



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2012

Vol. 24

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*

Robert Ripley and SRHS -- Believe it or Not! by Steve Hart '68

He is Santa Rosa High School's most famous alumnus, although he was forced to drop out a few months before graduation in 1908.

Robert L. Ripley founded an entertainment empire that now includes 85 attractions in 11 countries, television programs in 70 countries and the world's longest running newspaper cartoon feature, *Ripley's Believe it or Not!*

It might not have happened without the encouragement of a legendary SRHS English teacher, Miss Frances O'Meara. Ripley was a struggling student who was often punished for doodling in class. But Miss O'Meara saw artistic talent in his drawings and started him on a path to fame and fortune. Ripley never forgot Santa Rosa or Miss O'Meara. The globe-trotting celebrity sent her souvenirs of his travels and long-stemmed roses on the golden anniversary of her teaching career. At an appearance at SRHS in 1932, he thanked Miss O'Meara for his success.

He was born LeRoy Robert Ripley in a small wood-frame house on Orchard Street in Santa Rosa in 1890. He attended nearby Lewis Grammar School but didn't stand out. In fact, other kids teased him for his large face, crooked teeth and funny

ears. He changed his first name and began drawing in grammar school, but his artistic efforts didn't win Ripley any points with his teachers. They called it a distraction and boxed his ears, classmates later recalled.

He started at the old SRHS campus on Humboldt Street in 1904 and finally found an outlet for his cartooning. That's when he entered Room 10A, the classroom of Miss O'Meara. She started teaching at SRHS in the 1880s and was known as a disciplinarian, despite her tiny stature. She demanded much from her pupils but took great interest in them, former students remembered. Miss O'Meara soon realized Ripley had a unique talent and put him to work drawing for the school newspaper and yearbook. His cartoons made him popular with fellow students, who gave him the nickname "Rip." But cartooning didn't leave him much time for schoolwork, and he barely earned a C average in his classes.

Miss O'Meara decided to let him make illustrations of the classic novels she assigned, instead of writing essays. She praised Ripley's detailed scenes from Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." He started getting A's in English.

He also excelled on the school's baseball team. But Ripley's education suffered when his father died and he had to take a job polishing tombstones to help support his mother. He dropped out of school in 1908, but was still honored at that year's graduation ceremony.

Ripley took his cartoons to Herbert Slater, the state senator and *Press Democrat* columnist, who suggested he try his luck at one of the San Francisco dailies. He soon found work as a sports illustrator at the *San Francisco Examiner*.

He later moved to the *New* ..continued on page 3

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President's Message

As the new SRHS Foundation President, I offer my thanks to the outgoing Foundation officers for their great work. The list includes Tony Negri, President; Jon Stiffler, Vice-President; and Sue Bolt, Secretary. At the same time I welcome these new officers: Karen Petersen, Vice-President; Mike Daniels, Secretary; and Mary Schaefer, Treasurer.



We look forward to serving and maintaining the success of the past Foundation Board of Directors.

What an exciting time this is to serve as Foundation President! The Foundation will be 25 years old next year and will continue to host its series of successful events, including assisting with class reunions. I saw the value of that assistance first-hand at my own recent reunion—the 50th for 1962.

The 17th annual golf tournament, held in September at Oakmont, was one of the most successful ever. Ninety two golfers played the course and raised over \$20,000 for SRHS. They enjoyed exceptional weather and the extremely well-organized tournament and dinner by co-chairs Doug Pavese and Sue Bolt. The money will be placed in the Panther Project Fund to support requests from SRHS faculty, staff and administration. That fund has already this year supported over \$26,000 in project requests.

Notable among them is the cost of transportation for the entire junior class (500 students) to see the Cost of Freedom Tribute, a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Another significant item is the overnight field trip to Alcatraz Island for English Department students. In addition, the original plaques and light fixtures attached to the main building and the music building were restored—what a refreshing change and enhancement to campus beauty!

As the endowment created by One Thousand Panthers continues to grow, funding for such events and projects will be available to SRHS for many, many years in the future. If you haven't become a part of that campaign, please explore the idea. There are a number of ways you can contribute. Ann Hutchinson Porrino is the board member to contact.

Mark your calendar for January 19 for the Crab Feed and April 26 for the Polenta Feed. Both will be at the Vets' Memorial. And, if you haven't yet done so, check out the Foundation's new web site (same address) www.srhsf.org.

Jim Ward, '62
President 2012-2014



● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● **Fourth Annual Crab Feed set for** ● ● **January** ● ● **by Donna Dennes Peterson '67** ●

● The SRHS Foundation cordially invites you to ●
● its Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, January 19 at the ●
● Vets' Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. The menu ●
● will include fresh, delicious Dungeness crab, clam ●
● chowder and all the fixings prepared by renowned ●
● chef Randy Apel. ●

● The SRHS cheerleading squad will lead cheers ●
● to fire up school spirit. They'll also lead a silent ●
● auction, the proceeds to support their program. ●

● Tickets are \$50 per person and will be on sale ●
● beginning November 1. No-host cocktails will be- ●
● gin at 5:30 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. ●
● Seating will be for tables of 8 to 10 people. ●

● To order tickets, please call the Pandy Line at ●
● 571-7747 and leave your name and telephone num- ●
● ber. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. ●

● The Crab Feed is a great way to support SRHS ●
● students and programs—remember, Once a Panther, ●
● Always a Panther! ●



Got Wine? To Donate?

