

Life – A Whirlwind Journey

By Carol Stephens

I envisioned walking down the dirt path to the little schoolhouse, just like my big brother.
Thank you Paul for coming home and teaching me what you learned.

I envisioned having a bike to take me farther and faster than I could walk.
Thank you Santa Claus for my shiny chartreuse two-wheeler.

I imagined going to school each day without fear of being bullied that day.
Thank you God for the peace and serenity I found hiking through my mountains alone.

I envisioned sock hops, marching bands, pep club, school spirit, acceptance and belonging.
Thank you high school for the beginning of emotional healing and trust.

I envisioned life beyond years of school: freedom, career, spending money, autonomy.
Thank you Mom and Dad for instilling values, work ethic, responsibility.

I envisioned a forever life partner, wine and roses, a secure and stable life.
Thank you, universe, for the harsh but character building reality adjustment.

I envisioned being childless, declaring no interest in the mystery and challenge of parenthood.
Thank you God for what became the most enlightening and rewarding journey of my life.

I envision the rest of life as it has been: learning, growing, looking forward, contributing.
Thank you, strong and wonderful women in my life, who are my role models.

I do not envision the end to this life's journey, nor is it useful to try.
Perhaps, as my mother did, I will have visions of exit signs, indicating the time has come.