



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2022

Vol.35

Issue 4

The mission of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation is to serve as a charitable organization to unite Santa Rosa High School alumni, parents, faculty, staff and interested community members in order to provide financial support for SRHS programs and students, and to preserve and document the history and traditions of SRHS.

SRHS AG DEPARTMENT GETS A UNIQUE NEW STRUCTURE

By Don Cambou

You may be tempted to call it a barn. After all, it will house the farm animals Ag students raise while they attend SRHS. But according to Lisa Piehl, head of the SRHS Agricultural Department, it's a multi-use showpiece that will serve SRHS, and many other area schools, for decades to come.

The \$3 million plus new Santa Rosa High Agricultural Facility is a huge roof covering a 10,000 square foot cement slab. Three separate areas will shelter hogs, sheep, and goats. Additional space exits if cattle ever join the other animals. Those livestock pens also have fans and misters. Only the west side has a closed wall. Behind the entrance of the structure is a 2,200 square foot

educational learning space, complete with lavatories, cabinets, storage room, wi-fi, HVAC system, tables, and chairs. The facility has a security system, landscaping, coyote fencing, and parking for 25 cars. Adjacent to the building is a new show ring for teaching students how to show their animals.

The facility is on the Santa Rosa City School's 60 acre Alba Lane Farm, just north of Santa Rosa. That's where SRHS Ag students tend and pick the grapes of a six acre Chardonnay vineyard that will become part of Kendall Jackson's La Crema Chardonnay and SRHS's Panther Chardonnay. The farm also has areas where students grow vegetables and flowers, and will replant and maintain a small orchard. Piehl says, "We'll be able to bring our students out to one spot where they can see a variety of sectors of agricultural industry happening in a working manner. There really isn't another school in northern California that has such a facility where all these things are happening at one time."



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A PHOTO WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

by Mike Daniels '59

Editor's note: Mike Daniels taught at SRHS for 30 years. He is a founding member of the Foundation, the previous editor of this newsletter, and a co-founder of the on-campus SRHS Museum.

What do a photo of Hollywood stars, a hamburger shop, old cars and a four-generation SRHS family have in common? Oh, and a basketball coach.

The answer of course is Santa Rosa High. The list includes Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, the Students' Inn, a '67 Volkswagen, the Wood family and Coach Jim Grisham. The connection follows.

When my interest in SRHS history surfaced, I prowled around in basements and storage areas and looked in yearbooks and newspapers, gathering artifacts and bits of information. I even had my students research and write on campus topics for their term papers. During this time, a photograph of Gable and Lombard in front of SRHS emerged.

While more than one explanation for the photo also developed, its actual history concerns the Woods. The family operated the Students' Inn opposite the campus. While he

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Mary Orsborn Beseda
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

The new year is fast approaching for the Santa Rosa High School Foundation. During November and December the End of Year Campaign is underway. This year Doug Pavese and the Development Committee mailed out 500+ letters; additionally over 1600 emails will be going out to our Alumni, Friends, and Donors.

Much to the SRHS Foundation's surprise we have also received an amazing gift from Sandra Husby Spencer, Class of 1954, (see article on page 6.) We recently found out through the attorneys settling the estate that we will also receive 15% of her remaining estate!

Since the last Newsletter the SRHS Foundation has voted in two new Board Members, Veronica Stoops Haas '69 and John Coddling '82. John is of the fourth generation of the Coddling Family to attend SRHS. Both will bring innovative ideas and experience to the Foundation.

The Polenta Feed Committee has already started meeting and is planning the 26th Annual Polenta Feed. Save the date Friday, April 28, 2023. Mark your calendars as tickets go on sale to members on January 15th.

On behalf of the SRHS Foundation Board members we want to wish the Alumni, Friends, and Donors a prosperous Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

And don't forget to view "Pandy's Holiday Lights" at SRHS from December 10 to the 23!

Once a Panther, Always a Panther!

Panther Project requests from the staff at Santa Rosa High School are on track to reach pre-pandemic numbers. We are starting to see field trips and new clubs on campus, plus a cheer squad of 62 students!

