

# *Upon Reaching a Half Century*

*By Katharine McLennan*



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# Upon Reaching a Half Century

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*Upon reaching a half century, I gather my kith and my kin  
To honour your love and all the fondness I hold within  
Born in Virginia, of Mary and Francis that October date  
Dad of Irish Joseph and Mary, Mom of Italian Fred and Scottish Kate*

*1967 LBJ ruled at the helm, and the first heart was transplanted  
The First Super Bowl, The Six Day War, \$1.25 for a movie to be enchanted  
Mary and Frank left DC to drive their baby to Alaska for six days overland  
Paying 33 cents on the gallon listening to Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

*My sister Beth joined us in 69 in Alaska, and the three became Four  
But then Dad was called a second time as Vietnam had become a total War  
The three girls moved to be with Kate and Fred in Massachusetts--Braintree  
And the teenaged Aunt Martha who would return to us when I turned sixteen*

*My brother Matt joined us in 73 in Arizona, in Huachuca known as a fort  
The Five then moved to Dad's home state in '74, Rhode Island the seaport  
And then on to Fairfax, Virginia for going to the largest office in the world  
I fell in love with swimming, playing cello, and on the ice, I danced and twirled*

*In 1978 we moved to Berlin in the midst of President Carter and Mr. Brezhnev  
Cold War at its heights surrounded by the Wall and the East bereft  
Driving our Brady Bunch station wagon through Checkpoint Charlie never forgotten  
My memory from technicolour West Berlin fades to grey as we entered its spaces common*

*In 1980 we moved to West Germany, a town called Kaiserslautern  
As Mr. Reagan is elected and with Star Wars Ronnie begins his sojourn  
The Iranian hostage crisis comes to an end as I enter high school  
A first date to the movie Being There with Peter Sellers, having come right from the pool*



*In 1982, we return to Virginia and I finish the last three years of WT Woodson  
I am swimming 200 butterfly and studying in my walk in closet--always pushing  
Addicted to achievement, never settling, never realising the fun being missed  
Rarely stopping to enjoy the goofiness, the mystery, the mischief and the bliss*

*From 1985 through 1989, I settled at Duke where I swam and I ran Project Wild  
I studied neuroscience and history with my spirit, mischief, and heart a bit more reconciled  
Studying in Oxford, living in Brussels were the preludes to landing in great Oz  
A Rotary exchange sent me to Sydney, a Political Science degree for a year's study pause*

*Upon landing in this magical city, I instantaneously felt at home  
And found a job to keep me here at a place called Booz-Allen which allowed me to roam  
From New Zealand sheep to Adelaide hospitals to Indonesian pipes and back  
From credit cards to telecommunications to logistics and many a tarmac*

*I am grateful for Booz-Allen's funding of my Stanford 1993 to 1995  
A time when the internet was just emerging, and Cisco had just begun to thrive  
A classmate founded Ebay another founded Hotmail--I wonder where I was hiding  
As the Technology Club called for membership with me out somewhere joyriding*

*In 1995, married Neil of a family full of love, kindness and zest  
Living at 27 Adams with Michele, Alan, Honor and Serena, we are blessed  
With the red Land Rover and Seal Rocks, and Moonpenny to the Solomon Isles  
Kangaroo Island, Geoff and Narelle's Myocum Farm, life adventurous and so many miles*

*From 1996 through 2000, I was attracted by the Olympic mission  
To pull off the Sydney Games, a challenge and passion, and what a vision  
I will never forget the John Quayle's and the Jill Davies and all of our crew  
We built the dream Games, a passion the world and Sydney we never knew*

*I was turning 30 in 1997, with a small amount of time for celebration  
As Madeleine Albright became Madame Secretary, just a bit of liberation  
Alas, Diana is killed and the world together mourns  
Titanic the movie released and Dolly and her "sister" sheep were clones*

*And 1998, our darling Kate Narelle arrives miraculously into our space  
And now at 19, so beautiful and brilliant, so independent and full of grace  
We move to the city in 98 to balance parenthood and learn so much so fast  
We build two houses in Seal Rocks and Malabar as time races past*

*Post the Olympics, there was the YWCA, an organisation I loved to serve in leadership  
Y it takes a Village my vision brought alive through a dear friend's Chairmanship  
Mother of all Balls flourished under this Jill's ever-present commitment  
Hundreds of children, women and men remain in gratitude, ever more resilient*

