The1950s

-at first few people had a TV--and the screens were very small: 9" or smaller; by the late 50's/very early '60s more people had one!

-only some women drove cars and not all went to work

-President Eisenhower!

-10” black and white TVs -Antennas on our houses

-Watching the Mickey Mouse Club every afternoon, I Love Lucy, As the World Turns, Ossie and Harriet, Make Room for Daddy (Danny Thomas), the Dick Van Dyke Show, George Burns and Gracie Allen, What’s my Line?, I’ve Got a Secret, Lassie, Sky King, Zoro, Rin Tin Tin, Gun Smoke, Bonanza, Red Skelton Show, Lorretta Young, Ed Sullivan Show.

-watching Danny Kaye, Martha Rae (Ray)... "Bonanza" Perry Como!

-"Father Knows Best" (imagine the protests if someone named a show that today)

-I Love Lucy--first runs! In black and white--no Color TV yet!

-first color shows "Wonderful World of Disney" on Sunday night in my feet pajamas

-Castro coming to the UN-- I was in 3/4th grade and was very afraid because it sounded like he was coming "here."

- we’d pull up to the gas pump in our blue and white 57 Ford Fairlane and Mom would tell the ATTENDANT “$2.00  worth, please.” and the attendant filled our tank to the top!!!

- we would watch Cowboy shows, Howdy Doody, and cartoons on to black and white 19 inch TV.

-The first necklace I ever made when I was 5 out of some kind of nut seed pods

-Davey Crockett was great and we all wanted a coonskin cap.

-A huge disappointment was not being able to have a hoola hoop.  In 1958 they were too expensive.  Then after everyone had one the price dropped to $.50 and my father bought my sister and I one.

-Everyone wore Chino pants with cuffs.  They were called Chino because of the very light tan color.

-Ked’s were the rage but if you were special you wore Hi Tops, today’s basketball sneakers!

-Going to the local Amusement Park

-When I was 10 years old I wanted to have a hot rod like the ones that the 18 year olds had.

-When we were lucky enough to have a dollar bill we would go to the Gilbert Stuart Movie Theater and see two movies for $.50, buy Popcorn for $.10, a soda for $.25 and three bars of candy with the other $.15.

-We would practice getting under a desk at school just in case an atomic bomb would go off.

-We knew that we were in trouble when in 1957 the Russians launched Sputnik.

-Food tasted terrible as most of it came out of a can.  Canned Peas were the worst.

-The music of Bill Haley and the Comets, Buddy Hollie and Little Richard helped a lot

- the $.25 an hour, cutting lawns made me able to go to Kings Drugstore and have a soda from the soda fountain.  Then we could always sneak over to the comic books and read them for nothing.  That save us the $.10 that we could spend in Red’s Penny Candy Store.

The 1960s

-President Kennedy and the Cuban Missile crisis

-In 1963, the world changed and never came back to the innocent years of the 1950’s. President Kennedy getting shot and the live TV coverage. Where you were…

-President Kennedy's funeral--The horse with the backwards boots-"John-John"-Jackie-Caroline

-I can’t believe I saw the following on Ed Sullivan….the Beatles, the Monkeys, the Four Season, Elvis, Mommas and the Poppas, the Beach Boys, Temptations, Supremes, Four Tops, and of course on American Band Stand with Dick Clark and so many more

-When Slinky the toy came on the market, the hoola hoop, roller skating on the sidewalk, jumping rope, the first Barbie and Ken, silly putty, Mr. Potato Head, Colorforms, Chatty Cathy, Dennis the Menace Doll, Betsy Wetsy, Chinese Marbles.

-Mr. Kangaroo and Mr. Green Jeans, Romper Room, Soupy Sales Show, Three Stooges, Bugs Bunny, Betty Boop, Popeye.

-World’s Fair in New York in 1964---saw things of the future like touch tone phones, four cylinder cars, computers.

-Remember the first man going into space and watching it on TV in my classroom—second grade. His name was Allen Shepard……and then experienced all other space shuttles over history.