Woodshop improvements funded by the Gary Rasche Capital Improvement Fund are complete, and Kevin Costello the Woodshop teacher is ecstatic. Tom Gutsch & Mitchell Utsey are now actively working on improvements to the Metal Shop and Auto Shop. The Gary Rasche gift to SRHS continues to give.

WE WANT YOU!

To folks out there with secretarial skills

The SRHS Foundation is in need of a Secretary to take minutes at our board meetings. It's a fulfilling job, and the various Committee Chairs submit their written reports after presenting them at the meetings, so that part is pretty much taken care of. We meet the second Tuesday of each month (except for the summer months), at the SRHS Library from 4:30 to around 6:00pm. We are an enthusiastic group (and we think we're fun, too.) You'd be an important part of all the exciting, extraordinary and wonderful things we do for Santa Rosa High School. If you or someone you know is interested, **please call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747 or email info@srhsf.org**

CORRECTION

In our last issue we listed **Ron Abelman** as an Individual Donor. Ron didn't attend SRHS, but his wife did. The donation should have been attributed to her, **Jeryl Cohen Abelman**.

Also in the last issue, **Brian Mecchi** and **Rena Mecchi** are donors that we accidentally left off the Individual Donor list.

SRHS Foundation Directors

- Monica Baldenegro '95
- Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President
- Don Cambou '64 Newsletter Editor
- John Coddling '82
- * Donna Dennes Doyle '67
- Kristine Erken, Friend
- Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
- Veronica Stoops Haas '69
- Rhonda Rehm Loop '73 Treasurer
- JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56
- Brian Mecchi '77
- Tony Negri, Friend
- * Doug Pavese '58
- Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59
- Christine Romani Tonelli '88
- Ilona Mayer Williams '64
- Chris Zeek '68 Vice President

** Founding Director*

The journey to the new Agricultural Facility has been long and sometimes treacherous. For decades Ag students who didn't have space at home could house their livestock on the SRHS campus in the Ammirati Barn. Over time, student projects outgrew that facility, as more town kids began studies in agriculture. Nearly two decades ago, the SRHS Ag department was able to gain use of Alba Lane Farm's old wooden house and barns. The department moved sheep and goats into the barns, while keeping hogs in the Ammirati Barn on campus. In the intervening years, a series of three Ag teachers lived in the old house, providing care and security for the animals. Ag teacher Dawn Stornetta was the last. She was there five years ago when the Tubbs fire swept through the area, burning every wooden structure on the property, but sparing the six acre vineyard. Stornetta was able to escape with only her dog. Fortunately, the October fire came so early in the school year that no farm animals were in the barns.

The SRHS Ag department faced the burned space with determination. Piehl remembers, "For me, this was a passion project. As soon as that place was destroyed, there was no doubt in my mind that we would rebuild." But first, they needed money. Almost two years later, the insurance settlement money came in. During that time, Piehl and her staff applied repeatedly for a California Career Technical Education Grant. On the third funding cycle, they received \$2.2 million in grant funds. The Superintendent of Santa Rosa City Schools at the time, Diann Kitamura, met with Raley's Supermarkets upper management who agreed to a massive donation of \$500 thousand to help fund the project. Another \$250 thousand came from the Alvin Hampton Foundation for the show ring. Hampton was a Petaluma Dairy farmer. Two brass plaques



Educational meeting space

will recognize the great contributions from Raley's and the Alvin Hampton Foundation

About the time construction was set to begin, the insidious Covid virus appeared. Construction finally began after Covid's most dangerous wave had passed. Then inflation set in. Since the barn facility is adjacent to the protected wetlands of the Alba Lane Farm, the contractors needed to do significant structural work to shore up the ground, and to add the ability for water to pool away from the barn structure itself. The carefully budgeted project went over budget.

Nevertheless, November 7, 2022 saw the facility's ribbon cutting ceremony. According to Piehl, "We've been fighting for this for five years. It's been hard, but it's finally happened. We're just a month shy of the fifth year anniversary of the Tubbs fire. This barn will exist long after I'm gone. It's huge for me personally, but it's also huge for this program, because we've always prided ourselves on providing our kids a space to experience agriculture so that it doesn't become a lost skill."

December 9, saw the facility's grand opening and a dinner/fundraising event. But there's still work to do – a concrete slab with feed silo needs to be built, there's plumbing to complete, animal feeders to install, and an orchard to replant. The project needs more funds.

