

Unflappable Frannie

My husband Tom and I enjoyed attending yet another reunion last weekend, this time a mini-Loyola College deal, Tom's alma mater. This quickly planned party (yay, email) was held at The Trolley Stop. College reunions can be deadly, as you struggle to remember the name of the person who sat next to you in Freshman Bio, but this was great, since it was just 'our gang.'

Fifteen of us, from as far flung locations as San Francisco and Silver Spring, Faulkner, MD (if you know where that is you get a prize – sorry, Frank) and Columbia, decided that Ellicott City is indeed the center of the civilized world and the ideal location for our gathering.

What made it so much fun, besides really enjoying each other, was our terrific waitress. Frannie Fields, of the Trolley Stop-owning Fields family, single-handedly took on our table of boisterous but polite graying grads and made sure we had everything we needed. She truly was unflappable as we passed around and shared appetizers, delayed ordering, and lingered long after we should have moved on.

What Frannie didn't know is that we were renewing friendships we have cherished for decades, and remembering our dear friend Jim, who died far too young at this time of year four years ago. We shared funny stories of his tardiness and sense of humor, love of trains and friends, with his two sisters who joined us. Our team leader for the evening, Mike, remarked how lucky we are to have such nice 'age mates.' Couldn't agree more.

Email your stories and information about Main Street to Janet Kusterer, jkusterer@theviewnewspapers.com