



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2006

Vol. 18

Issue 1

*The primary objectives and purposes of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation are to serve as a charitable organization to unite SRHS graduates, parents of current and past students, faculty, staff and interested community members for: Preserving and documenting the history and traditions of SRHS; Providing financial support to the school; Promoting community involvement*

## **'Genial' Jim Left a Legacy** by Mike Daniels '59

When Jimmy Underhill joined the SRHS faculty in the spring of 1937, he brought a strong personality and style to SRHS athletic competition along with his "Genial Jim" nickname. Today, that style would be called "in your face." Then, it was simply an iron will, a mental toughness, a determination to win no matter the odds. When his football coaching career ended in 1958, he left behind a coaching record yet to be surpassed—129 wins, 45 losses, 8 ties and 5 NBL titles. That's a winning percentage of .708, very good for any coach.

A natural at psychological motivation, Underhill sought and secured commitment in his athletes as he inspired them to improve their skills through a tough conditioning program that he tempered with compassion. His former players remain devoted to his memory and appreciative of his teaching.

Underhill attended SRHS as a freshman in 1918 but transferred to Napa High. After graduation he attended St. Mary's College and played football for the legendary "Slip" Madigan, earning All-American honors as a halfback. After college he coached at St. Mary's High School and assisted Madigan at the college. At SRHS he was first an assistant to Orb Fortier, then in his 13<sup>th</sup> year coaching Panther basketball and baseball. Over his SRHS career Underhill also coached golf, boxing, basketball and baseball, but he is best remembered as football coach.

In the fall of 1937 Underhill replaced departed coach Vern Hickey on the gridiron. He inherited a veteran football team that had just one league win the previous season. Underhill brought with him a new formation, the Notre Dame Box, and a new playbook.

That first season, the Panthers lost to the Vallejo Apaches, 18-0, but beat the archrival Petaluma Trojans, 12-0. The season concluded with a 2-win, 3-loss, 1-tie record.

In many ways the Vallejo game assumed an importance to SRHS larger than the annual "big Game" with Petaluma. Vallejo, the perennial powerhouse of the North Bay League, generally had superior and very aggressive players. Vallejo in the late 50s, for example, produced running back Dick Bass, who played professionally with the Los Angeles Rams. To beat Vallejo was to declare the season a success. But in 1939 Underhill's Panthers fared little better than in '38. They won 3 and lost 3, losing to both Vallejo and Petaluma. Over his career, SRHS finished second to Vallejo six times in league play.

In 1940 the football team enjoyed its first undefeated season and the first NBL championship of Underhill's career. According to Fran Burke, who played on that team, most players on the '40 squad had been second-stringers in 1939. At one point during the '39 season, they asked Underhill for a practice game with the starters. Underhill agreed and was amazed when the first team lost. The backup team, knowing it would start in the fall, asked for a spring practice and, thus mentally and physically prepared, won every practice and league game the next fall with one exception, a tie with the San Rafael Bulldogs. But in the NBL championship game with San Rafael, the Panthers vindicated themselves with a win.

Respected personally and professionally by his coaching peers, Underhill enjoyed a number of close relationships, one especially for many years with Bill Abbey, Petaluma football mentor, with whom Underhill officiated college games in the old Pacific Coast League. Underhill, however, was regularly at odds with Paul Miller of San Rafael. Like Underhill, Miller coached both football and baseball. Dick Colombini, who played for the Panthers in the late 40's, recalled the two coaches "had words" after a game. A challenge resulted, and Underhill invited Miller to put on the gloves in the SRHS gym. "He (Underhill) asked me to ref," said Colombini, "and I had to stop it after three rounds. Jimmy knocked him down three times." Underhill had boxed while at St. Mary's, and he coached the sport at SRHS.

Underhill's skill at psychological motivation was apparent early on. Before the 1941 season, after many on the '40 championship team graduated, Underhill went cleverly on the offensive. In an interview prior to the season opener with the Napa Indians, the Press Democrat stated Underhill "feared Napa very much, and while he doesn't anticipate defeat for the Panthers he stated that their mental attitude was 50 percent below what it was at this time last year. From all indications the preps are playing on last year's laurels and Genial

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# President's Message



It is a pleasure to be serving a second two-year term as President of this great Foundation. I'd like to acknowledge Mike Grace for his tireless energy and the fabulous accomplishments that occurred during his two-year term. My goal is to continue the momentum of the Foundation, its members and its responsibility to the school and its students. We now have over 18 years of history and

have greatly enhanced the school experience for students, faculty and administrators through the generosity of our alumni and friends.

This coming school year seems packed with opportunities to provide more needed support. Our grants have not only included under-funded programs because of State budget problems but have allowed us to help the school build new programs. The new programs include our assistance in the arts, athletics, vocational areas and science, to name a few.