If you have a case or more of wine you'd like to donate to the January Crab Feed, the Foundation would love to receive it! A bottle of red and a bottle of white for each table will welcome and express the Foundation's appreciation to the guests.

If you can help, please call the Pandy Line (571-7747). We'll come to your house or place of work. Many thanks!

continued from page 1... *York Globe*, where he came up with the idea for *Believe it or Not!* On a slow news day in 1918, Ripley found himself out of ideas for his daily sports cartoon. So he illustrated a random assortment of offbeat facts about sports and called it *Believe it or Not!* The feature was so popular that he would produce it for the next 30 years. Ripley traveled the world to find strange stories, odd facts and bizarre objects to entertain his millions of readers.

He also published submissions from his fans, including a boy named Charles M. Schulz, who in 1937 sent him a cartoon of his unusual dog, Spike, who liked to eat pins, tacks and other sharp objects.

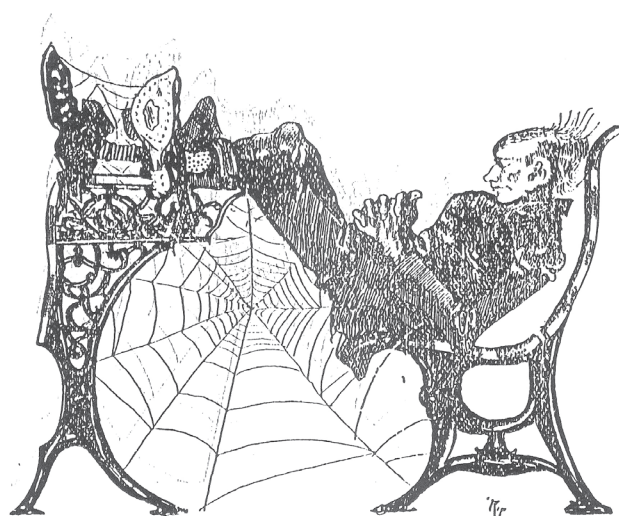
Ripley employed a team of researchers, fact-checkers and artists to produce the daily feature. He amazed readers with an endless stream of strange-but-true items: a two-headed calf, shrunken heads, a car made of wood, the world's ugliest woman, an albino giraffe, a human pincushion and a man who could only walk backward.

Ripley also cultivated an outlandish personal image. He wore Asian robes, kept a pet boa constrictor and owned a Chinese junk.

He launched a successful radio show in the early 1930s. Ripley soon was making \$1 million a year and hobnobbing with celebrities at his Long Island estate. By the 1940s, *Believe it or Not!* was so popular that Ripley was getting more mail than the U.S. president. Newsreels showed him on safari in a pith helmet and knickers, dancing with an African tribe and loading camels with exotic memorabilia. In 1936, newspaper readers named him the most popular man in America. He was a multimedia pioneer, adapting *Believe it or Not!* to books, movies, museums (he called them "Odditoriums") and later to television.



Ripley poses with shrunken head roots. When high school classmates visited New York, he'd



Ripley sleeping student cartoon
1909 *Echo*

host them at his mansion and give them tours of his vast collections. In 1932, he returned triumphantly to SRHS and spoke to a standing-room crowd at the new high school's auditorium. He called his old English teacher to the stage, where he gave Miss O'Meara a kiss and presented her with a jade and gold necklace that he'd collected in his Asia travels.

Miss O'Meara had saved Ripley's early drawings, but they were destroyed in the 1921 fire that burned the Humboldt Street campus. Ripley continued the friendship with his teacher, bringing her to New York for an appearance on his radio program. When she retired from SRHS in 1939 there was a gala celebration that drew 2,500 people. Ripley sent roses and a congratulatory telegram.

She became ill a few months later. "May God be good and grant you another 50 year to spread love and kindness and wisdom among us," Ripley said in a get-well note. He signed it "Believe it or Not! Ripley who still loves his teacher." Miss O'Meara died in 1940.

Ripley died of a heart attack in 1949, shortly after launching *Believe it or Not!* in a brand-new medium called television. His body was returned to Santa Rosa, where he's buried next to his parents in the Odd Fellows cemetery on Franklin Avenue.

Another local Ripley landmark is the Church Built from One Tree in Santa Rosa's Julliard Park. His mother had attended the church, built in 1873 with lumber from a single Guerneville redwood. Ripley made it famous in one of his cartoons. Once home to the city's Ripley Museum, it is now an event center.

Today, Ripley's entertainment empire is part of a Canadian conglomerate with \$7.3 billion in annual sales and 34,000 employees. Ripley Entertainment includes "Odditoriums," aquariums, haunted houses, wax museums, resorts, golf courses, arcades and other attractions.

And it all started in Miss O'Meara's English class at Santa Rosa High School. Believe it or not.



Ripley and Frances O'Meara
1939 *Echo*

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I thank the SRHS Foundation for choosing me for the Lorenzo Solis Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thompson
2012

Editor:

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the SRHS Foundation for awarding me the Jerry Poncia Scholarship. With this scholarship I will be able to continue my education at SRJC. Besides continuing my education, I most importantly get to keep continuing my love and passion for agriculture. I am the fifth generation of a farming family, and I want to keep the tradition going. Thanks to your help I can. Thank you so very much again for supporting me and investing in my future.

