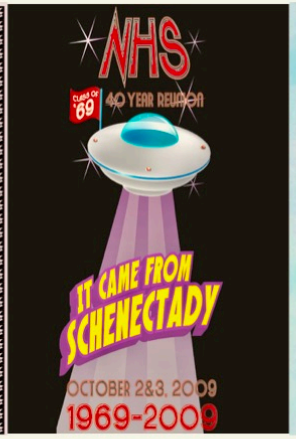
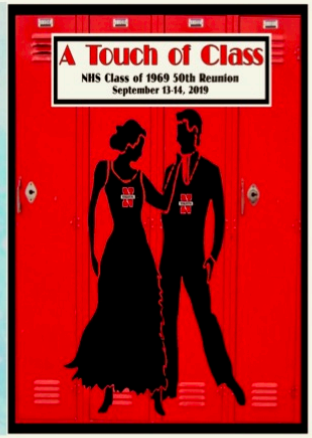
YOU GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM, KNOW WHEN TO FOLD 'EM





Our 50th reunion was an absolute lovefest, and every one of us was honored and appreciated. It was planned to be our last; at the 11th hour Peter Plumley offered to take it on, I agreed to co-chair, the long-time committee (Dale Siegel Nemer, Bonnie Hanna Newman and Dave Doolittle) agreed to stay on, and Betsey Allison Craig and Gray Watkins joined up.

What we overwhelmingly heard was that you wanted a casual and bucolic locale rather than a country club, softer music for aging ears and a less costly alternative nearby. Dale and I tried, without luck, to find such a spot… then came Covid. Out of concern for us all, the committee has dropped plans for a 55th and a large group; we have disbanded and encourage you to organize smaller, more intimate gatherings within your circle of friends, as some of you already do.

Our thanks to all who served on committees, made music, made calls, and made art for raffle prizes: Audrey Dodge Osterlitz, Beth Rowland McLaughlin, Betsey Allison Craig, Blue Carreker, Bob Fairman, Bob Maslyn, Bonnie Hanna Newman, Dale Siegel Nemer, Dave Doolittle, David Jaffe, Fred Spezza, Gene LeMoine, Gray Watkins, Gus Boucher, Keith Warren, Jan Dejnozka, Janet Erlach Willie, Jay Tucker, Jill Goddin Edwards, Jim Gallagher, Joan Goodman, John Lowen, John Ostrander, the late Kim Stevens, Laura Miklowitz, Laura Skinner Davis, Lee Chalmers Jett, Leslie Gold, Margaret Bumbarger Forbush, Margaret Ryon, Mary Ann Dorn, Mike Kokernak, Mindy Ross, Nancy Friedman Ross, Paul Howard, Peter Plumley, Richard (Rollier) Askew, Rob Gaynor, Rosanne Jandreau Roth, Sandy Marx Busino, Sharon Rice-Herbst and Scott Nielsen.

If someone wants to take on a 55th, set aside a minimum of 200 hours (more if you want bells and whistles) to plan and organize, find and contact classmates and follow up relentlessly. It's a lot. And it's worth it. The hardest part by far is finding who we've lost.

It was my absolute pleasure and honor to serve on the reunion committee for 35 years and to organize the past five, emphasizing all that we share and all that we have in common. We're ending on a high note, with sweet memories.

Our gratitude to all who have attended over the years and made each reunion memorable. Strengthening our bonds and developing meaningful new friendships has been such a gift. We were fortunate to grow up when we did and grow up together. Let's treasure those memories, be well, and find ways to stay in touch.

We'll always be part of each other's history.