Anyone who wants to help support SRHS's Agricultural Learning Center can contact Lisa Piehl at lpiehl@srcs.k12.ca.us or the Santa Rosa High Ag Boosters at boosterssrhs@gmail.com

Photo, continued from page 1

was a student, Al Wood was recruited to flip burgers and see to the counter after school and on weekends.

Gable and Lombard had married in 1939, and in 1940 she was filming “They Knew What They Wanted” in the Napa Valley. Gable visited and the pair were frequently seen in the area. Both enjoyed sports and outdoor activities and so, during a break in the production, they decided to go fishing. On their way to maybe the Russian River or perhaps the Eel, they passed through Santa Rosa and, evidently hungry, stopped at the Students’ Inn.

What transpired inside the Inn remains unknown, but Al, recognizing them, asked to take their picture. They agreed and stepped outside, Lombard fetching the fishing pole she holds in the photo.

Fast forward to the 1970s. Al’s son Scott (’72), a member of Jim Grisham’s Panther basketball squad, carried a copy in his wallet. Grisham, seeing the photo, asked about it, and at the end-of-season banquet Al gave him a copy. That’s how that photograph came to the campus. It now hangs in the museum.



Carole Lombard, Clark Gable, and SRHS, 1940

But what about old cars? I drove a Volkswagen convertible while in college, and in my retirement from SRHS I decided to find another. I did, a ’67 model that needed a lot of repairs. I contacted Randy Hansen, my ’83 student, about the work while reminding him how I let him out of class to go to the auto shop. Payback time.

Randy’s schedule didn’t fit with mine, so he directed me to Greg Wood, a specialist in auto restoration. I learned Greg’s a ’70 alum and his dad was Al Wood, the Gable/Lombard photographer. From that meeting the story of the photograph came into focus.

Greg’s interest in autos is as old as he is. His dad drove a restored 1931 Plymouth until he passed away and built quarter midget racers

that Greg drove during their heyday. Today Greg and his son Ed (’96 Panther and fourth generation Wood) operate a small shop where they bring old cars back to their one time glory.

Just another story of how odd pieces tell the SRHS story.

AN ICONIC SANTA ROSA BEER GETS A NEW LIFE

By Don Cambou

From 1897 to 1966 the Grace Brothers Brewery was a Santa Rosa landmark and major employer. And, if truth be told, their beer was enjoyed by many a SRHS student. How might one of their signature beers be received a half century later? A lot of people wanted to find out.

Josh Grace ’79, a member of a four generation SRHS family, had worked closely with Rich Norgrove, CEO of the Bear Republic Brewing Company, to reproduce a classic Grace Brothers Beer – Bavarian Lager. Bear Republic now owns the copyright to the Grace Brother’s label. Bear Republic would produce 20 to 25 barrels of the brew, hewing closely to the original recipe. That recipe only existed in the brains of the surviving Graces. Profits would be split 50/50 between the Graces and Bear Republic and ALL profits would go to charity. On the night of September 16, the resurrected Grace Brothers Bavarian Lager debuted at the Bear Republic Brew Pub in Rohnert Park. The large crowd quaffed 7 kegs of the

stuff – and all the canned fourpacks sold out. Many of the surviving Graces were in attendance: Jim ’61, Kathy Grace Hayes ’63 (Ursuline), John ’64, Mike ’65, Ben ’95, Caitlin 2018 and Conor 2021. Unfortunately Josh, who had done much of the heavy lifting to make the beer a reality, wasn’t there. He was home, quarantined with Covid.

The event was a grand reunion of old friends. Mike Grace, one of the SRHS Foundation founders, called it “One of the best nights of my life.” The Grace family profits all went to the Santa Rosa Historical Society and the Bear Republic profits went to Ranger Road, a Veterans charity. Capitalizing on their success, there’s a rumor that Bear Republic is brewing up another large batch. And about that copyrighted label: Norgrove has offered to sell it back to the Graces – for one dollar.