Sincerely,

Lori Bisordi
2012

Editor:

Thank you for mentioning my donation of the GAA sweater in the last newsletter. In high school I was very active in sports, band and orchestra. My physical ed teacher was Miss Cross who married and became Mrs. Carpenter.

My two brothers also attended SRHS. Donald Boyd '49, the oldest, was active in track and wood and metal shop. He passed away in October 2007. Darwin Boyd '55, my other brother, passed away in March 2012.

I hope my sweater will bring back great memories to others of their Panther years.

Thank you,

Lewanna Boyd Archer-Brown
1960

Editor:

I thank the Foundation so much for honoring me with the Bruce Mecchi Memorial Scholarship. It is because of this award that I am able to continue my education. I plan on attending SRJC and then transfer to UC Davis for a BS degree and then to UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to become a vet.

Sincerely,

Patrick Cunningham
2012

Editor:

The Class of 1962 takes its hat off to the Foundation. What wonderful contributions you are making to our alma mater.

Our 50th reunion was enhanced by your generous contributions. Thank you for the donation of postage for our first mailing. That helps when the bank account is empty! All who attended hugely enjoyed the campus tour. Tony and Mike are such lively, fun and knowledgeable guides. We were all in awe seeing how our beautiful school is kept in such pristine condition. We are excited about the wonderful education current students are receiving, and the community is the lucky recipient of the fine citizens who graduated from SRHS. One of the Foundation's projects is the museum with the marvelous artifacts. One is the Pandy costume that thrilled us with a surprise visit at our reunion. A thank you is in order.

Thank you for your amazing work and your contributions that made our reunion truly memorable.

Sincerely,

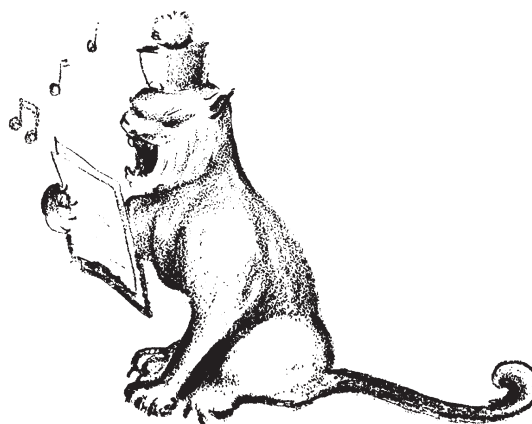
Rochelle Bowman Berizzi
1962

Editor:

I thank the Foundation for awarding me one of the two Jack Kellar "Lucky Jade" scholarships. The money will help me in both my musical and professional endeavors. I will attend the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in the teaching studio of Paul Johnson. I will pursue a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance, hoping for a career in a major symphony orchestra. SRHS was a key part of my musical and personal development. What I have learned will carry on with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for supporting me in my professional aspirations.

Sincerely,

Nolan Center
2012



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 alumni.

Santa Rosa High School Foundation News is published quarterly by the Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. Subscription rate is \$25 per year, which includes membership in the Foundation. You may also sponsor an edition of the newsletter. Please contact us if you would like more information, 707-571-SRHS.

Historian/Editor: Mike Daniels '59

Newsletter Publisher: Alicia Hodenfield '85

Newsletter Team: Mike Daniels '59, Mike Grace '65, Penny Hastings '59, Alicia Hodenfield '85, Carol Laabs Patterson '55, Jacky Cooper Schalich '57, Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59

SRHS Foundation Directors

Carol Laabs Patterson '55	Karen Skelgaard Petersen '72
JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56	Denise Dwyer Fossi '72
Jacky Cooper Schalich '57	Jon Stiffler '72
Doug Pavese '58 *	Mary Schaefer '76
Nadine Wiggins	Justin Walling '89
Smedshammer '59	Christine Romani Tonelli '88
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Ann Hutchinson Porrino '61	Sue Bolt Friend
Jim Ward '62	Tony Negri Retired Faculty
Mike Grace '65 *	Art Horner Faculty Liaison
Ilona Mayer Williams '64	
Donna Dennes Peterson '67 *	* Founding Directors
Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68	

Giving Through the SRHS Foundation

- 1.) Establish an Unrestricted Fund (in your name or anonymously) with a gift of \$10,000 or more
- 2.) Establish a Restricted Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more
- 3.) Include a Bequest or Planned Gift in your estate plan
- 4.) An unrestricted cash gift of any amount that will be directed by the board to a current-need program

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 Trust

For further information, please contact Doug Pavese, SRHS Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406, or call Doug at 707-538-3167.

Please speak with your tax advisor regarding your charitable contribution.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Article submissions are invited. Limit to 850 words and letters no more than 150 words. All submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Foundation.

Please submit articles and letters without anchors and in unformatted text. Submissions are also invited to Panther Patter.

Please submit photos and graphics separately from text but do provide identity of subjects and other relevant information.

Submissions can be made through US Postal Service to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 96406-1006 or through e-mail to mdaniels@sonic.net.

