KENDRACARROLL**

Hi, imaginary SparkFriend. You're very real. :)

KEEP SPARKING!

64 days ago



**SPARKUVU**

Loved your bike race story, and I never knew about the Boston lady-thanks, imaginary friend!

64 days ago



**PATRICIAAK**

this is more an 'on-line family' that wasn't taken away by the response to Covid

64 days ago



**THINCPL2004**

I agree may we remember who blazed the trail for the rest of us! I can't wait to get back out and meet fellow Sparkers. I meet a few before the pandemic. Have a great and safe weekend!

64 days ago

**GRAMPIAN**

Meeting fellow sparkers is something to look forward to.



64 days ago



**DONNALEE-53**



64 days ago



**SUSANYOUNGER**



64 days ago



**MONDAYLINS**

My family went on a cross country drive. DH knows I like to meet online friends when possible, so he was great about planning our trip to account for that. I've met 2 SP friends in person, so far. I appreciate my "imaginary" friends, just as you do! I've known some for 10+ yrs. There are those who share my love of dogs, and been the best support during those heartbreaking furbaby goodbyes. You've had some wonderful meet-up adventures.

64 days ago



Comment edited on: 4/3/2021 10:27:49 AM



**WALKINTOFIT**

its so awesome to have spark friends.... my dh used to ask me 'how is your fat friends"... he can't say that now...we all lost weight and he knows i won't go without sparking. so far I haven't met another sparky in person, but i do chat here a lot...

64 days ago



**AQUAGIRL08**

It is fun to meet Spark friends in person. I've met some great people through Spark People!

64 days ago



**RHOOK20047**

I know how much I look forward to my SP time every morning. With all the support and motivation I get my day wouldn't be the same without it. With all that we are going through with my son's cancer, I would be lost without all the prayers and support from my Spark Friends. And you are right they have become more important to me since the pandemic. I am so thankful for all of

you!

64 days ago



**SAMMILESSACH**

How incredibly awesome is this blog! Even more awesome you met other Spark members!

You have some amazing stories and the destinations you have been too ....Just Wow!!!!

My Life is very uncertain, full of a lot of questions right now. But you being my Spark friend has made a REAL difference.

I have so much hope this Easter weekend!

You are a blessing to me, thank you.

64 days ago



**2BDYNAMIC**

How could I have forgotten this? ... I DO know one sparker! .... Quite well. We are Married! ...

Lol  
65 days ago



**PLCHAPPELL**

Until we can really meet....

65 days ago



**SUNSET09**

We are as real as you want us to be



Trust and believe that we're all in this together





. This is the Year of Women and as Annie Lennox and Aretha Franklin stated, "Sisters are doing it for themselves" and proving the way for others, no matter what you look like. Oh



65 days ago



**LIS193**

My daughter used to tease me about my bored(board) friends.. for me you all are very real and I got to meet up with Mel when she visited Spain in 2019! That was so much fun.

65 days ago



**ETHELMERZ**

What a story, I think I remember when the woman was removed from the Boston Marathon, my goodness, 1967, it was on the 6:00pm news! The audacity to remove her, and just have a race for men! Something to think about!

65 days ago



**GREYDOLPHIN**

Friends can be made online, real friends, lasting friends. It wasn't on SP, but I was on a greyhound online message group (greyhound as in dogs---not the bus) and met my DH. He was in Florida and I was in St Louis. He's been the love of my life. I credit SP with helping prolong my life with the articles and in particular the activity tracker. It keeps me moving.

65 days ago



**SHAKERATTLEROLL**

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." – Edward Everett Hale, Author

65 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

I have come to consider my spark friends as being friends just like the ones I know and talk to in person. It is a great benefit/blessing of this site. What a grand thing Chris Downie started!

65 days ago



**NANANANA**



during the isolation (and political garbage), I turned to Spark just to track calories and nutrition for a tele-health program. I found a safe place where I could escape stressors and have some fun.

Like Kathrine Switzer, I chose to follow my own interests. Often, it landed me in the midst of males. Usually, they accepted me as a cherished member of the group and encouraged me when I doubted myself. Sometimes they challenged me and I met the challenge.

65 days ago



**SPEDED2**

When I say, "my friend in the UK" or "my friend in Florida" or "my friend in Spain", or "my friend in \_\_\_", my DGD, age 12, always asks if I lived in one of these places. Most of the time my answer is "no". She wants to know how I can have friends all over the world if I've never lived there or met any of these people. I can't begin to explain it to her. Most of the time, I don't understand it myself. Through comments, blogs, and/or private Spark messages, connections are made. People with similar interests. People with similar senses of humor. People of similar ages and childhoods. People who struggle with the search for better health. People.

I am often reminded of this quote:

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same." ~ Flavia



For me...that's how it is with my "imaginary" friends.

65 days ago



**BKNOCK**



It makes me sad when people disappear that I have friended. I always wonder what happened to them but I do enjoy my friendships here that are very much alive!

65 days ago



**DOVESEYES**



Hubby loves my Sparkers as I tell him about each one ... he knows what a huge place



it holds in my heart :)  
65 days ago

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