

March 11, 2026 **On Friendship**

Corinne

How old can a friend be? Ideally should a friend be close to one's own age? That way one might have more in common, have lived at a similar time, share cultural references. But I don't buy that. I think a friend can be any age from very young to very elderly. And surprising as it may seem many of the heart qualities and the ideas we hold dear stay with us all our lives. A feisty ninety year old can be as passionate about ideas as a 20 year old. One who has lived more time on planet Earth may have more perspective on life challenges. A child or young person may have creative solutions that just are not seen by an older person.

At one time I wanted to start a girls/women's group that had representation with someone in each decade for our collective lifespan. A teen, a 20 and 30 something, a 40's and 50's person, elders in their 60's, 70's, and 80's. And if possible someone in their 90's and 100 plus. It just did not get traction. Still think it is a worthy concept.

A lady and her husband, in their 80's, moved from California back to Vermont, their birth state. I met Corinne when she started to attend the church I went to. Willis and she owned an old farmhouse that her husband was born in and grew up in. I went to visit and photograph this farmhouse with its suspended-in-time interiors along with household objects spanning the last century. A few images became part of my fledgling greeting card company, Haymaker Press. Little by little Corinne and I became fast friends. She possessed a wonderful quality of being interested in whomever she was with. And I loved her artsy style and her zest for life. I wanted what she had! What a role model!

Into her 90's she went with joy and liveliness. And she brought me right along. Once she showed me a photo of 8 or 10 women who were her neighbors and all much younger. She said they were called the Vixens and they would get together and have a grand time. Corinne looked the queen of this group with them all surrounding her. Late in her 90's after her beloved Willis had passed my then 20 something old son, Taylor and I visited her on Christmas morning to share holiday cheer together. After a lovely visit and we were back in the car my son said, "She asked so many questions about my life. She seemed really interested in me." I said, "That is her secret to a vibrant life... always interested in what others were doing and thinking. It keeps her young at heart!" (Corinne lived to be 103 and I was with her to the end. She was love embodied.)

So yes, there are no parameters to the question, "How old can one's friends be?" No matter what age a person is it is more about the quality of their thought that I find I connect with.



This image was photographed at Corinne's farmhouse with objects from the farm like the stereoscope an old milk jar, and the wire rim glasses the children are wearing. Lindsay and my son, Dylan are 7 yrs old here. (Now 42)

“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” – Isaac Newton