NEXT DEADLINE:

January 2, 2013 for the
February, 2013 mailing

In Memoriam

R.V. Johnson	Faculty
Stan Denner	1938
Jack Dakin	1938
Joseph "Beppi" Narduzzi	1939
John Mazzetta	1941
Frank Michetti	1943
Douglas Hogue	1949
Robert Bush	1951
Robert Marigo	1953
Richard Faulkner	1958
Nathan "Tony" Patchett	1961
Daniel Prior	1962
Diane Rossiter	1963
John Low	1963
Gene Pickrell	1963
Charles Stiffler	1965
Holly Arrowood	1988
Wendell Young	1997
Broc Cresta	2005

The good news to share with you is that the Foundation continues to grow by welcoming 56 new members and receiving 167 membership renewals since the last newsletter. Contributions and memorial gifts this period are \$7,765. Thanks to all of you who include the Foundation in your gift giving.

The following members and friends contributed additional funds over and above their membership fees:

Agilent Tech Foundation Campaign Friends: James Cunningham Deborah Debret Elyse DeSalvo	Richard Decroff '65 Robert Dickerson '45 Charlie Dunnet '48 Bill and Carole Fairbanks '55/'57 Barbara Fisher '48 David Gervais '59 Brian and Kim Glynn Friends Bonnie Hindley '60 Human Race Friends Yvonne Horn '49 Amelia Hutto '42 Melania Kang Friend Steve and Emily Klein '92/'97 Kathy Koenig '62 Ronald Kristof Retired Staff Trudy Larsen '46 Martha Maxwell '57 Carol Mazzia '68 Judy (Vaughn) McAleece '64 Alec McCorquodale '58 James Miller '40	Doris Nash '45 Patricia Pickering '49 William Pisenti, Jr. '66 Thelma Ramsey '43 Gary Rasche '61 Darrell Rego '58 Patty Reynolds '82 Mary Rigney '61 Christine Robertson Friend M. Candace Roney '66 Leighton Royston '53 Candace Rush '65 Peter and Jane Schmidt '61 Tim Schmidt '66 Sandra Spencer '54 Mary Jo Spring '52 Leo Starkey '55 Jack Swire '53 Pat Tilley '58 Patricia Waldow '53 Donna Warren '58 Eileen Wise '55
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Special Thanks to Pete and Leslie Richmond, class of 1982, for their generous scholarship contribution

If you have friends who are interested in joining the Foundation, encourage them to do so by using the form available in this newsletter or by going on-line at www.srhsf.org to make their contributions and join.

Editor:

My colleagues and I have many times been the grateful recipients of the Foundation's generosity. The newsletter and the Polenta Feed demonstrate the growth and loyalty of the membership, and we the staff of SRHS can never believe how lucky we are. If we are in need of something to improve student learning, we can come to you and know that you will listen.

Imagine my surprise, not having offered any recent request, when I received a parcel containing all kinds of useful and wonderful audio-visual materials to use in our French classes. Fantastic! The box arrived from Santa Barbara, sent to me by Foundation member Gwen Rigby, who as Gwen Stebbings, graduated from SRHS in 1964. She became a French teacher, and upon reading my name in the newsletter, she packed up "une boite a tresors" (a box of treasures) to share with me. How amazing!

During our subsequent e-mail correspondence I have discovered a kindred spirit who believes in the value of fun while teaching language. She has even admitted to being "one of the clandestine Pandies" during her time at SRHS!

The Foundation has many far-reaching ways of connecting with others and of enriching the lives of those connected with SRHS. Thank you, merci beaucoup, for instilling such lasting pride in all of us!

Sincerely,

Amanda Newlon
Prof de francais, SRHS

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Evelyn Antonioli Memorial

Dick and Angie Colombini '49

The Nina Arrabit Memorial

Book Group Friends:

Jane Bartholow

Donna Born

Pat Bruer

Kitty Dobbert

Betty Jemail

Greta Larsen

Marie Laskelle

Judy Miller

Jan Pisenti

Kathy Podway

Sue Self

Mary Testorelli

Marilyn Turner

Alice VonderMehden

Clay and Kim Clement '86

Dick and Angie Colombini '49

Nancy Diez '49

William Fulwider '39

Ting Guggiana '49

Lorne and Janice Swanets '52

Art Valencia '59

Robert and Dolores Zeni Friends

The Holly Arrowood Memorial

Thelma Ramsey '43

The St. John Barrett Memorial

James Miller '40

The Gloria Caldwell Memorial

Mary Testorelli '47

The Doug Campbell Memorial

Mike Daniels '59 and Penny Hastings '59

Dan Kelly '59

The Jebby Cooper Memorial

Mike Daniels '59 and Penny Hastings '59

The Raul Diaz Memorial

Mike Daniels '59 and Penny Hastings '59

The Richard Faulkner Memorial

James Laier '58

The Jack Garrigan Memorial

Dorothy Calegari '64

The Joe Lazzini Memorial

Stephanie Madison '72

The Bob Marigo Memorial

Bill Fisher '49

The Joan Martin Schefer Memorial

Jan Lawson '48

The June Fox Marsh Memorial

Bill and Gloria Wymore, Friends

The Richard Martin Memorial

Jan Lawson '48

The John Mazzetta Memorial

Joseph and Debra Anastasia, Friends

Janet Barri '70

John and Allene Cornolo '55

Carol Fitzpatrick '67

Chet and Gloria Galeazzi '40/'41

Francis and Ann Garzoli '51

Rick and Paulette Gomes '68

Ray and Kathy Lazzini '48/'51

Clarence and Genevieve Mazzetta '46

Rich and Cynthia Miller '68

Michael and Renee Marie Milligan, Friends

Bill and Linda Pisenti '66

Earl and Gwen Sandstrom, Friends
Santa Rosa Meat & Poultry Co. Inc.