-Martin Luther King and all of the racial issues which were very real for me having gone to school in the inner city. Assassination of Bobbie Kennedy.

-Learning to do the “twist”, the slide, the monkey, the swim, the mashed potato, and many other dances.

-I used to buy 45 records for one dollar and would purchase one each week of the number one hit. Remember called a stereo a victrola and record player.

- the movie Mrs. Robinson, Hard Days Night, Cinderella, Snow White, Lady and the Tramp, Bambi, Sound of Music.

-Watching Mickey Mantle play baseball, Billy Martin, and when the New York Giants played at Yankee Stadium. Joe Namath and the New York Jets.

-Jimmies Restaurant was a drive in and next to Phyllis’s. Toad’s Place when it was Hungry Charlie’s and served coffee and hot cocoa

-women wore hats and gloves when they went downtown shopping. When panty hose was brought to the market. Hot pants and platform shoes, saddle shoes and mary jane’s.

-Girls – Anyone remember when you had to wear a skirt or dress to school – no pants?  I remember the “test”.  If they thought your skirt was too short, they asked you to kneel down.  If your skirt didn’t hit the floor when you were kneeling, you were sent home for indecency.

-I remember having short skirts measured in middle school.

-People were sent home for wearing white “Go-Go” boots and fishnet stockings .named for rock and roll dancers.

-Three channels on the TV and rabbit ears with tinfoil, until we were cool and got a roof antennae. But still only 3 channels, just better.

-Watching Captain Kangaroo, at age 4, in the morning tell me stories and wanting to stay up to watch the news at night thinking he came back on at night to tell my dad stories (But it was actually Walter Cronkite) But I was not allowed. Too  much going those days in the early 60s.

-Being one of the first girls in elementary school to wear pants and boys sneakers- go figure

-Everyone was staging protests and walk-outs for causes like girls being able to wear pants to school or later for everyone to wear jeans.

- …and protesting so that 18 year olds could vote. We were going off to fight in VietNam, but not to have a say in their country’s policies.

 -…aaahhh Davy Jones and the Monkeys and love beads.

-wearing hot pants and penny loafers with “bobbie” socks.

-watching television---Gunsmoke, Rawhide, and wagon train.  I loved the western shows.

-Being allowed, at age 7, to run a lemonade stand alone on the side of the road and then walk with just my 7 year old friend two miles to the store to buy tons of candy with my earnings. (I actually lived in North Haven then and the store was Muzzio’s market and not sure my parents knew I was buying tons of candy)

-Being left in the car as a young child with only our dog as security while my mother went shopping and no one called the police. Hey, the windows were down.

-One phone number per family and fighting to answer the phone because it might just be for you.

-No seat belts and sitting in the way back of our ford station wagon with the window open leaning my elbow out the window facing oncoming traffic.

- Being able to play Jarts in the back yard when they had real solid metal tips, you just learned to run from danger.

-Waiting a whole year just to see The Wizard of Oz and making sure you could sit through the whole thing- no pause button

-No bicycle helmets, and no safety warnings on toys or plastic bags. Either we lived dangerously or back then we actually knew what to do with them.

 -Watching the news at night with my dad, when I was old enough and, hearing Walter Cronkite sign off every night with, "And that's the way it is." (It was ok that he was not Captain Kangaroo)

-Seeing the moon landing live, and seeing my father cry

-playing basketball ---- half court.  We were not allowed to travel the full floor.  Six girls per half court.  I played in the forward position.  My highest score for one game was 12 points.  YEA!

