

Donna (McDowell) Beastman - BIO and PHOTOS– West High 55th Reunion 2016

FAMILY: I enjoyed my undergraduate experience at Macalester College in Minnesota then returned to Madison and married George right after graduating. He is the love of my life and we celebrated our 50th anniversary last year! George earned his doctorate & I received a master's degree at the UW. Our careers took us to St. Louis for 21 years and then to Wilmington, Delaware for 11 years. We moved back to Madison in 2002 and love living back in Madison.

We have two children. Our son Scott graduated from the UW-Madison and owns a small business in St. Louis. Our daughter Joan met her husband Paul at the UW and then she went to law school at Georgetown. She now lives near Washington, D.C. and serves as an Appellate Immigration Judge, Board of Immigration Appeals, US Department of Justice, an important and sensitive role. She and Paul are parents of our wonderful grandsons, Daniel, 13 and Zachary, 9. We are fortunate to be able to all gather for about a week four times a year – twice in Madison and twice on the east coast.

MADISON PLEASURES: Concerts on the Square, outdoor picnics, Farmer's Market on the Square, gatherings by our backyard koi pond, UW's summertime "Grandparents University" with our grandsons, American Players Theatre, UW football, Forward Theater Co, Madison Symphony, and Olbrich Gardens.

We are able to enjoy many special times with relatives and friends in the Madison area. My mother, Ardith McDowell, almost 98, has an active life at Oakwood Village, 5 minutes from our home. We enjoy our home, pond, and gardens and we're quite involved in the Madison community.

CAREER: For over 20 years, I have been a Career Transition Strategist. Since 2005, I have had my own business, (www.CareerSuccessStrategies.com). I love helping clients move into satisfying new chapters in their personal and professional lives. I am taking on fewer clients these days but I have no plans yet to fully retire. From 1991-2002 I was with Manchester Partners International, a career management firm on the east coast, serving as SVP & General Manager where I worked as a consultant, business developer and international liaison. Earlier, I worked as a training director for Maritz, a performance improvement consulting company, an executive director of an education policy non-profit, a high school librarian, and a teacher.

INTERESTS & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: Past or current activities: Downtown Madison Rotary - Board; Tempo Madison, a network of 250 women leaders - President; Wisconsin Alumni Association - Board; Oakwood Foundation – Board; Forward Theater Company – Board; Presbyterian churches - Elder, Deacon, Trustee. In Delaware, served on the Transition Team of Governor (now US Senator) Tom Carper, chaired the Delaware Compensation Commission, and served a term as President of the Forum of Executive Women.

TRAVEL:

We love US and international travel. Prior to 2005: Traveled on business or pleasure to England, Scotland, Holland, France, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Trips since 2006: Zambia, Japan, Paris, London, Croatia & Adriatic Seacoast, Baltic Sea cruise with stops in St. Petersburg, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, & Sweden, China & Tibet, Central Europe River Cruise, Holland & Belgium River cruise, Hawaii, Turkey, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Istanbul, Costa Rica and Alaska. We hope our health issues will remain stable and we can do some more traveling in the next few years.

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George & Donna – 50th Anniversary



Joan, Paul, Zachary & Daniel Geller; Donna & George; Scott



2016 - Siblings with mother Ardith McDowell
Bonnie, Mary, Brad, Donna, Tom, Phil



2016 – Daughter Joan & family