Tom and Carol Siebe, Friends
Zollie and Paula Sutherland,
Friends

Tuttle's Pharmacies, Inc.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Bart Morrison Memorial

Bob Morrison '55

The Joe Nordyke Memorial

George and Marilyn Econome '52

Nick and Ann Econome '51

Bill Fisher '49

Richard and Marilyn Hunter '49/'52

Mary Testorelli '47

The Evelyn Osten Memorial

Tom and Debra Minard, Friends

Joan Ringler, Friend

The Frank Reed Memorial

Art Valencia '59

The Jinx Reynaud Memorial

Sally Kaufman '52

The Larry Sani Memorial

Rae Gambini '37

The Chuck Stiffler Memorial

Bob Brown and Jan Nieblas '64

Rick and Paulette Gomes '68

Mike and Kathy Grace '65

Mary Guynn Friend

Anita Hart Friend

Gordon and Terri Martin '69

Mary Testorelli '47

The Bob Thompson Memorial

Mike Daniels '59 and Penny Hastings '59

Bruce Mecchi Scholarship

2012 Forestry Crab Feed Committee

(Note): If you wish to have your donation acknowledged to the family of the memorial honoree, please include an address for that purpose. Concerns or questions about membership or contributions should be directed to Ilona Mayer Williams '64 at 707 568-4157 or LWILLIE888@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Parla l'italiano?

by Carla Forchini, instructor

ed note: From the October 7, 1931 Santa Rosan. "Italian has been added to the curriculum this semester . . . The course was added because one third of the population of Santa Rosa is Italian, and it was felt that the course would be of value culturally and practically." Then, a few years ago, Carla Forchini resurrected the teaching of Italian. It is a popular course.

This past summer I visited with Joseph "Beppi" Narduzzi, Class of 1939. This sweet man passed away in August at the age of 92.

I had a fantastic visit with Beppi. He read about the current Italian class in the Foundation newsletter and contacted me to let me know that I am not the first teacher of the Italian language at SRHS.

He shared many stories about SRHS in the 30s. The Italian teacher came each day from Asti (Italian Swiss Colony). Beppi still has his Italian notebook with all of his notes.

He told me stories about the kids in class (same as today!), and how sad they were when the class was cancelled in 1939 due to Mussolini and World War II. After graduation, Beppi enlisted in the US Army to get his American citizenship. He explained that in the push north to liberate Italy, they had to rebuild the destroyed bridges over the Po River.

After Italy was liberated, Beppi was given a five day leave. He used the time to meet his grandfather for the first time in his native village in the Friuli region. Beppi had left at three years old with his mother and father and had never been back.

Beppi had a lot of photos, posters and other artifacts from his time in Italy. He met his wife there, brought her back to the United States and raised a beautiful family in the Roseland district of Santa Rosa.

Beppi, I am so glad you shared your stories with me! You will be missed!



"Beppi" Narduzzi
1939 Echo



'61 Panthers keep rolling

by Jim Nelson '61

After a fun-filled 50th Reunion in 2011, the '61 Panthers decided to continue the momentum.

In August, the class met at River Front Park outside of Windsor on the Russian River. A beautiful location, the park is set in huge redwoods and has fantastic views of three small lakes and bucolic surroundings.

The gathering brought together 28 classmates, spouses and friends for a fabulous picnic of barbecued chicken and tri-tip, complemented by a variety of salads, specialties and desserts. The weather provided a beautiful day.

High praise and many thanks go to Richard Pitkin, Debbie Jolli Martini, Ann Hutchinson Porrino and Pam Esposti Aberigi for their organizational skills. And thanks to all the classmates who made the gathering special.

The warm and engaging afternoon provided ample opportunity to remi-

n i s c e
and vis-
it. We
agreed
the '61
Panthers
have the
desire
to stay
c o n -
nected,
so this
gathering
was the
first of
many to
come.
We hope
m o r e
c l a s s -



Mike Bogue, Pam Esposti Aberigi, Debbie Jalli Martini, Jane Hamilton Schmidt, Ann Hutchinson Porrino, Rick Wallstrum, Gary Faul and Sue and Tom Whitaker enjoy a reunion lunch in the redwoods

mates will plan to attend these events.

The '61er story continues . . .

Polenta Feed review

by Jacky Cooper Schalich '57 and JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56

Oh, the fun they had! The reference is of course to the Foundation Polenta Feed back in April, attended by 676 grads, spouses, teachers and friends who celebrated the Feed's sixteenth year.

This year the "Blanket Boys," the athletes chosen to receive the Blanket Award, were honored during the annual dinner. From 1939 to 1974 the football, basketball, baseball and wrestling teammates selected one athlete as the best all-around on the team. His name was stitched on a felt blanket that hung in the gym. When the tradition died out, three blankets had 189 athletic names on them. Forty blanket winners attended the Feed, were photographed and given a t-shirt emblazoned with "A School so Awesome, They Named a Town After It."