-When I started junior high in the late 60’s, I got my first girdle. I had to have one in order to wear nylon stockings, fishnets, tights, and because my mom felt no decent woman should be caught dead without one. There was no such thing as pantyhose. I went to North Haven and in those days, girls were not allowed to wear pants or have bare legs. Knee socks were OK. We also had to wear slips under our dresses. I remember going to school in September wearing underwear, a girdle over that, a bra, of course, a slip, either a half or full slip over all that, then a lined dress. It was hot!!! We waited for the cold weather and sweated through the fall. There was a difference between school clothes and play clothes back then, even the shoes were different. We had five dresses or skirts and blouses and a couple of pairs of shoes that were worn only for school or special occasions. The girdle was torture. I remember the joy of ripping all those clothes off after school and putting on my Wrangler jeans and Keds to go play.

-the most scariest and what I recall all the time is --  the KKKs.  Growing up down south—south of Charleston, South Carolina, the KKKs were very visible.  Cross burning was a weekend party for them.  My father always kept us together when we traveled on weekends downtown to shop or go to church.  Today, there is a farmers market in the area where the cross burning mostly took place.

-The "riots" in New Haven, Bridgeport etc., buildings being burned, streets closed

-The Democratic Convention, Weather Underground, bombing the US Capitol

-We were being invaded by England (the beatles are coming, the beatles are coming).

-Title IX had not taken effect in the 60's- Girls had very few opportunities to participate on any team, no money in schools for girls sports

-learning basketball on the half court.  You could only take three steps while dribbling before you had to pass.  You had six girls on a side – three on offense and three on defense.  You could not step on or over the center line.

- going to the movies for a quarter and seeing two full-length movies, plus a cartoon, a serial (Hardy Boys, etc.) plus the News in Review.

-We walked everywhere and on the few occasions that we would ride our bikes somewhere, we would leave them out in front of a store and they would still be there when we came out.  No one had a bike lock.

-the Flintstones on Friday nights

-the Addams Family, Star Trek

-Reading Nancy Drew and Hardy Boy books way past my bedtime with a flashlight

-The clothes didn’t change much until 1966.  there was a massive rebellion against the establishment.

-People had grown tired of Vietnam and felt that people were being treated as if they were animals

-Respect the people was the cry of the times.  Not until 1968 did it become the law.

-Unfortunately there were those who scoffed at this and said of the country “Love it or leave it”

-We wanted to be different in every way as we didn’t like the way some people thought of themselves as being better than others.

-Our Broad Striped Bell Bottom pants and torn jeans made the older people dislike us, but their baggy old clothes weren’t us.  We didn’t tell them what to wear but they told us what not to wear.

-My first pair of bellbottoms

-The image of 57,000 plus Americans dead from a war carried us through to the next decade.

-In 1968 President Nixon said that he would take us out of Vietnam.

-all the kids going through town on their way to Woodstock (I couldn’t go – I remember how glad I was that I was home when the rain started)

-my older sister’s class was part of a “walk-out”, which ultimately changed the dress code at West Haven High in the late 60’s.

-Full of empty promises the 1970’s began.

The 1970s

-The 1970’s ushered in the hope of fixing a broken country divided by those who had and the rest of us.

-Mood rings, bell bottoms, I still have a 1971 VW beetle!

-Oil embargos in 1974 and in 1979 brought gas lines and two presidents, Ford and Carter, to not be reelected.

-kids getting sick and a few dying because of sniffing glue and/or drinking mouthwash.

- filling up my car for $2.

- coming here (NHHS) to student teach and having the gas raised to 50.9 cents a gallon.  It was outrageous!

- the gas shortage – many gas stations would put out cardboard signs saying, “No Gas”.  They would sell you gas only if you were a “regular”, then they would let you buy 5 gallons at a time.

-Mash

-When Bruce Springstein toured college campuses, as well as Fleetwood Mac. Saw Chicago live in Providence, RI, James Taylor at the Yale Bowl with Linda Ronstant, Bread at the New Haven Coliseum. Who could forget the old New Haven Arena and New Haven Nighthawks.

-Rock music that was actually ours, that our parents hated, before it belonged to today- Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, The Doors, The Who (Tommy), The Guess Who (American Woman)

-Tie dye you made yourself. If you were lucky you actually had two colors and some circles on the shirt.