None of this would occur without the efforts of a highly motivated volunteer Board. I continually marvel at the time these Panther supporters spend with the interest of the Foundation in mind. Whether it be a Polenta Feed, a new building dedication, our Golf Tournament, the building of our school museum or elsewhere, you can find these individuals hard at work for the school and representing all of you, our members. By the way, if you haven't seen the museum at SRHS, please take time to stop by and take a look or schedule a visit for your reunion.

I would like to acknowledge one of our newest Board members. Her name is Alicia Hodenfield, class of '85. Alicia has stepped in and taken over the production of this newsletter with some guidance from long time Board member Mike Daniels. Alicia is very organized, and thoughtful, and I think you will find interesting new ideas being subtly added to the newsletter over time. Thanks for your energy, Alicia!

In closing, it looks like a very exciting year ahead and I would just ask you to continue supporting our events/fund raisers and ask your non-member alumni friends to also become a member of the Foundation. They will enjoy receiving this newsletter and staying informed about what is going on at the school and recalling some fond memories.

Doug Pavese  
President 2006-2008

## About the Foundation

The Santa Rosa High School Foundation, a chartered non-profit organization with the State of California, was established in 1988 to provide financial support for and community involvement in the school's activities and to preserve its rich traditions and heritage.

The Foundation also functions as an alumni association, sponsoring activities for graduates, but membership and activity participation is not limited to SRHS graduates.

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The SRHS Foundation Newsletter invites submissions. Letters should be 150 or fewer words. All submissions are subject to editing. Please identify photos and provide credits where applicable. Please mail your articles and photos to the above address or e-mail to [mdaniels@sonic.net](mailto:mdaniels@sonic.net).

*Historian/Editor:* Mike Daniels '59

*Newsletter Publisher:* Alicia Hodenfield '85

*Newsletter Team:* Mike Daniels, Mike Grace, Penny Hastings, Alicia Hodenfield, Nadine Smedshammer



## SRHS Foundation Directors

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	Terry Swehla, Faculty Liaison

\* Founding Directors - Doug Pavese, Mike Daniels, Mike Grace & Donna Dennes Peterson

You can join the Foundation, renew your membership, and make your contributions online at [www.srhfsf.org](http://www.srhfsf.org). Your membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

continued from the front page

Jim is having difficulties explaining to the boys that idea won't win ball games." SRHS won the Napa game and finished the season in



Coach Underhill during one of his many half-time speeches (Photo courtesy of Lee Torliatt)

second place, losing only to Vallejo but beating Petaluma.

Over the years he manipulated and motivated his teams to improve play and to win games they were apparently destined to lose. His halftime talks became legendary among his players. Colombini recalled a game against San Rafael. The San Rafael newspaper during the week prior to the contest published a number of articles stressing that the home team was destined to defeat SRHS. By halftime, the articles appeared to be accurate, the score was 12-0 in favor of the Bulldogs.

Instead of taking his team into the locker room for the break in action, Underhill gathered them in the end zone in front of the San Rafael rooters. He took a number of newspaper clippings from his overcoat, read some headlines and some content. "I guess you boys believe in the clippings," he said. Defensive and offensive improved in the second half, and SRHS won the game 25-12.

While he exhibited those skills often, he would sometimes make use of a different sort during practice. He would work his players long and hard and use anger to clarify what he wanted. Burke recalled one practice when the starters were not performing to his satisfaction. The coach made them run the play over and over. Then, in exasperation, he asked for the ball and told his players to stop him as he ran the play without pads, in the high knee action he had displayed in college. When no one tackled him, Underhill turned and ridiculed the would-be tacklers and asked, "Think I got lucky?" and offered to run again.

Colombini remembered a similar incident but noted "no one was going to tackle him." But in both cases, whether taken aback or in awe, the players subsequently worked harder to satisfy their coach. "His persona made you want to do better," said Colombini.

Bob Testorelli, who played for Underhill on the 1943 NBL championship team, recalled a game in which the Tamalpais Indians successfully ran the same play a number of times. Underhill

was so incensed at his team's failure to stop the play, he kept the team on the field after the game and made them "scrimmage for 20 minutes or so."

Underhill's methods probably caused his athletes to tread a fine line between love, fear and awe. His son, Jimmy Jr., who graduated from SRHS in 1949 and enjoyed a highly respected and successful career as track coach at Piner High, saw his father's strong methods as prevalent among coaches of the time. "What was acceptable then is not today," he said. "They are very different eras."

Nevertheless, Burke, Testorelli and Colombini are but a few among the many who applaud Underhill's influence in their lives, paying tribute to his teaching them the discipline that helped them face the realities of their later lives. The younger Underhill noted the letters of thanks his father regularly received from his former players.

According to Testorelli, because Underhill wanted his players to focus on football, he influenced other parts of their lives while in school.