A huge thank you goes to Principal's Secretary Marlene Callen for spearheading this special event.

The 1930s Panthers also were honored: Ann Piseni '24, Nello Bassignani '31, Peter Bassignani '33, Bill Piseni '34, George Connors '36, Julia Bussman '37, Pauline Guanella '38, Lenora Falco '39 and Bill Fulwider '39. Each received a boutonniere and a huge round of applause.

Behind the scenes twelve dedicated men slaved away in the kitchen. The cooks extraordinaire included Ray Lazzini, Randy Apel, Jim Uboldi, Elmo Rossi, Steve Lazzini, Ron Ferrita, Bill Ward, Bill Occhipinti, Mike Dolce, Tom Timko, Jim Armstrong and Craig Kays.

The polenta was the best ever, the salad was great and the antipasto trays disappeared quickly. Dessert of orange sherbet and homemade brownies were a perfect ending to a wonderful meal. The cooks were awarded a plaque of appreciation to be hung on the wall of fame.

Forty SRHS students handled the serving and made certain everyone was happy. Each went home with a \$35 gratuity, one girl proudly proclaiming, "Now I can buy my prom dress!" Thanks to Art Horner for recruiting those super kids.

In addition, the raffle was generously supported, the kids led the audience in the fight song and everyone again realized "Once a Panther, Always a Panther!"

The amazing Foundation board made the success possible through their dedication, and it is a delight to report the evening netted \$23, 240 that will directly support SRHS activities. Congratulations are due Foundation members also. Working together for this special cause is always a joy.

Mark your calendar now for the next Polenta Feed—April 26!



ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

by Ann Hutchinson Porrino '61



The following donations were not acknowledged in the annual report issue. The Foundation thanks these folks.

Bonnie Panazzera '63 and faculty '69-80

Eric Pierce '65

Testorelli Family in memory of Bob Testorelli '45
Testorelli Family in memory of Gerald Gleason '46
Patricia Walker Yeckel '66

The Foundation welcomes these new donors to the ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS Endowment Fund

Robert Bryan '52

Robert Brown '64

Peggy Call '41

in memory of Candy Call Venge '63
Karen Leung and Tony Chu, parents

Joshua and Jeannette Grace '89

Earl Johnson '58

The Pastis Family
in memory of Rick Daniels '60
Larry Weese '64

The Foundation also welcomes three "pooled" funds from reunion get togethers.

A pooled fund is a donation of \$1000 or more from three or more donors.

Class of 1956

Class of 1957

Class of 1961

The Foundation is pleased that parents have joined the Parade and hopes many more parents will become members.

Today's students immediately benefit from the Foundation's tireless efforts to improve SRHS.

***Please join the Parade of Panthers!
Mail the enclosed return card with your donation.***

Gifts to the Fund are tax deductible as the Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation. The tax ID is 68-0195375. Checks can be made out to the SRHS Foundation and mailed to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa CA 95406. If you have any questions, please email: donations@SRHSF.org or call the Pandy Line at 707.571-7747.

Memories of My Father

by Brian Barclay, '72

My fondest SRHS memories date well before my years as a student. My father, William Barclay, was choral director from 1952 until his death in 1965.

As a kid, the SRHS Auditorium might have been the Paris Opera, huge and full of elegant people anticipating the performance. When I saw Dad on stage, my pride was beyond bursting. He did magical things with his choirs and glee clubs. His students were adults to me, and their music was perfect. The ovations seemed to go on forever, and I recall my father's beaming face as he received them. I believe those were his happiest moments. Sometimes I wish I could hear those concerts again, but I realize the memories, accurate or not, are special and perfect. I was very proud of him. He was my hero.

I did not understand my father truly was a hero, one of a generation of heroes. Dad served as a sergeant in the Army during WW II. He was a music student at Illinois Wesleyan College, where he met my mother. They married just before he was sent for training and overseas. He and his engineering corps built pontoon bridges throughout France and Germany. An excellent marksman, he specialized in the bazooka. Wounded at the Battle of the Bulge, he was patched up and sent back to the front. Most soldiers did not have gear for the wet and freezing winters, so frozen extremities were epidemic. Dad suffered frozen feet.

When he came back after the war, he vowed he would never again live in cold weather, so he and Mom moved from Illinois to California. They stayed near Berkeley with my aunt and uncle. One cousin remembers those days, and told me of Dad's frequent screaming fits at night, and how he spent his days in a trance-like state playing boogie-woogie on the piano. But he defeated his demons as I don't remember any instability and I have trouble imagining it. Dad always seemed in control and focused. He never talked about his experiences. If I asked, he always deflected my questions with answers like "Oh, I tripped over a log one time" or "I stepped in a mud puddle and had to clean my boots." I learned the little I know in bits and pieces.

Dad enrolled at UC Berkeley on the GI Bill, but he disliked UC because he had to march in the band. He was a trumpet player and preferred jazz but discovered a love for choral conducting when he transferred to College of the Pacific. His first teaching job was as a high school band director in MacFarlane, a little town near Bakersfield.

They moved to Santa Rosa in 1952 when Dad took the job at SRHS, and I came along in 1954. Dad had his students over to the house often for parties and rehearsals, and they were always great to older brother Bruce and me. They encouraged my love for the piano and were interested and amazed at my abilities. I remember intense

and energized rehearsals, always with lots of humor.

