

“ Member Profile “

This Week's Feature : Sue Hesse



I was born in Brooklyn, New York. My brother, Kip, and I were raised in a family where church, music, and show biz all seemed meshed together. Dad was the Superintendent of a huge Sunday School. Each Sunday, before classes, we met as a large group, and Dad had 20 minutes to present part of the Bible in a creative way. He worked at it. He also wrote songs and crazy skits, and managed to get everyone in the Sunday School involved in an annual show. Mom was our organizer and support system. We all designed and built sets. I still remember seeing the dignified leaders of the congregation dressed as Centurions in our spinoff of Ben Hur.

Kip and I spent our youth singing and acting in Dad's productions.. We helped him write skits, stealing jokes and ideas from every available source. We had no shame. It follows that, although Kip and I became educators, we both stayed involved in music and theatre . Kip

became a radio producer in Manhattan, got his doctorate, and teaches in the Communications/Theatre Dept. at Kingsborough College in NYC. He still performs and designs sets for a local theatre.

I left New York to attend Wittenberg U., where I received my BA in English. I taught HS English and then, third grade. Along the way, my crazy youth helped me "fall" into doing summer stock, a USO tour, musicals in different towns, and working with bands and orchestras in Cleveland and other cities.

At Wittenberg, I met my husband, and we eventually came to Cleveland when he accepted a job at Baldwin-Wallace College. Our son, Tim's family lives in North Royalton, Ohio. He is a Logistics Manager for Michaels, and his wife, Chris, is a CPA. They have two daughters. Our daughter, Jenni's 'gang' is in Richmond, Virginia. She's a headhunter for CPAs. Her husband, Rick, plans business events. They also have two daughters. Currently, our granddaughters are at VA Tech, (Katie), James Madison U. (Emily), Kent State, (Alyssa) and North Royalton HS. (Amanda). Although we are geographically apart, we all work hard at spending time together with our extended families.

When I brought my parents to Ohio in 2003, we searched for a church together. They felt at home in the traditional service. I was drawn to the many ways that POP was involved in the community. However, it was the warm welcome we received on our first day that led us to make POP our new home. My only regret is that my parents were 87 when they joined POP. They would have loved to have been more involved.

Being in POP's Crossfire band has been a joy. They are talented and dedicated and have become dear friends. My other passion is working for Habitat. I've always been impressed with how Habitat regenerates its own funding. But there's so much more. It's great to be accepted as a dependable member of Ron Kear's large crew, and feel that each

week, I've helped to get a family's home closer to completion. Recently, our POP gang, Tom Robinholt, Rich Balch, Julia Castell, and Barb Fronczak (who drive together, both laughing and sharing experiences), worked with a young couple," putting in their hours" on the house they had chosen. Their excitement, showing us the room they had chosen for their expected baby, couldn't help but rub off on us.. **Best job ever.**

Thanks Sue for sharing your story!

Tom Robinholt: Profile Reporter