"In the team room he'd say, 'I saw one of you guys lollygagging with girls in the hall. We'd stay away from them (girls),' he recalled. Underhill did not want girls to wear the block sweaters or



Coach Underhill reviewing the playbook with his assistant (Photo courtesy of Fran Burke)

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### Underhill Remembered

*Ed. Note: The following is one of a number of SRHS memories penned for the Foundation by the late C. Raymond Clark '22. We like to print these periodically because they are so colorful. This one is especially appropriate.*

Jimmy Underhill attended SRHS only one year to my knowledge. I am positive he was in Napa High during what must have been his last year and before he entered St. Mary's College. My first recollection was in 1918 in wood working class.

The next time I saw him was in 1921 when I was very much a third rate beginner in the rough life of high school football. I was too light, too untrained, and didn't possess the determination to disregard personal pain or the laws of self-preservation. Nevertheless, Coach Victor Hodge told me he was putting me in the game at Napa.

I feel sure that I was a bit surprised to see my old classmate Jimmy suited up and on the fields. I distinctly remember some of our boys, and definitely Frank and Tom Grace who probably went through with Jimmy, shouting, "Pardon us if we seem to hurt you, Jimmy."

Alackaday! Nobody hurt Jimmy very much, I can attest since I enjoyed a talk with him in the dressing room after his victory. That game showed us the wide-open attack that was to put Jimmy's name in the sports pages in this State and probably across the Nation. He simply made long, sweeping runs from well behind the line. He was simply fast and daring.

One of the most fascinating games I saw him play was in Berkeley against the powerful California Bears of Andy Smith. St. Mary's had adopted the Knute Rockne "Notre Dame Shift." That razzle-dazzle dance of mixed color and choreographed movement by every team member must have dazzled opponents, especially the first time they encountered it.

My last talk with Jimmy was on the foredeck of the auto ferry that served where the Richmond-San Quentin Bridge is now located. What has stuck in my mind over the many years was the physical price he certainly paid for his athletic fame. What was obvious were the shoe cleat marks and other lumps over his boyish handsome face. There were no face protection devices then, unless a player chose to wheeze through a hard rubber nose guard.

I never met Jimmy again, but my brother passed on to me his greeting from time to time.

# Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Thanks to the Foundation for its lovely offer to help with postage on our mailing. It has been wonderful finding out about the Foundation. This year as a part of our reunion weekend we had a tour of the high school with Dr. Negri—WOW! The whole reunion was fun. Two hundred attended the main event and close to a hundred at the Flamingo on Friday night and at Galvin Park on Sunday. Thanks again to the Foundation Board.

Jennifer Richardson  
Class of '86

## Errors, Omissions, Corrections

It has come to my attention that an error had been made in the location and dates for the Class of 1971's 35th Reunion. I am terribly sorry for the error and apologize if the incorrect information caused anyone to miss out on the opportunity to attend the festivities.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Hodenfield,  
SRHS Foundation Newsletter Publisher

### Giving Through the SRHS Foundation

There are many ways to participate in providing a lasting contribution to the Foundation.

1. Establish your own fund (anonymously or in your name) with a gift of \$5000 or more.
2. Establish a Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more.
3. Include a bequest or other planned gift in your estate plan.

A wide variety of gifts are accepted including:

- Cash
- Publicly traded securities
- IRAs or life insurance policies with the Foundation as beneficiary
- Remainder of a Charitable Remainder Trust

For further information, please contact: Doug Pavese, SRHS Foundation P.O. Box 11002, Santa Rosa, CA 95406; or call Doug at (707) 524-1037 (days).

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the gold footballs his players had earned. He saw that as a weakness.

But he had a strongly compassionate side also. Understanding individual needs, he mentored his players through times of emotional stress and urged them to study and improve their grades. Although not one to seek his students out after graduation, he remained ready to provide assistance and understanding. Testorelli recalled a difficult emotional time in his adult life when he encountered Underhill at a social occasion. The coach approached his former player to provide helpful consolation.

Underhill's son pointed to his father's involvement in the greater community. During World War II, for example, he taught draftees how to swim and inflate their clothing as flotation devices. For 22 years, he taught swimming, lifesaving and water safety for the Red Cross. He was active in Santa Rosa's park and recreation programs and in the Cub Scouts.

Because SRHS was the only high school in Santa Rosa, Underhill drew upon an undiluted pool of athletes. He used this pool to build the SRHS football program that consistently fielded excellent teams. The 1957 team, his last, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NBL with 5 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. After 20 years as coach, Underhill recognized his successful run might well end with the opening of Montgomery High School in 1958.

He saw "dark clouds on the '58 Panther football horizon," according to the Press Democrat. He said the "Panthers will be left up in the air with no assurance what players will be returning." Because he did not know which players would attend the new school and because all of his starters would graduate, Underhill no doubt understood it was time to step down.