Dad had the loudest finger snaps I have ever heard, and he used them effectively to gain attention. I loved the annual barbecue and softball game at the end of the school year. The students had a lot of fun, and they always made Bruce and me feel like part of the game, even though we were young. I remember overhearing Dad talk excitedly to my mom about student breakthroughs and problems. He cared deeply about his students and took great pride in their successes.

I saw him cry twice. Once, when one of his former students got a leading role in an important musical production in San Francisco, and the other when he received an acceptance letter from Stanford into the doctoral program. In the



William Barclay

1960 Echo

fall of 1962, Dad moved down to Palo Alto and into a tiny trailer that was his home for two years. We saw him weekends and holidays and missed him a lot, but I was proud he was

doing something important. One night, unexpectedly, he was home for good. I never learned why he discontinued his studies. I imagine he was not a perfect fit. He was a functional musician and an entertainer, not an academician. Also, he may not have felt well enough to continue. He taught one more year at SRHS before his death at 41.

About a year before he died, I was to perform at a recital. Dad was very sick. Mom insisted he stay in bed. I never saw him so disappointed. But the recital was rescheduled, and Dad rallied and attended. Excited but distracted that Dad was there, I played awfully. I felt terrible, but Dad's support made me feel better. I knew he loved me.

I understood Dad was very sick, but there was no discussion of his condition. Years later, Mom told me she believed he was going to die that first time. She regarded the last year of his life to be a bonus. In that year, Dad was in the sun every opportunity. There he studied scores or did written work. I think he did so to hide his sickly pallor. or maybe he just enjoyed that simple pleasure. I remember people complimented him on his healthy tan. In the summer of 1965, he became ill again, and he could not rally. He was brave, never complained or let on he was deathly ill. People were shocked when he passed.

Dad's influence defined Bruce and me. We inherited his passion for music. Bruce became an accomplished rock and jazz bassist and inherited ...continued on page 12

17th Annual SRHS Foundation Golf Tournament Sets Record

by Doug Pavese '58

The 17th Annual Foundation tournament, held on September 14, raised over \$20,400 that will directly benefit SRHS student academic and athletic enhancement programs. The Foundation thanks all of the golfers, tee and cart bag sponsors, raffle, muligan and silent and live auction prize contributors. The foundation especially acknowledges major sponsors Randy Apel, The Codding Foundation, The Dale Family, Exchange Bank, James Laier Jr., Doug Pavese, Ann Porrino and Varenna. Recognition also goes to all the hardworking volunteer committee



SRHS Cheer Squad greets the players



Open Division – Oren Smedshammer, Tom Schieberl, Richard Schieberl, Mike Lane

Quail Inn. After dinner, winning golfers were announced while the silent and live auction bidders competed for attractively priced items and packages.

This year's winners are as follows: Open Division – Oren Smedshammer, Tom Schieberl, Richard Schieberl, Mike Lane; Coed Division – Dominic Porrino, Andre Benson, Christy Rollofson, Don Rollofson; Men's Long Drive – Jeff Komar; Women's Long Drive – Mary Beseda; Senior Long Drive – Len read; Men's Closest to the Hole #16 – Buck Yaeger; Women's Closest to the Hole #16 – Darlene Bath; Putting contest – Pat Fahy.

The date of the 18th Annual tournament is Friday, September 13, 2013. Mark your calendar today. The tournament is open to all men or women golfing supporters of SRHS. If you want further information about next year's tournament, to serve on the golf committee or become a tournament sponsor, please email golf@srhsf.org or write SRHS Foundation Golf, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406 or call Doug Pavese at 707-538-3167.

members for their tireless efforts. Additional gratitude goes to the SRHS Cheerleaders, Pandy and Women's and Men's Golf Team members who welcomed and assisted golfers.

Ninety golfers in Open and Coed divisions assembled at the Oakmont West course and a shotgun start for the scramble format tournament. This may have been the most enjoyable and spirited tournament ever. Following the tournament, golfers and guests attended a fantastic awards dinner at Oakmont's



Coed Division – Dominic Porrino, Andre Benson, Christy Rollofson, Don Rollofson



continued from page 10...

Dad's beautiful baritone voice and enjoyed playing with Dad's old jazz cronies. When I was old enough to climb up on the piano bench, Dad taught me boogie-woogie and planted the seeds for musical improvisation. I inherited his devotion to musical education, and though I don't have the personality to teach, I take great pride in the accomplishments of my piano students.

I remember Dad recruiting Bill Feltz into the choir. Bill lived across from us on North Slater Street, about to enter SRHS. He came over one day while Dad worked on his second great passion, the sports car he designed and built. Wrench in hand, sleeves rolled up, sweating, Dad explained that if Bill joined the choir, he could expect to work hard but to have fun. Dad's great talent as an educator and in life was to tread that line where work meets fun. I could see that even when young.

Editor:

Big thank you to Mike Daniels and Tony Negri for a brilliant tour of SRHS for the Class of 1962, which I joined courtesy of my marriage to Diana Tillmannshofer Zollner. And thanks to Chris Zeek for the opportunity to sign his "Home Plate" and reminisce a bit about baseball at SRHS. And thanks to Ilona Mayer Williams for working at the reunion on Saturday night for the Foundation.