ONCE A PRANKSTER, ALWAYS A PRANKSTER

By Judy Kellar Fox

Editor's note: Jack Kellar may have been a lifelong Prankster, but he was also a lifelong Panther. He was so devoted to SRHS that shortly after his death in 2006, his daughters Judy '65 and Joanne '67 created a SRHS scholarship in his name: The Lucky Jade Memorial Scholarship. The perpetual scholarship refers to "The Lucky Jade," a high school musical that starred their father Jack.

My dad, Jack J. Kellar SRHS '39, was a prankster, and he loved telling stories of his high school hi-jinx. As a teenager, he stiffed a soda fountain waitress turning toward him for payment by ducking down below the counter, popping up later with a gloating laugh. She was not happy, but can't have been too annoyed, as she married him five years later. One Big Game night, he and a buddy drove around the big bonfire on Fourth Street chauffeuring a few brassiere clad young ladies with their legs sticking out the car windows. They were quite a sight, even though the young ladies were manikins.

Much later, when I was a SRHS student, Dad found a way to involve me in a bit of harmless mischief, too. He must have enjoyed cooking it up, planning what we would do, and waiting for the right time to do it.

From Dad's chair at the kitchen table, he looked out at a great view of the steep, less-buildable hill of the Grace Tract. The south side of the hill was bare except for weeds. One year in the early 1960s, a cross-town high school rivalry between Santa Rosa and Montgomery played out on the hill. Someone had the great idea to use field chalk to create a giant block "S" on the hillside, proclaiming it as Santa Rosa territory and announcing our school pride.

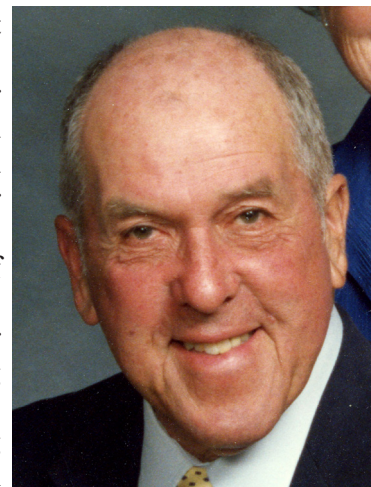
It didn't take long for someone from Montgomery to scuff all the chalk into the dirt and weeds, erasing the "S". Dad must have started thinking then about his plan, but it couldn't be executed just yet. He had to wait months, almost a year.

It had to be in the cool of late winter. And it had to be the night of a full moon. With great excitement he filled me in on his plan. I'm not a prankster by any means. Dad's plan sounded great, though, and I was all for it. Count me in.

Finally the time was right. A full moon in a perfectly clear sky guided our climb through dry weeds and brambles up the side of the hill. It was late, after

bedtime, so we wouldn't be noticed. Once at the right site, we opened our Folger's coffee can and began sprinkling a good measure of grey, granular chemical fertilizer on the ground in the shape of our block "S". Of course, nothing happened. For days and weeks nothing happened. But when the days warmed, and spring rains came, Dad's plan succeeded: our fertilizer worked its magic on the weeds, sprouting a giant green "S" among the less well-nourished grasses alongside. It would have been tough work for a rival to remove it. That "S" showed our school pride throughout the spring and summer until the hot dry days shriveled the weeds and grasses uniformly to tan, erasing our work naturally.

For a time, though, Dad enjoyed opening the kitchen curtains in the morning and sipping his coffee with a chuckle while admiring his handiwork up on the hill -- the SRHS hill. He still had a good dose of the prankster in him, and school pride, too.



Jack Kellar, 1990s

SHOW YOUR PANTHER PRIDE

BUY SRHS FOUNDATION ENDORSED LOGO WARE:

CAPS, POLO SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND MORE

FROM
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS

GO TO OUR WEBSITE WWW.SRHSF.COM
AND SELECT THE **BLUE AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS**
LOGO (IN THE LEFT COLUMN) TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

**THE FOUNDATION RECEIVES
20% ON EVERY ORDER**

HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

ANOTHER HUGE GIFT COMES TO THE SRHS FOUNDATION

Sandra Husby Spencer has left the SRHS Foundation an outstanding gift. Upon her passing, the Foundation received the remainder of her IRA. The amount of her gift was an astonishing \$166,000 plus. In addition, the Foundation will receive 15% of the remainder of her estate.