He remained on the SRHS faculty another 10 years as physical education instructor and athletic director. His retirement dinner was a sold-out affair at the Flamingo Hotel where he was presented with a fishing boat. Many speakers paid tribute to his accomplishments and his influence.

Underhill left a lasting mark on the SRHS athletic program. In 2004 the SRHS Foundation honored his memory by adding a plaque in his name to the Wall of Fame in the lobby of the Main Building.

Coach Underhill's NBL Won-Lost Record  
(not including practice games)

Year	Win	Lost	Tie
1937	2	3	2
1938	2	3	2
1939	3	3	-
1940	Undeclared NBL Champs		
1941	5	1	1
1942*	0	3	1
1943*	4	1	1 +
1944*	3	2	1
1945	4	2	
1946	Undeclared NBL Champs		
1947	3	3	
1948	4	1	1
1949	5	1	
1950	2	4	
1951	3	2	1 ++
1952	5	1	
1953	3	0	2
1954	3	2	
1955	5	1	
1956	3	1	1
1957	5	2	1

\* altered war year schedule  
+ NBL Champs 3-way tie with Petaluma & Vallejo  
++ NBL Champs tied with Vallejo



## Contributions & Membership News

Thanks to all the reunion committees, we have included our invitation to join the Foundation in each of their mailings this year. Our ability to help reunion groups with the expense of their mailings has been well received. This enables us, as a foundation, to get the word out about our exciting work supporting SRHS financially, along with publishing an outstanding newsletter that keeps our members in touch with friends and to renew memories of our days at this great school.

As always, we thank you for your continuing support and the generous contributions that you send each month. Since the last newsletter we have had 106 membership renewals and 21 new members. We now have 32 lifetime members thanks to Michael Soso '63, Barbara Wilson '49 and Jim Laier '58. Contributions and memorial gifts this period were \$3,505. You may use the form available on the newsletter cover or go on-line and use our secure site to make your contributions.

Diane Allen '64  
Karen Basso '64  
Daren Bowers '65  
Marian Boyrie '65  
John Burton '67  
Bart Bynum '57  
Carol Case '68  
Al Cathcart '49  
Gary & Kathy Comstock, friends  
Gary Davis '58  
Pete Falco '41  
Tom Farrell '44

Lisa Fitzpatrick '69  
Michael Franchetti '55  
Mary Hallock '41  
Amelia Hutto '42  
Charles Johnson '61  
Alana Kelly '78  
Wayne & Carolyn Kradjan '64  
Shirley Larson '52  
Vernon & Betty Lawson '38/'42  
Susan Lewek '75  
Jenny Mathews '66  
Marion McMurtry '43

James Miller '40  
Joseph Narduzzi '39  
Class of '39  
Lorraine Rapalyea '41  
Trish Reading '56  
Belva Sager '57  
Temple Smith '38  
Jack Swire '53  
Roy & Dorothy Tuttle '41  
Doris Trucco '43  
Elsie Vanvakaris '49  
Eileen Wise '55

### *Memorial Contributions*

#### ***Jinx Fores Memorial***

*Doralyn Wicklund '52*

#### ***Karen Engman Memorial***

*Ann & Tom Quinn '59*

*Penny Hastings '59*

#### ***Eugene Bussman Memorial***

*Bob & Mary Testorelli '45/'47*

#### ***Gudrun Simons Memorial***

*Doralyn Wicklund '52*

#### ***Herb Greenberg Memorial***

*Mary Sadler '65*

If you have questions or concerns about your membership or contributions, please contact Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer at (707) 545-3158 or by e-mail at [nsmeds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nsmeds@sbcglobal.net). Thank you again!



## Project Update By Chris Zeek '68

Most of the construction for the ag barn is complete. The animals the students raised and sold at the recent Sonoma County Fair brought in a record amount of money for the ag program. The next ag project the Foundation will tackle is to build a smaller but more efficient greenhouse on the campus. In yet another example of the expertise and dedication of alumni,

Bob Falco '67 waved his magic wand and convinced a construction crew to donate time and skills to assemble the greenhouse. He will save us thousands of dollars. The purchase of the greenhouse will be possible because of donations from two sources within the Foundation and financing promised by the Board of Education. With these resources we can also install cement for a wash area and for an area to set a scale to weigh animals. Additionally, we can purchase a shed for supply storage and tools.

The Foundation also funded the purchase of a metal shear for the welding program taught by Tom Gutsch. With this equipment Tom can now instruct almost all aspects necessary for employment in the welding area. Clyde Wiggins '52 of Lux Metals advised on the purchase of the appropriate shear.

The Foundation's anonymous donor helped purchase fluid flushing machines for auto shop instructor Vic Colli, '65. These machines will help students learn about the up-to-date procedures in repair shops—and help them gain skills for future automotive employment. Gina Follansbee '89 of Auto Life Center and John Korntved '56 of N. A. P. A. have helped obtain products and training for the auto program.