-Hip hugger bell bottoms in high school, that our parents hated, that we wore really long so the bottoms got frayed.

-Daisy Dukes

-1972 brought a revolution against pollution.  We had dreams of making everything right.  40 years later we are still dreaming of what it could be like without pollution.

-In the early 1970’s it seemed as if everyone had a cause, which fractured into little pieces what we really wanted.  “People to just get along with each other”.  Other than graduating from college in 1974, getting married in 1976, and our daughter being born in 1978. The rest of the 1970’s is just a blur.

-Legal drinking age in 1978 was 18

-Bell bottom jeans worn with a thick belt were the rage

-No such thing as an answering machine or voicemail- telephones were all rotary (dial)

-Bib farmers jeans were cool to wear

-Doctors made house calls

-Going to College was a privilege for those who could afford to attend

-Sunday 'Blue Law' - NO stores were allowed to be open- none!

-James Taylor concerts

-Playing pool at SCSU instead of going to class

-New York TV News station ended each nightly broadcast with a list of names of the soldiers who were killed in the Vietnam war

-Bought a pair of jeans and flannel shirt  at a REAL Army & Navy Surplus store in Hartford 1973 for about $8-10 for the jeans AND shirt. No frills or dressing room, NO size “0”---just waist size and length. Those were the days

-Sports:  Saw Bucky Dent hit the “homerun” in 78.  I was 10 years old: Threw a bat through our porch window (Got in trouble for that one).

-1972 – saw my first mafia movie “The Godfather” and I was only 10! (okay, my parents were huge movie buffs and my mom said, “You will not repeat anything you hear,”  and then she went on about the screenplay, casting etc.)

*-Go Ask Alice* – Was the book of that time!

-American Bandstand and Soul Train were the Saturday shows, -Rich Man, Poor Man,

-John Travolta made his mark in Saturday Night Fever, but few people remember that he started out in “Welcome Back, Kotter.”

-Yes, disco and the BeeGees and Saturday Night Fever and being legal at 18 to go out dancing at Coup de Ville in New Haven. Boy was I good. That is when you actually practiced with your date before you went out.

-Riding in the back of my friend's truck with 15 of our other friends to go see the midnight show of Rocky Horror when it played every Saturday night in Hamden. Yes, we knew all the lines and had all the props and no, the cops never stopped us.

-Most people don’t remember that Tom Hanks started out on a show called Bosom Buddies.

-Survived the “ice storm” in the early 1970’s.  We had to leave our house and go to my grandparents’ house in Wallingford.

-hot pants-they were satin and bright red.) She was like 6’ tall. And not much was left to the imagination.

-My first concert, Grand Funk Railroad, at the Yale Bowl during the summer of my junior year. Long hair and jeans.

-dancing in Boston, and of course “the bump” dance.

-Reading Future Shock in my English class and now all that is here. -Comedy Albums, the 7 words you can’t say on television. The great George Carlin. Johnny Carson and his guests. Laugh-In.

-The best book in Middle school was Love Story.

-My favorite music…come on… Jackson 5, the Osmonds!  (even watched their cartoons! Adding Fat Albert to that list!)

-Late 70s – disco & Saturday Night Fever (movie) – a trend which I hated BTW – and the “counter movement” was punk and new wave (the clash, sex pistols, Elvis Costello, Talking Heads) – which was more my speed…

-record collections

- in the early 70s we listened to our little transistor radios…. Crosby Stills and Nash

-Baseball was very big in the late 60s early 70s – you never really heard a lot about basketball and football, never heard about hockey.

-Fashion – in early 70s it was the bell bottom pants and short skirts (until I was in 6th grade, girls could not wear pants to school, this was  public school).  Then later 70s bell bottoms were very uncool and it was all about straight leg pants and longer skirts.

-Straight hair was the only type to have in the 70s

-the day of the shootings at Kent State and the abrupt ending of my semester at college since most closed up. No final exams--your grade was what you earned up to that point.