Sandra was born in Wisconsin in 1936, but moved to Santa Rosa as a child. She attended Santa Rosa's only public high school at the time – our 148 year old Santa Rosa High. She later worked for the County of Sonoma as a paralegal where she met her husband, Bill Spencer. They lived happily together until Bill's untimely death in 1986. Sandra then continued her work as a paralegal for a local law firm into her early 80s. She loved backyard BBQs, and KZST cruises. She was a frequent patron of the Luther Burbank Center, where she enjoyed the talents of Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Diana Krall and others. She is remembered as generous, funny, one who loved

to share a good story and a laugh, and a good friend to many. She died on August 16 of this year.



*Sandra Husby Spencer,
1954 Graduation photo*

Recently, Foundation President Mary Beseda and Treasurer Rhonda Loop met with representatives of the Edward Jones Company to sign the paperwork needed to get the IRA funds transferred to the Foundation. Unanimously, the Foundation Board voted to allocate one half of Sandra's great gift to a perpetual scholarship in her name. The other half would go into the Sandra Husby Spencer '54 Memorial Fund. That Fund will also exist "in perpetuity," with its earnings going to the Panther Project Fund. The PPF directly addresses student and teacher academic needs.

Sandra's foresight and generosity will benefit SRHS students and teachers for decades to come. We humbly salute this kind and charitable Panther.

SHOW AND SHINE MAKES IT FOUR

By Don Cambou with Art Horner



Five years ago, a SRHS student appeared before the Foundation Board and presented an idea: How about a car show on the front lawn of the high school? That student, Julia Pastis, is now at Cal Berkeley, and her idea just celebrated its fourth "Show and

Shine" event. On October 8, 35 gleaming, beautifully restored cars checked in with Paulette Gomes then rolled up a metal ramp provided by Ghilotti Construction and took their places on the SRHS front lawn. 34 of the 35 cars belonged to SRHS alumni. Each owner paid a \$40 fee. For that, each received a lunch, a "Show and Shine" tee shirt, and a certificate for a free car wash at the Easy Breezy Car Wash just across Mendocino Avenue from SRHS. Mike Grace '65 and Mike Daniels '59 grilled sausages and hot dogs for the lunch, the SRHS Foundation provided the tee shirts, and Easy Breezy donated the wash

certificates. Perhaps even more important to the owners was the chance to swap stories and ideas with their "tribe".

The event was open to the public, and folks could mingle with the owners and admire their cars. The SRHS Museum was open, and students greeted anyone who wanted to visit. Unexpected but welcome guests arrived for lunch in the form of firemen in a gleaming red fire truck.



Anyone could buy raffle tickets for baskets filled with wine and other goodies. Mary Beseda '74 prepared all the baskets and items for the raffle and JoAnn MacDonald '56 and Carol Guanella

'56 assisted Mary in the sale of raffle tickets. Chris Zeek '68 helped acquire the donated prizes. This year's "Show and Shine" raised around \$1,200, but most everyone there would tell you the comradery far outweighed the event's financial success.

CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

FALL 2022

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68 and Chris Zeek '68

For the period May 2022 through October 2022, the Foundation welcomed 24 new members, 61 renewing members, and 8 Lifetime members. Membership dues totaled \$8,270.00 for this period. Total active membership in the Foundation now stands at 825. We continue to actively contact members regarding upcoming renewals.

The following Foundation members and friends made contributions in addition to membership dues.

Phylis Fallon Accornero '68
John Aguilera '55
Diane Pierson Allen '64
George Cleek '58
Nancy Danskin '65
Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

Jack Hartman '66
Ed Hausmann '61
Howard '69/Gwendolyn '71 Hunt
Margaret Mayer Keith '60
Lu Liberty '70
John McCullough '70

William Mitchell, MD '63
Charles Proses '50
Kris Sundquist '68
Richard Thomas '59
Eileen Robbins Wise '55

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Nelson Crosbie '96
Susan Cambra Diez '72
Stephen Hart '62

Ronald/Veronica Stoops '69 Haas
Mary Jo Nattkemper Holden '61
Clarke Holland '70

Frank Kibbish, Jr. '70
Mike/Kristi Lee – Parents

ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Amazon Smile
Benevity

Frontstream
United Way

SEAT PLAQUES

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
"Albany Drive BFF's"
Norma Rochetti Malone '41
Alma DeMaria Orsborn '43
Aileen Michetti Bianchini '43"