The Foundation felt it was important to honor the memory of football player Ernie Nevers with a monument on the field named in his honor. Because of donations and the help of Wright Construction, Amato Masonry, Nuddox Brick Company of Sacramento, and Shamrock Ready Mix Concrete, the completion of a memorial to Nevers was accomplished. The field was named for him in 1926.

Rich Peters '68 donated his expertise to complete this big project that will add a special feeling to Nevers Field. A special thank you is due Board member Walt Ryan '68, who donated his time and his truck to drive to Sacramento to pick up the brick, thus avoiding a delivery charge. Another thank you is due senior football player Phyr's Carvolth, who dug a hole for the monument's footing on a hot August afternoon. Board member David Thompson ordered the plaque that will be installed on the monument in time for the season's first game. Dick Colombini '49 promises to install lighting for the monument, the flagpole area and the Nevers' Field sign that will illuminate the best prep sports facility in the North Bay.

As usual, your Foundation has accomplished much for SRHS and plans to do even more in the future. These accomplishments are always due in large part to the generous donations of money, skill and time by SRHS alumni.

***Once again, thank you to Dan and Greg Johnston (SRHS alumni) at AJ Printing & Graphics, for the tremendous amount of help and support they provide in the publication of this newsletter.***

## Student of the Month Lunch: A History

The Student of the Month Luncheon program at SRHS is one of the Foundation's most rewarding accomplishments.

In the Fall of 1990, former Principal Mike Panas presented a plan to recognize and treat to lunch students who accomplished something in class or made worthwhile contributions to the school community. The program intended to seek out not the campus leaders, but the students who might otherwise never be recognized, the ones who might "fall through the cracks." Teachers were asked to nominate students who, for example, made significant academic progress where they had not earlier or who enriched the classroom by their presence, their attitude and their involvement. Such students rarely receive recognition for their efforts, and the Student of the Month program was intended to change that.

The principal and board members started the program by taking the nominated students to lunch at Chevy's in Railroad Square. Two years later, the Foundation expanded the program to include an annual dinner for the year's recipients, their parents/guardians and the teacher who nominated them. The winners of the SRHS Foundation scholarship were also included at this dinner. The Foundation Board members are always excited at the chance to participate and host and serve the students that evening.

Christine Romani-Tonelli and Chris Zeek were instrumental in developing the plan for the dinner and Christine's grandfather Frank Stefani was enlisted to do the cooking.

In the early 90's the family of the late Edna Parker, SRHS Dean of Girls in the 50's and 60's, set up a fund for the luncheon and the year-end dinner. The gesture was especially appropriate because Mrs. Parker sought to reward and encourage the student who may not have received acknowledgment. More donors stepped forward to provide additional support and funding for the growing program.

At the dinner, each student is presented a certificate of accomplishment. Polaroid photos are taken of the students with their family members and their teacher, creating wonderful mementos for the students and their families to continue to reflect on and take pride in. Each photo shows not only the pride of the parents, and the teachers, but the students as well. Frank Stefani continued to prepare the dinners, but after his passing, Elmo Rossi and his competent team took over the cooking and have continued to do so each year. To remember Frank's contributions to the event, his apron always is hung in the kitchen in his honor.

Since the Student of the Month program began, about 900 deserving students have been honored. These students form a very special group, those whose efforts are recognized but might have not been were it not for the program. This event is truly a labor of love and the Foundation Directors are grateful for the opportunity to witness and participate in the students' achievements.

## ~ 2006 Graduation Honors Japanese Internees ~

When the Class of 2006 received their diplomas and certificates of completion last June, they were joined by some very special SRHS students whose graduation was denied because of their ethnicity. In early 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, signed Executive Order 9066, which "relocated" some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast to internment camps far inland until the war's conclusion. Among those sent to the camps were at least 26 students of SRHS, five of whom were scheduled to graduate in June.

The surviving students finally received honorary diplomas in June during the 123rd commencement exercises at SRHS. A number of family members were present to receive diplomas on behalf of those who were deceased. They expressed gratitude and pride at the opportunity for recognition and to reconnect with classmates and friends.

A reception prior to the exercises was held at the new DeSoto Hall on campus where the former SRHS students received a



Awaiting the graduation ceremonies - students and family members of those to be recognized (Photo courtesy of Marlene Callen)

proclamation from Santa Rosa Mayor Jane Bender and City Council Members Bob Blanchard and John Sawyer. President Frank Pugh spoke on behalf of the Santa Rosa Board of Education. Ann Pugh completed much of the research to locate and invite individuals.