-The early news of a "break-in" at a political office , the information the press got from "Deep Throat", President Nixon, "Watergate"!

-Brady Bunch, Partridge Family, Happy Days, Six Million Dollar Man

-I remember watching the TV when the government was doing the lottery for the Vietnam War. I also bought a silver bracelet with the name of a POW and we wore the bracelet until they came home.

-Watching the draft lottery on TV with my then boyfriend, now husband waiting for his "number" to be chosen--thank God, it was high

-the end of the VietNam war.... and the day Saigon fell.

I remember NHHS in the 70’s with the mod schedule.  We had 18 mods during the day and classes were either two or three mods long.  You didn’t always meet at the same time and students were allowed to leave the school grounds if they didn’t have a class.

I remember the year a fourth-grader called up the Superintendant of Schools to ask when 4th-grade skip day was.  His brother was a senior.  That year on “Senior Skip Day”, they sent busses to Hammonassett and picked up all the kids they found.  They called the parents of every student who was absent that day and if the parent said it was “Senior Skip Day”, the student got a detention after school.  They held it in the Auditorium.  It was pretty full!

The 1980s

-Saw the first MTV Video – “Video Killed the Radio Star.”

-Rode the British Heavy Metal wave '82-'84: Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Black Sabbath with Ronnie James Dio, Rainbow, the Scorpions (I know they're German).

- big hair and matching big shoulder pads of the early 80s and fabric patterns that looked like someone’s floral window curtains. And I wore them thinking I was “all that”!

-Competitions for the highest bangs shellacked by Aqua Net hairspray

-Many variations of the mullet hairdo for guys

-Madonna and Michael Jackson

-Was in college in 86 when ball went through Bill Buckner’s legs and the Red Sox lost Game 6 of World Series.

-big hair and perms

-Dallas, Dynasty and Falcon Crest were the evening soap operas.

-Music:  Turned 21 when the Rolling Stones crashed Toad’s place.  Would have gotten in if I had asked for directions, but got there too late.

-Fluorescent colored anything! Even cooler if it was spandex !

-Acid or stonewashed tight high waisted jeans

-jelly bracelets and swatch watches

-LOVED Michael Jackson and Culture Club (posters all over my bedroom walls)! Sadly, I went to see Milli Vanilli and had no idea they were fake! They were awesome in concert!

-fight it out with siblings to decide who had to get up to change the channel on  the cable box

-Berlin Wall comes down

-HIV was a scary disease that was undoubtedly a death sentence. We still weren't sure if you could get it from kissing, sharing utensils or going to the dentist

-mostly a time of plenty; big hair, big bands, big economy, big sense of contentment. All this surely as a rebound from the tumultuous times that many of you can remember growing up in the 60's-70's.  The 1980’s were boring.  I had to provide for my family, which didn’t give me much time for anything else.  –

-Glam Rock in the 1980’s.

-Rollerhaven, who could forget that?

-Jumping Beans in Wallingford

-Big wheels

-FRAGGLE ROCK!!!

-Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers (who now seems really creepy)

-For some reason I decided that rat tails were a good look (clearly not thinking clearly)

-MTV came out

-The crazy guy that talked super fast from the Micro Machines commercials

-Family Ties with Michael J. Fox And Back to the Future,

-Indiana Jones

-I still think any 80’s clothing is hilarious, people still have way too much in their closets from that time period

-Dallas, Dynasty, MacGyver, The Love Boat

-a new metal lunch box every year with your favorite TV show on it.

–everyone had a comb in their back pocket, parachute pants for boys (yuk), leg warmers for girls

-Watching Transformers (the cartoon), GI JOE,  Atari,

-TVs with the knob on them that weighed 800 pounds, holy crap

-played basically everything humanly possible (especially dusty diamonds softball and techno bowl) on original Nintendo, Zelda

-I had big red glasses that looked exactly like Sally Jesse Raphael too.

