



Author Timothy Neff Gocke's The List: Shooting For Another New Old discusses what a 50th high school reunion is like when classmates meet after a half-century has passed. It's not just the memories from the past that are ignited by the meeting, but the reminder of how fast time goes by in our lives. He lets us know just how precious life is to us.

The List: Shooting for Another New Old

by Timothy Neff Gocke

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The List: Shooting For Another New Old

Timothy Neff Gocke's book is a candid portrayal of what getting older is like and how we can magically change the number of years to fit our new old.

His book discusses what a 50th high school reunion is like when classmates meet after a half-century has passed.

Every element and issue in his book are common to many of us who have attended a high school reunion where the years have slipped away. Notice the most common element of all which is the list of a very special group of classmates.

Come join us now and see what happens on our 50th reunion: the before, during, and after.

You just might think this was your reunion!

Timothy Neff Gocke

Author Timothy Neff Gocke's *The List: Shooting for Another New Old* discusses what a 50th high school reunion is like when classmates meet after a half-century has passed. It's not just the memories from the past that are ignited by the meeting, but the reminder of how fast time goes by in our lives. Gocke lets us know in a touching way how precious life is at any age while reminding all of us that there are fewer years left than we would like.

Every element and issue in his book are common to many of us who have attended a high school reunion where the years have slipped away. Notice the most common element of all which is the list of a very special group of classmates.

See what happens when classmates meet again and all those surprises that come with it! Find the human spirit thriving in all of us. Please Join us now in this very special occasion and see what happens on the 50th: the before, during, and after. You just might think this was your reunion!

Timothy Neff Gocke's book is a candid portrayal of what getting older is like and how we can magically change the number of years to fit our new old. The uniqueness of his story lies in his biographies of each classmate who attended this special 50th class reunion. Gocke crafts a series of survey questions which brings out the personal issues in each classmate's lives.

A sample of his survey questions include: the trials and tribulations of life, workplace achievements, children's names, bits of wisdom about life, special friends in high school, and why they love their partner. His questions are carefully designed to bring out the differences of each individual but to also show the commonality of being human. Most interesting though, are the private answers you will see from many classmates who attended the 50th reunion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As Mr. Gocke did in his first book, *Number Twelve son: An Outside Shot*, he continues to do in his second book with his unique style of writing that is both refreshing and candid. He also continues to use his signature word “shot” which you will find in one form or another in every chapter heading of his new book. His keen ability to retrieve and disseminate information from each of his classmates allows for each biography to be written differently with a touch of uniqueness in each one of them.

The author is a retired Associate Professor of Business Management who has taught at Marshall University, Eastern Kentucky University, and Terra State Community College. Gocke has received many different awards during his teaching career including: Teacher of the Year at Terra State Community College in 1994, nominated for Ohio Community College Teacher of the Year in 1998, and awarded Who’s Who four times for excellence in teaching which placed Gocke in the top 1% for all community college professors in the country. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Science degree in Industrial Relations from West Virginia University. Gocke and his wife, Mary, live in Fremont, Ohio. They have one daughter, Molly, and a son, Tim Jr.

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I especially would like to thank my beautiful wife, Mary, for taking those two inspiring pictures on the front and back covers. She is a great photographer! Our 40th anniversary is in January, 2019 and both of us have been blessed through all these years. I love you dearly, Mary!

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Sneak Shot-Part II

“It doesn’t matter where you are coming from. All that matters is where you are going.” Brian Tracy

But what about all this new old business everyone talks about as we’re aging. Well, everybody goes through it. It’s just a matter of changing a few numbers when needed. It’s about the psychological avoidance of the list that is coming our way. Human beings are good at manipulating whatever is needed to ease the anxiety of the inevitable. So why does eighty seem so young to us now when it looked so old to us way back when? If we make the new old ninety, that means Frank Billings and twenty-four other classmates passed away as youngsters. Since none of us know for sure what making the list feels like, it just might be that living the life begins when we die. The very list we’re trying to avoid might be the happiest experience that we could possibly ever fathom after living on this earth of ours. That’s why Frank and all those who have passed away are having a party right now. I would bet heaven is a party beyond description. Who knows? Frank and all our classmates who have passed just might be waiting for us to make that special list we have been fearing so much. When it’s time, I look forward to seeing Frank and all those classmates I’ve missed at the best reunion ever!

Chapter 22

Many Shots To Go?

“Thinking about yourself is your worst enemy. Helping others are your best companions.” TNG

My wife, Mary, asked me why I wanted to spend so much time in the past by writing this book. I answered that it was an important time in my life. It is those things that I learned when I was young that impacted my life and made me who I am today. It feels peaceful to go back in time for me. Although I have written many negative things that have happened in my past, I only go back to the positives when I roll the tape. In my first book I had to discuss the many negatives that happened to me so you could understand my background and who I really was.

I had such good friends back in high school which makes me smile every time I think of them. The good thing about the past is I get to edit anything I want. In a sense, it is my movie that I can watch anytime I choose. I can instantly go back in time to those things that make me happy. That always brightens a day that's not going well. What's made of life is my past whether it was ten minutes ago, last week, or fifty years ago. The present turns into the past instantly. I can go anywhere I want in my film to bring peacefulness to a stressful day.

Why do so many of us have photo albums and scrap books from our past? It is the perfect way to enjoy what has happened in our life. It is a good way to jump-start good memories from the past.

There were so many things I didn't understand when I was young because I was immature and sheltered by growing up in a small town. Now I can fully appreciate what happened in my past. Wisdom has a way of doing that. The good thing about getting older is that wisdom has given me a

better understanding and appreciation of my past. With every year that passes, a different viewpoint arises giving me even a clearer picture of my movie.

I'm constantly re-winding for my next viewing that always has a slightly different storyline as I continue to grow older. I look forward to every year I live for the wisdom it gives me. My movie just gets longer but better. I always remember to splice when needed. That is the trick for me. Learn from the bad things that have happened in my life and then drop them from my memory. In a sense, these are the parts that don't make the movie. It's that simple—cut and splice.

For classmates who died early, they were too young to even start their movie. For those who passed later, they only got to direct their movie unfinished. Of course, the ending of our movie is always decided by The Producer. The trick is to have several versions of our ending already rehearsed. That gives us more hope for a happy ending!

To all my classmates, I wish I would have had the pleasure of knowing many of you better than I did. Since reunions go by so quickly, I think a receiving line would be a good idea so everyone meets each other. It would add a personal touch by allowing each classmate to have a short conversation with everyone there. This way everyone makes the movie.

Who provides the popcorn? How about Brenda Frank Shultz and Gig Holbert do that honor!

The best to all of you!

T Neff G

P.S. The End Shot For Now As Life Goes On!



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