### Seniors that would have graduated June 1942

Ileen Fujihara  
Chikara Furuyee  
Rose Kai  
Tom Morikawa  
James Otsuka

### Underclass students in 1942

Molly Fujihara  
Asano Kasai  
Fred Kasai  
Tokie Kasai  
Jack Kimura  
Suea Kimura  
Hazine Mayeda  
Shigato Mayeda  
Mary Morikawa  
Roy Morikawa  
Jimmy Murakami  
Mae Murakami  
Hoppie Murakami  
Harold Nagase  
Hanaye Noda  
Hidi Noda  
Mary Otsuka  
Yukio Sameshima  
Henry Shimada

# Reunion Recaps & Photos

## Class of 1986 Reunion Re-capped

By Jennifer Richardson

The Reunion Committee began planning in November 2005 and located about 300 of our graduating class of 530. The most successful method was word-of-mouth, but we also made use of The SRHS Foundation website's Message Board, Classmates.com and Reunion.com. We also created our own webpage: srhs1986.com.

On Friday evening, August 4 we gathered poolside at the Flamingo Hotel—close to 80 socialized that casual evening. On Saturday we toured SRHS with Principal Tony Negri and really enjoyed seeing all the changes to the campus.

I think the success of Friday evening set an appropriate tone for

the next night at the Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club. Over 200 people enjoyed memorabilia displays of programs, dance things, t-shirts on the wall, and a mannequin dressed in a cheerleading outfit. Attendees also explored a display of classmates and what



Left to right Karen (Smith) King, Juneal (Leversee) Chenoweth, Bruce Friske, Jenna (White) Arago, Ben Standish, Kevin Goebel

they are doing today. We posted responses to questions on the invitations. Helpful to identifying each other, our senior photos were printed on our name badges (Thank you, SRHS Foundation for scanning and posting them on your webpage!).

Dancing that night wasn't as popular as conversing and catching up. Over the sounds of the DJ spinning actual records of 80s hits, we could hear the chatter of people reviewing the last 20 years. The excitement hit a high point when someone fell while dancing and, sadly, broking her arm. But Kevin Howe, MD took her to the kitchen and McGyvered-up a splint. Perhaps prompted by that, someone said, "This isn't a reunion, it's a high school party!"



Cheri (Galde) Shoultz, Melissa Millerick, Linda (Rogers) Bouch, Jenny (Ellis) Sargis

Erhan Ceylan, our exchange student, came to the reunion from his native Turkey and received the prize for traveling the greatest distance. The winners of Most Legs Under One Roof prize had, I think, 20 of them. Two couples tied for the Longest Relationship. They'd been together since high school.

The picnic the following day at Galvin Park was also great! The kids, from 3 months to 19 years, enjoyed a jumpy and paper and crayons. We ate chicken, coleslaw and cornbread and, of course, drinks, hot dogs, chips and cookies.

I overheard many people say they had more fun than they expected. Isn't that the way a reunion should be? Many people were also surprised at the number of '86 grads who still live in the Santa Rosa area.

## The Class of 1941 Reunion

By Evelyn (Smith) Osten

The class of 1941 held its 65<sup>th</sup> reunion on June 17 at the Wild Oak Saddle Club in Oakmont. The gathering was attended by 64 people, 38 of whom were members of the class – the accompanying



Class of 1941 Reunion attendees - photo by Ken Sciallo at 2nd Street Studio

picture will show what a great looking class they are! They were entertained by "Elegant Jazz," with Jess Petty, singer and song stylist.

The class of 1941 graduated 322 seniors, 86 in February and 236 in June. The Reunion Committee has kept an excellent record with 217 on the mailing list and 105 deceased. This class has had seven successful reunions: 1961 (20<sup>th</sup>), 1981 (40<sup>th</sup>), 1986 (45<sup>th</sup>), 1991 (50<sup>th</sup>), 1996 (55<sup>th</sup>), 2001 (60<sup>th</sup>) and 2006 (65<sup>th</sup>).

The success of all the reunions has been due to the conscientious work of the following on-going committee members:

Francis (Fran) Burke – Chair and Master of Ceremonies  
William (Bill) Penrose – Coordinator of Class Computer Records and Communications  
Barbara (Jones) Konicek – Treasurer  
Shirley (Ayles) Seaton – Chair of Decorating Committee  
Evelyn (Smith) Osten – Chair of Class Pictures  
Fred Pedersen – Chair of Music  
Elaine (Bossa) Bacigalupi - Class Historian  
Evelyn (Rovani) Antonioli  
Peggy (Irish) Call  
Delores (Siemer) Comalli  
Petie Falco  
Mary ( Madsen) Hallock  
Marie (Boos) Lauritzen  
Eugene Mecchi  
David Wright

The members of the committee are already looking forward to planning another reunion in 2008!