Go, Panthers!

Sincerely,

Bill Zollner
1964

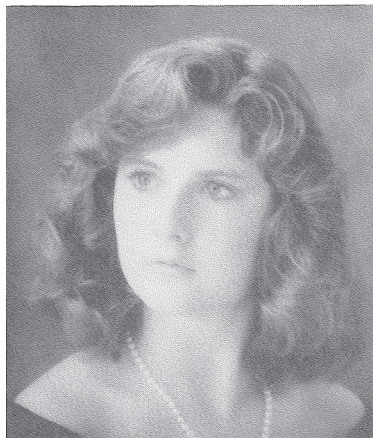


Bill Zollner, Todd Beseda and Bob Brown stand by the plaque honoring baseball coach Ruben Beseda



by Pandy

Tim Kniffin '85 honed his acting skills in August and September playing the lead role of Starbuck in the Cinnabar Theater production of *110 in the Shade*. Petaluma's Cinnabar has become a significant venue for live theater in the area, and Tim was a big contributor . . . After his stint with the Marines, **Keith Tucker '85** kept his military ties by continuing to serve with the Army Reserve. He recently competed in the German Armed Forces Proficiency, a series of five strenuous physical events, and finished first in his age group (he's 46 now). The competition was held at Monterey County's Fort Hunter Liggett, and Sgt. Tucker showed the youngsters how Panthers do it! . . . Some notable recent accomplishments by three alumna of the **Class of 1985** recently:

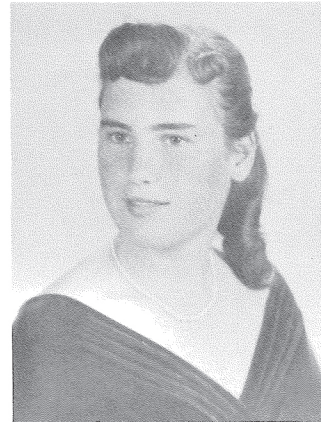


Holly Kralj
1985 *Echo*

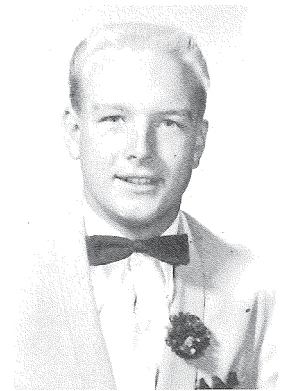
Megan O'Brien McLaughlin was elected to the Fairfax County School Board in Virginia, **Holly Kralj**, already a nurse practitioner and nurse midwife, recently joined OB-GYN Associates Medical Group in Chico and **Lisa Keller Evich** is now the enologist at Arrowood Winery . . .

The memory of **Jesse Williams '00** will be kept alive in "The Long Ride Home," a cinematic tribute to the US Army sergeant killed in the war in Iraq. Kevin Mincio, Jesse's buddy in basic training and during combat, made the film about his 4,400 mile bicycle trip from Santa Rosa to Ground Zero not only to honor Jesse but to create the Team Jesse Foundation to raise funds to help families of fallen soldiers nation wide . . . At the recent Sonoma County Book Festival, **Scott Gummer '82**, author of *Parents behaving Badly* and other books and articles about sports, entertained the crowd as he discussed his techniques and reasons for writing. If you haven't read "Parents," you'd like to know that it's a satire about organized youth sports and life in suburbia . . . tonorial artist **Jerry DeLaCruz '91** has set up his chair at the Montecito Shopping Center Barbershop on Santa Rosa's Montecito Blvd. He'd love to have classmates and other Panthers stop by for a visit and trim or style job . . . **Rich Thomas '59**, longtime viticulture instructor at SRJC and valued consultant to the wine industry, was recently honored as the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce named him to receive the 2012 Leadership in Agriculture Award . . . the Author's Night campus event that featured conversation between writer and peace activist **Frank Romano '69** and the PD's **Chris Smith** kept alive the tradition of notable figures speaking before the student body. Back in 1934, poet **Carl Sandburg** entertained students and the community with his

collection of folk songs, *American Song Bag* . . . **Keven Brown '85**, the fourth generation of his family to operate Corrick's, a SR retail landmark, plans some big changes for the store that will include live music, art sales and framing in addition to existing traditional wares . . . Museum donations: **George Alves '41** gave a collection of *Santa Rosans* from his era and **Lewanna Bloyd Archer '60** gave her GAA sweater that's so pristine it still has the tag indicating she bought it at Henderson's on Fourth Street. How many of you remember that clothing store? . . . A couple of cool campus happenings: On October 17, SRHS was one of ten high schools in the nation that participated in a webcast with noted film director and producer **Ken Burns** as his documentary on the Dust Bowl era was telecast. SRHS was chosen thanks to the efforts of **Eric Stanley** of the Sonoma County museum and SRHS social science instructor **Dave Franzman**. The other event is the transportation on November 9 of the entire **SRHS Junior Class** via 11 busses (funded by the Foundation) to Sonoma to view the traveling version of the **Vietnam Memorial**. This field trip was organized by social science instructor **Terry Swehla**. History truly comes alive for the students!



Lewanna Bloyd Archer
1960 *Echo*



Rich Thomas
1959 *Echo*

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"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"

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