*In 2001, the mighty Geoffrey Alan arrives and at last I can take a pause  
Even if it's right after 9-11 I'm determined to see the world amidst all new Homeland laws  
We live in 49 Victoria Street built for the children and all our adventure gear  
Kate and Geoff attend St Andrews, and I start my leadership career*

*I turn 40 in 2007, the year that Mr. Jobs announced the iPhone  
Ms. Merkel, Mr. GW. Bush, and Mr. Putin are in the throne  
Ms. Pelosi is elected first female Speaker of the US Congress  
An Inconvenient Truth is produced to spark an environmental conscious*

*No one could have told me at 17 how crazy life would change  
The refocus, the heart, the work, the world could become so strange  
I became challenged by bipolar, alcoholism and separation, a triple threat  
No one had taught me in school how messy life's lessons would dare to get*

*So I am 50 this year 2017, the year that begins with Trump  
17 years after the Simpsons elected him, leaving us all stumped  
I cried as Hillary lost, and in my heart, I missed the woman's chance  
To express strength through motherhood, through life's messy dance*

*Through forgiveness, through mistakes, through wisdom gained by falling  
Through perseverance and grace, through getting up again for our calling  
My friends, your eyes, they show strength, curiosity and a burning kindness  
Thank you for being in my life and offering friendship timeless*

*Parenthood and friendship teach us about strength and resilience  
More than anything that any success could, it teaches our own brilliance  
I see this in you all, and I honour each of us, in our human-hood  
The determination to love and to raise children and our neighbourhood*

*In all of our ways, we have all become our very own type of human  
Sometimes enlightenment, sometimes devastation, and sometimes, just boredom  
We've lost our loved ones, we've lost our minds, we've hurt our bodies and yet  
We're still here, and we are leading, our best years of wisdom now are set*

*Our families and our companies would be proud to see what we have led  
In one way or another, we've touched each person whom we have met  
The spirit in you keeps me tearing up as I write this  
The strength and the love giving me the opportunity to recite this*

*For my gifts, I've selected symbols of the Chinese five elements  
Wood, fire, earth, metal and water they are show up their own elegance  
I've assembled a box of five-coloured balls in representation  
For each part of us, green, red, yellow, white, blue in presentation*

*Wood is the eyes, the wind, the liver, and the effervescent spring  
Fire is the blood, the heat, the intestines and the summer lasting  
Earth is the muscles, the sweet, the spleen and the late summer harvest  
Metal is the skin, the nose, the lung, and the winter darkness*

*Water is the bones, the cold, the kidney and the bladder  
All connected, mu, huo, tu, jin and shui, together they are matter  
As metal generates water, as water nourishes wood  
Wood feeds Fire, Fire creates Earth in ash, and Earth bears Metal, as it should*

*And Fire melts Metal, as Metal chops Wood in its ire  
Wood breaks up Earth, Earth absorbs Water and Water quenches Fire  
As five they are constructive and destructive, the yin and the yang  
As five they are all five decades, expressed in beauty and their pain*

*I also have a pendant to remind us of the Goat Year  
1967 is the year of the people of the gentle and of calm cheer  
We are gentle, soft-hearted, attractive and hardworking and of thrift  
...and we can be indecisive, timid and vain, and moody if we are not fit*

*Thank you dear friends, for your Presence, your spirit, and you as whole  
For your support, for your love, for your passion, and your soul  
We've travelled for many years, we've strived and we've perspired  
We've lost and we've loved, we've revered and we've inspired*

*On statistics I will not be writing to you in 50 years  
So let's promise to live this day as present and as clear  
It may be our last, and it is an honour to the beauty we are as friends  
As sons, daughters, and as parents, and with so very many other lens*

*And on to next year with a company Cochlear that brings hearing  
A practice of Ashtanga, an Irishman Karl so endearing  
A 19-year-old Kate, at university finishing her second year  
A 16-year-old Geoffrey, basketballer, 6-foot-4 the dear*

*An ongoing commitment to sobriety and a peaceful mind  
To helping people faced with alcoholism and mental illness entwined  
Quest for Life...continuing to fight against ego and instead nourish my soul  
28 years in Sydney, as I wonder how the future will beautifully write its scroll*