## SRHS Calendar of Events

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
13th - Homecoming	30th (through Dec. 2nd) -	15th - Choral Winter
14th - Homecoming Game	Dance Company	Concert
	performance	

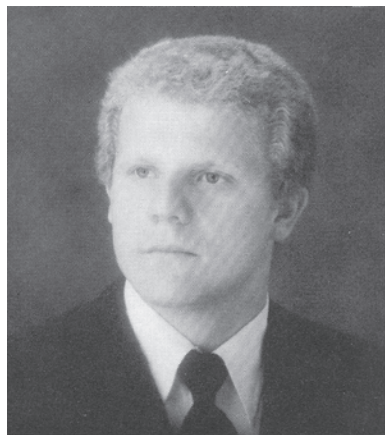
Check the SRHS website to find out about your favorite sporting events [www.santarosahigh.org](http://www.santarosahigh.org). Thank you for supporting SRHS and our students.

Terry Swehla  
Faculty Liaison



Some Panthers have accomplished some notable physical feats recently: **Josh Grace '89** and **Jeanette Spenst Grace '89** continue their competition in Scottish Games. Josh placed first in his category at the Dunsmuir games in July, and Jeanette placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in hers; Foundation Director **Mike Grace '65** also continues to compete in the games. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dunsmuir; Director **David Thompson '92** successfully completed the arduous climb to the summit of Mt. Rainier in Washington State; **Julia Stamps '95**, a nationally-ranked runner while at SRHS and Stanford University, returned to the sport after a long layoff because of injury. Now she's running marathons. She finished first in the women's division of the San Francisco Marathon in July; **Bob Barton '59** and his son Rob competed in the West Marine Pacific Cup, a race from San Francisco to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands. They sailed their 56-foot yacht. At press time, their order of finish was not known, but they did finish first in their class in last year's Transpacific Yacht Race from Southern California to Hawaii . . . **Robert Parker '63** recently retired and is now donating time and effort to Baylor University's hospital to help design "new protocols for the rehabilitation of cardiac

surgery patients." Bob and his wife live in Nevada near Lake Tahoe . . . **Beth Kelly '83** is now teaching physical education at Grossmont College in San Diego and enjoying the beaches . . . **Bret Martin '84** has been writing and making music and recently released his first video on the website youtube.com (you can access the link to the video on the website www.theheartsoftheworld.com) . . . **David Jager '86** is currently living in Toronto, Canada and runs a music program for at-risk kids . . . **Kevin Gobel '86** has been using his home in the San Francisco to host quarterly fundraisers for non-profits . . . **Liliana Galashvilly '87** recently married in an exciting ceremony that combined Christian and Jan religious faiths. She and her husband recently bought a home in the Piedmont area of Oakland. Liliana works in real estate in San Francisco . . . Married to a chiropractor, **Carla Savage Sachs '87** lives in Morro Bay. She has lived in Spain, then moved to Iowa where she operated "Nomadix," a store selling eclectic import goods. She also coordinated poetry readings at the store. She and her



Bret Martin ('84 Echo)

husband have 2 kids . . . **Kristen Munck '88** says she has experienced "lots of school stuff, more school, 3 kids and more training." She makes her living as an ear, nose and throat doctor at UCSF . . . **Brett Shoemaker '88** served 3 years in the U.S. Army. He says he then partied and later got serious and earned a degree in mathematics and another in psychology . . . **Susan Reumann-Grattini '96** lives in New York after traveling as a national manager for a New York City-based events firm. She's now married and expecting her first child . . . **Jesus Valencia '04** is attending Le Cordon Bleu in S.F, "hoping one day to be a top restaurateur/gastronome, specializing in classic, regional Mexican cuisine" . . . an exchange student from Belgium, **Morgane DeSalle '04** wrote the Foundation website to comment that she "could tell the teachers at SRHS really cared" and that the diversity of the school contributed to her positive world view.



Robert Parker ('63 Echo)

## Rose Kai Remembered

By Phyllis Osakai

Ed. Note: Rose Kai was one of the SRHS students relocated during WWII. The following was sent to us by her daughter, Phyllis.

**B**orn in Santa Rosa in 1923, Rose Kai was the second to the youngest of the Kai children. She lived in Sonoma County until she was interned during World War II. She married Tetsuo Osaki in 1946, and they had three daughters, Phyllis, Beverly and Cynthia. She was the grandmother of five.

An energetic, enthusiastic and caring woman with an infectious laugh and a beautiful smile, Rose would have graduated from SRHS in 1943. Her relocation to the Tule Lake camp in California prevented that. She often told us her dream was to attend Santa Rosa Junior College after high school, but because her college years were spent in the camp she could not.

Education was extremely important to Rose, and she instilled that importance in her daughters and grandchildren. As her eldest, I have fond memories of her taking me to the library every week when I was six years old. We would read together each day before school started. I know that this wonderful time we had together is the primary reason that I am still an avid reader.

