

April, 2021
Chatham, NJ
Linda Faust Sharkey



1. Do you still live in Chatham? Yes, I do still live in Chatham.

2. How long have you lived there? I first moved to Chatham in 1967, and moved in 1980 to another nearby community. Over the years I have lived in Florham Park, East Hanover, Millburn, and for 26 years in Mountainside, NJ. I've lived most of my life in NJ, and it's home to me. When my dear husband died in 2007, I remained in our house in Mountainside for four years. I slowly came to realize that I might be better off living in a smaller home--one which required less upkeep. Darned if I didn't find just the right condominium...in CHATHAM. I've enjoyed my townhouse back in Chatham since 2011.

3. Why did you relocate to New Jersey? (job transfer, retirement, closer to children, etc) In 1967, I was a bride with two years of teaching experience in Allentown, and my husband worked in NY City. I landed a new teaching position in Millburn Township Public Schools, and we found an apartment on the train line to NYC in nearby Chatham. I was fortunate to spend the rest of my 33-year teaching career happily working in Short Hills, part of the Millburn Township Public School System.

4. What do you like about living in Chatham and New Jersey? Chatham also has a good school system, is on the Morris/Essex train line to New York City, has lovely parks and green spaces, and it's a friendly community populated by 8,600+ residents.

5. What are some of your favorite things to do where you live? Currently, I am not able to do all the things I normally enjoy doing. I love playing pickle ball and had been playing at least twice a week before the pandemic hit. I loved going out for lunch monthly with 2 different groups of former colleagues, and "doing things" with other friends and neighbors as well. I am a member of a lovely museum 20 minutes from home called The Morris Museum. I used that membership to attend concerts (jazz especially), classes, lectures, and to enjoy its peacefulness.

6. How does Chatham differ from Bethlehem? Chatham is smaller than Bethlehem, but it is adjacent to many other suburban towns. The school systems are very competitive, and there is a good voter turnout in most elections. Shopping had been excellent until the pandemic, as the Short Hills Mall is/was a draw, and the little businesses in ours and in the surrounding towns were as well. Restaurants abounded, and there were many choices of places for food shopping, church, and recreation. Some things I miss about Bethlehem besides old friends (or I should say, friends of long standing) are access to so many produce stands, fabric and needlework stores, and getting out of town into the country more quickly. I am very nostalgic about Bethlehem and love when I get back there.

7. Might you attend the 60th reunion? I am looking forward to attending.