

Linda Kalman

Dan and I married at HMC in 1973 (do you remember that?). We celebrated our 50th anniversary in August 2023 up at Lake George, NY, with our kids and grandchildren.

After graduation, we both went to graduate school at U. Wisconsin – Madison. In 1975, I received an MS in Physics, but was not accepted into the PhD program. I was “into” UFOs and paranormal things, and while scanning through the courses offered at Madison, found a course called Remote Sensing. It sounded right up my alley! Reading a little further, I discovered it was in the Dept of Civil Engineering, and had to do with analysis of aerial photography. I talked with one of the professors in the program, and when he found out I had an MS in physics, he offered me a graduate research position supported by his grants. The department waived most of the Civil E courses for me, although I did take surveying and photogrammetry, and a smattering of courses in atmospheric physics and soil science.

My graduate work involved using digitized aerial photography to evaluate and monitor sediment flow into the lakes in Madison after heavy rainstorms. Midway through my studies, Dan accepted a job at UW Green Bay, and we moved to Green Bay. Being “rich” now, with real income, I also bought a horse, and after many mishaps (on a horse named Rebel) learned to ride, and when I got pregnant tried unsuccessfully to teach the animal to pull a cart. And, when I was not in the hospital or recovering from some other accident, I eventually finished my dissertation. I believe I was the last person on earth to actually type up a thesis with a typewriter, do analysis with a punch card computer, and digitize film to produce digital images suitable for analysis. The first Landsat satellite was launched soon after I defended, and my first child, Jennifer, also born shortly thereafter.

After a year of being a mom, we decided I should get a job before I became obsolete. I got a job as an algorithm developer for evaluation of Landsat imagery at the Eros Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD. Six months into that program we realized that SD was a dead end for both of us, so we popped out our second child, Chris, (at govt expense), and shortly after that moved back to So. Calif where we both received jobs offers from The Aerospace Corp.

Shortly after joining Aerospace in 1985, I became involved in some key defense satellite programs, with most work being evaluation of data quality, and sensor performance through computer simulations, along with some hardware verification and validation of the simulations. We lived in Rancho Palos Verdes, which is a very horsey area south of Torrance. One day on the way to work I drove past a man driving a pair of beautiful horses down the horse trail in the middle of the road. It turned out he was prepping for a spot on the US team in combined driving. I was bitten bad by the horse bug, and went out and bought a Morgan horse already well broke to drive. I kept my horse a block away from this gentleman, and he introduced me to the sport of combined driving. Thus began over 30 years of competing in combined driving, driving shows, and acquisition of harness, carriages, truck, trailer, more horses, more harness, more carriages, bigger truck, bigger trailer, ...

In the meantime, Dan had been teaching courses off and on at local LA colleges, and he was feeling like he wanted to get back to teaching. Aerospace Corp was opening offices in the DC area to

better support one of the customers, the NRO. I was asked to move to the East coast on several occasions. Dan received an offer from American University in 1993, and Aerospace wanted me back on the east coast, so we moved to Northern Virginia. I worked in the offices and became a team lead for a key program office dealing with requirements development and sensor performance analysis. At the same time, I was competing in driving competitions with various horses, and was able to house them in the development where we lived (ie. I became a pro poop scooper).

In 2010 we bought a small farm on the outskirts of the metro area, and we kept the horses and dogs on our own property. I retired in 2015, looking forward to just hanging with the animals. After a year of retirement, I was bored, and in 2016 when my former boss came knocking on the door, I went back to work on my former program, part time. The program I had written requirement for ten years previous was about to launch, so I helped with the analysis during initialization period. It turned out to exceed all expectations, and I decided it was time to leave on a high note, so I retired for good in 2017.

Our first child, Jennifer, attended Colby College in Maine, married her boyfriend she met at college, and they both moved back to No. Virginia. She had an internship at NIH for a year, and also finished a masters in Public Health at George Washington U. She is currently a team leader for FDA, in coordinating food outbreak investigations. She has 4 daughters – ages ranging from 5 to 13, 3 of whom play travel soccer, and the youngest just got her orange belt in karate. They also usually have 2 to 3 huskies, just to add to the commotion.

Our second child, Chris, attended St. Mary's college in Maryland, and received a BS in psychology. Along the way he became an avid rock climber. He has climbed all over the world, but was particularly fond of a location known as the "Yosemite of S. America", in Cochomo, Chile, where he established several new routes. For a few years he wrote articles for climbing magazines, and self-published two short novels, one of which received a Banff award. He currently lives in Flagstaff, AZ, with his wife, and their new baby, River. He is enrolled in a nursing program and will be graduating in about 1.5 years.

Dan and I are both retired. We still live on the farm with 2 horses, a corgi and a cat, although I stopped competing when I had a knee replacement in 2022. I learned quilting just before Covid hit, and became involved with some charity organizations that create quilts. I recently bought a computer driven longarm machine, and am on a learning curve with that machine. We live an hour from the granddaughters, so we see them often. Dan and I are both in relatively good health. We both do water aerobics year-round. I will probably get a new hip later this year to keep the metal knee company. We are now starting to think how much longer we want to stay on the farm (which is a lot of work), and what we want to do, and where to go, for the next phase of life.

I'm looking forward to reading all the bio's that people post. It's been such a long time!



Dan and Linda Kalman celebrating 50th anniversary, in 2024



Linda and "Fancy" at a carriage driving show



Linda driving "Kody" in a combined driving event, 2006



Linda, Dan, and Simba (the 35 lb



One of Linda's favorite views, driving up the road to the farm, in late August. With a mile of gravel road between us and the nearest paved road, the cars are always dirty. But, what the heck !