As we were growing up, my sisters and I heard wonderful stories about her life in Santa Rosa. Her parents owned a local boarding house where Japanese men working in Sonoma County lived. These men all sent money home to their families in Japan. My mother told us how frightening it was when the FBI took her father without warning. My grandfather was very active in the Japanese community and was instrumental in obtaining the building from the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair that still stands as the Sebastopol Buddhist Temple. When he was finally released to join his family in the camp, his once shining black head of hair was pure white.

Rose Kai passed away in January, 2005. If she were still with us she would have been thrilled to attend the SRHS Commencement exercises in order to receive her diploma after 63 years. Her philosophy was always "better late, than never."

Currently studying politics at ULB in Belgium, Morgane will soon move to England for more study. Pandy wishes you the best, Morgane. Send your **Panther Patter** to mdaniels@sonic.net



# Reunion Information

Are you getting ready to start planning your next reunion? The Foundation has many valuable resources including our Reunion Coordinator Page, found on our website, [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org), where you'll find many helpful links and resources.

Finding classmates is one of the most challenging jobs for reunion coordinators. If you know the whereabouts of any SRHS grads, let their Class reunion coordinator know and be sure to recommend they post their BIO on the Foundation website. You can also find up-to-the-minute reunion information including dates, links, reunion coordinators, etc. and more there - [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org).

After the reunion, tell us who you saw, how much fun you had and any other news! We love to share your recaps, stories and photos. You can also link your reunion photos on our website! The recaps we've received so far are on page 7!

## **Class of 1961, 45th CONFIRMED DATE AND LOCATION!**

Date: January 20, 2007

Location: Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club

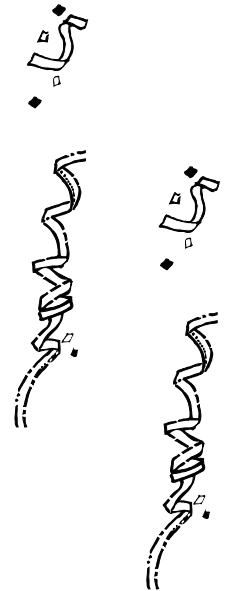
We need your help!

For more information contact:

Ann Hutchinson Porrino

3305 Jeremy Court, SR, CA 95404 (707) 575-4745

e-mail: [porrinopad@aol.com](mailto:porrinopad@aol.com)



## **Class of 1966, 40th**

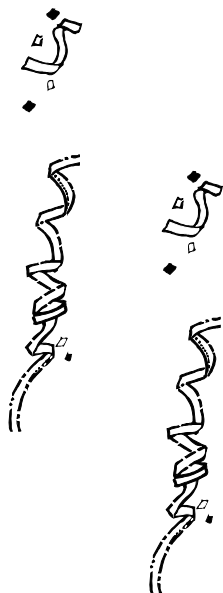
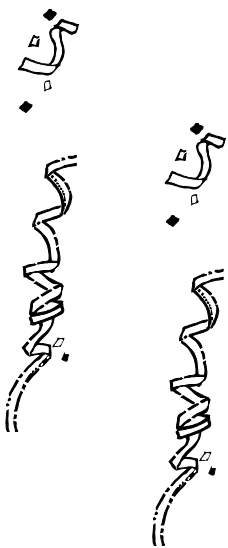
Date: October 14, 2006

Location: Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club

Dinner Dance

Grad Night: Friday October 13 - Hilton

Tour newly remodeled SRHS, mid-day, Saturday, October 14th. Contact: Leigh Hutchinson Heyer. E-mail any contact info, address changes or other vital information. [leighheyer@yahoo.com](mailto:leighheyer@yahoo.com) or phone: (707) 539-1120.



## **Class of 1996, 10th**

Date: October 28, 2006

Location: Doubletree Hotel  
Sonoma County

We are currently planning our class reunion. Please contact us: Michelle Crosbie (Nelson) [mcsr96@gmail.com](mailto:mcsr96@gmail.com) and Arthur Chung [rt1manparty@yahoo.com](mailto:rt1manparty@yahoo.com)



### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

When submitting photos for the newsletter, be sure to provide the identity of the individuals in the photos, the year the photo was taken, if you would like the source of the photo identified and any other relevant information regarding the photo.

Article submissions are invited. Letters should be 150 or fewer words. All submissions are subject to editing. We also invite your submissions to Panther Patter. Please provide information about Santa Rosa High School graduates including about their family, work and what they have been doing since high school.

Submissions of photos and text can be made by e-mail, through our website as well as by mail. E-mail to [mdaniels@sonic.net](mailto:mdaniels@sonic.net) or mail to P. O. Box 11002 Santa Rosa, CA 95406.



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 Staff  Friend

Membership and contributions:  1 yr \$25  2 yrs \$45  
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SRHS Foundation in reaching its goals.

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You may make tax-deductible contributions, join and renew your membership on-line at our website [www.srhshf.org](http://www.srhshf.org);  
OR return this form to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11002, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.