

Band of Sisters

Naval Academy classmates have sometimes referred to themselves as a Band of Brothers. Wives became part of the Band and appreciated that sense of community throughout their spouses' careers and into retirement. Many of us wives, widows, partners and friends of the USNA Class of '66 looked forward to seeing each other at tailgates and reunions. As the football season or reunion events ended, we would often say that it would be good to see each other more frequently.

This Spring, as COVID-19 spread throughout the world, the opportunity to see each other with greater frequency became a reality. Thanks to two enterprising '66 brides, Ginny Jones and Kacky Carter, the Class of 1966 Ladies Zoom Group was launched to make connections, support each other, and to have fun. The list of '66 wives, partners and widows has grown organically over the past few months, and the potential participants now number more than 70.

The Class of 1966 Ladies zoom every Wednesday at 4 PM (Eastern). The videoconference lasts about an hour and people drop in occasionally or become regulars. The group has gotten a peek at the Yard's latest look with the Chapel's fresh copper panels gleaming in the bright sun, new Cyber Center, 1845 Coffee Shop and COVID-prevention themed shirt at the Mid Store. Zoom participants have discussed favorite books and movies enjoyed during lockdown, checked with each other about travel restrictions, shared anecdotes of children and news of grandchildren's unique COVID-era graduations, and encouraged each other during medical issues. The group has donned Navy regalia, discussed the latest news on the football season and shared inspiring thoughts (ie., Pam Rempt's "to whom much is given, much is expected" and Gail Hartnett's daily positive post on Facebook). The Zoom experience has contributed to building more relationships and deeper bonds with more Navy "sisters" than would have been possible during pre-COVID times.

For those '66 wives, widows and partners who have not heard of the Wednesday Zooms, or want more information, please send an email to usna.66.ladies@gmail.com. The USNA Class of '66 Ladies Zoom has been an extraordinary gift from COVID. We hope that our Band of Sisters will continue to grow.



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Participants 18

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