*I ponder the world as I study my Vedic and Gnostic scriptures  
Turning 50 this October has seeded my annual conjectures  
I am a Healer who has much giving left to do  
And I ask for God's Guidance, Her Grace my soul to imbue*

*As the 50's now begin, a decade's large chasm looming and somewhat taunting  
No bridge in sight to cross easily, I know the road is daunting  
Especially when I forget to ask for help along the way  
As is my wont, always has been, always want to have my own say*

*So in this last week of the 40's, I turn to Gaia, to Sophia, and Isis  
I ask the Teacher to be always with me, through the celebrations and the crisis  
To come through me and help me to be of most support  
To this world of the 50's that emerges from a strange purport*

*I salute this new era that I dub the Age of Integration  
To halt the exploding specialism, as we sift through our apparent devastation  
To heal our forests, our animals, our oceans, and our land  
We must heal the schisms with forgiveness, and hold each other's hands*

*To integrate our medicine, our universities, and our countries  
To integrate our gut, mind and body and to quiet those crazy mind monkeys  
To rediscover lost wisdom that our ancestors always knew  
To integrate it with our science and reclaim our Universal truth*

*A Universal truth that integrates all religions, all faiths, and beliefs  
Agnostics, atheists, followers, and chiefs  
We have learned it and forgotten it, and learned it again  
We teach it each time we touch grace and our hearts yen*

*I yearn to weave this magic, to heal our hearts and minds across the earth  
By reminding us who we really are, our connection and our worth  
We forget all the time, as we lose track of why we came here  
We are caught up in a race for which we forgot how we entered*

*So 2017 for me is important, it is a year I celebrate a half century  
Of Being on this Earth and following my crazy trajectory  
A time I have come to appreciating all my gifts  
Not the least of which is children, parents, and family whose love persists*

*May I be a Guide to those who would need a light that comes through me  
May I be patient with myself whose ego longs to spite and confuse me  
May my needs for distraction and addiction continue to wane  
As my channel gets clearer and only love and peace do remain*

*I just know there are reasons for all that we do . . .  
For all whom we meet, and all that we rue  
So, the universe has brought me a gift in yourself  
Tonight I'll toast to you and drink to our wealth.*

*So, lift your glass, and toast the moment.  
That's all that there is, no need for torment.  
About pasts that can't change, about futures that don't exist  
About flaws, about jealousies, about pain that persists.*

*Thank God for our humanness, and thank Goddess for this life.  
Thank God for this music which seems so rife.  
It teaches us of love, of tenderness, and care,  
Of friendship, of honour, of giving beyond compare.*

*God grant us the serenity, Goddess grant us the love  
And steer us towards Heaven, which need not exist above.  
Show us the way to Heaven here on Earth,  
I trust Your guidance, and I honour Our worth.*

*By Katharine McLennan  
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If you would like to have a poem written on your behalf, please contact me on [kath@timetorelect.today](mailto:kath@timetorelect.today) or +61419751812. My name and logo will not appear on your poem. You are encouraged to select photos and script style. You are also welcome to adapt my draft, which will be based on the information you have given me to express. Your information can be as detailed as you like. More information and samples of poetry I have written can be found on my website <https://www.timetorelect.today/>



My Inspiration: *Isa, I am your guide in this place of your love awakening. I am known in the earth mysteries as Isis, Daughter of love and beauty. I am Sophia of a thousand names, Consort to the flame of humanity, the dove of loves desiring, given to you my love as the emblem of your holiness. Honour me as your wholeness, not as above you, but as one with you.*

*Isis-Sophia, Divine Wisdom, slain by Lucifer,  
Carried off on wings of world-wide forces into cosmic space,  
The Christ-Will working in us Will wrest Her from Lucifer,  
And on vessels of spiritual knowledge,  
Call Isis-Sophia, Divine wisdom, to new life in human souls.*

*Rudolph Steiner, 1920*



Our Context: *a business and government world that is relentlessly evolving, requiring perpetually adaptable strategies for the manifestation of human talent. The spiral reminds us that there are no such things as “outdated” skills or knowledge. We continuously enhance the base of our existing talent as we constantly push the borders of our comfort zones, further and further outwards . . .*



Our Reality Reminder: *there is no such thing as an end - - may we generously and honestly share our constantly curious beginner’s mind with all of our clients, friends and family, all the time, as we ourselves evolve our own internal human talent right alongside with them*