-Kid leashes, I had one on my wrist so I wouldn’t wonder off at Disneyworld and be gone foreverrrrrrr back in 1987

-Check on Sally Jesse Raphael – she may have preceded Oprah – could the afternoon talk show have originated in New Haven, CT?

-I dressed like Madonna with all the bangle bracelets (like 20 + at one time on each arm!) I wore my hair high with the lace headbands tied in a big ol’ bow on the top of my head! (mind you I had one in every color possible!!!)

-WALL STREET “Greed is GOOD”

-‘89 San Fran Earthquake during World Series

-we had a Pizza Hut on Washington Avenue.  They would give the Varsity baseball team a free pizza for every run that they beat an opposing team by.  The team would store up the runs/games, and go in when they could get about thirty pizzas.  They only had to buy the drinks.

Those were the days!

The 1990s

-Saved By the Bell

-90210, Melrose Place

-beeper. Still needed to find a pay phone to call them back.

-toaster sized mobile phones came out

-Saddam  Hussein /GULF WAR/Desert  Storm

-RodNEY KING

-OJ!

-Ninja Turtles were big, also pogs, pokemon cards

-Hulk Hogan zebra striped pants

-Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

-Remember the commercials of the chicken McNuggets, always a late 80s early 90s classic

-MC Hammer's "can't touch this" video for the  cause of all those baggy pants the boys started wearing

-Milli Vanilli lip synching scandal

-(beeper) back in the late 90's (and I so didn’t need one considering I was not a doctor).

-Dr. Dre, Wu Tang Clan, TuPac, BiGGIE

-Macarena!!!

-Pogs, my little ponies, trolls, American Girl Dolls, puffy hair scrunchies, keds & bright colored ankle socks, baggy t-shirts tied to the side, spandex pants with stirrups to keep them from rolling up, New Kids on the Block, snap brackets, tomagochi (sp???) & Box Car Children...to name a few. :)

-I saw Titanic in theaters 3 times, and my friend had a “bootleg” copy of it that was SOOOO poorly made. Somebody must have just held up a video camera in the theater and taped it.

-My basketball team warmed up while listening to the Space Jam soundtrack or the Jock Jams CD. We all wore the rip-away warm up pants (with the snaps on the sides) and the Adidas ones were the coolest. I had a blue pair with bright yellow stripes.

-On TV Dawson’s Creek was huge. My favorite song was “The Boy Is Mine” by Brandy and Monica and I had a homemade mix tape with that song on it like 4 times (taped off the radio). That’s all I remember right now… but I’ll think about it and email you again if I remember more.

-TRL on MTV was huge

-Backstreet Boys, N’Sync, Britney Spears were all over the radio waves

-Power Rangers was big, as was TGIF night on Television.

-Goosebumps were incredibly popular books.

-“STARTER” sports jackets were big

-Baseball strike in 94

-GERARDO/RICO SUAVE!

-RIGHT SAID FRED--I’m TOO SEXY

-YANKEES LATE 90s DYNASTY

-The huge glasses everyone wore in early 90s

-STEVE URKEL from Family Matters

-Remember TGIF, when they put the 4 half hour shows at Friday nights starting at 7 with FULL HOUSE (Uncle Jesse)

-ER and Seinfeld in the 90s (sit-coms and drama series in general took off)

-NERF came out with tons of great stuff late 80s early 90s

-SuperSoakers

-Lazer Tag

-Phil Simms saying “I’m going to Disneyworld” after winning the Superbowl

-Portable phones

-Whitney Houston’s national anthem at the Superbowl

-Coke commercials and Superbowl commercials in general

-I’d like to admit I saw Titanic in the movie theater about 6 times because at that age going to the movies was the only thing we were allowed to do without parental supervision 8)…. I didn’t always make it through the movie, many times I left and went to McDonalds

-The year of the movie 1994….Shawshank Redemption, Forrest Gump, Ace Ventura, etc.

-Floppy Disks……actual Floppy Disks (wow)

-awesome time since technology and so many other news things were taking place