Brian Mecchi '77; Raymond & Karen
Mecchi – Friend; Yvonne Mecchi-
Papeman – Friend
"The Mecchi Family
Ed '29, Paul '40, Gene '41, Bruce '68,
Brian '77"

Judy Odegard Reilly '70
"Proud To Be A Panther, Class of 1970"
Kristin Brothers Widing '90
"My Precious Panther Tribe
CE, DG, HS, KB, LA, NA, 1990 + 89"

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may send the SRHSF a contribution in the name of a deceased Panther, or in the name of a specific living person, department, group need, or scholarship fund.

AGRICULTURE DEPT

Joseph Imwalle '59

GREG BALL '53

Charles Mertel '53

BOB BARRY – FRIEND

Clover Family

HELEN AILEEN MICHETTI BIANCHINI '43

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
Art '68/Andi Gambini
Bradford Respini – Friend
Chris/Vera Jordan Zeek '68

HELEN AILEEN MICHETTI BIANCHINI '43 DIRECTED: WOMAN SOCCER

Marilyn Michetti Walker '66

BRUCE CAMILLI '59

Karin Kenney Camilli '59

DON W. COOVER III '62

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
Michelle Conte – Friend
Marilyn Dolce Davis '69
Bob/Donna Dennes '67 Doyle
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65
Ray/Cheryl Parker '66 Hulsman
Judi Hyman – Friend
Susan Berner Coudeyre Jackson '57
John/Dede Keating – Friends
James '66/Diane Dennes '67 Keegan
Pat '63/Rosie Clark '65 London
Casey Murphy - Friend
Bill/Susan Myatt - Friends
Cole Ouimette '2024
Kimi Pile Ouimette '94
Doug Pavese '58
Sky Pile '93
Stephanie Pile – Friend
Jeff/Shirley Spinell - Friends
Don/Madeline Russell – Friends

Dominique/Robin London Wirtz –
Friends
Chris/Vera Jordan Zeek '68
Tom '62/Laurie Zuur

JAMES DUNWOODY - FACULTY

Karin Kenney Camilli '59

SPIRITO MICHAEL FALCO (SON OF RON FALCO '65)

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

ALAN "SAM" GOMES '80 DIRECTED: BASEBALL PROGRAM

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
Bob/Donna Dennes '67 Doyle
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
Brian Mecchi '77
Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59
Smedshammer



PHOEBE GREGORY '52
DIRECTED: DRAMA DEPT.

Rev. Dorothy Reed Curry '52

JOANNE CAMILLI GRIGGS '61

Karin Kenney Camilli '59
Stephen A. Helmke '58
James Laier, Jr. '58

CHARLES "CHUCK"
KRACKER '75 MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
Louise Bostrom – Friend
Diane Skinner Bradley - Friend
Michael/Debi Cardozo – Friends
Gary/Bernice Caselli – Friends
Trevor/Tonni Caughey - Friend
Carleen Clawson – Friend
John/Debbie Cooper - Friends
Cotati Large Animal Hospital - Friends
Janet Daveiro – Friend
Dean/Shari De Graffenreid – Friends
Bob/Shirley Dempel – Friends
Nora Gibbs – Friend
David/Lynne Gradek Family – Friends
Jennifer Hughes – Friend
Tony/Sue Jurasek – Friends
Keith/Margaret Kawaoka – Friends
Kathleen Lawson - Friend
Steven/Judy Mahrt – Friends
Edward/Janet Kemp '74 Miles
Marianne/Patti Olufs - Friends
Opperman & Son, Inc.
Steve '60/Elaine Olson
Tom/Kelley Parsons – Friends
Carole Quandt - Friend
Linda Santero – Friend
Louise Santero - Friend
Tawny Tesconi '79
Karen Vietheer - Friend

DON LINDQUIST '60

Bruce '60/Sandra Rocco

PEGGY LEISER '40

Pamela Aubel Branch - Friend
Carroll Charbonnier - Friend
Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda
Frank/Penny Huntington '68 Briceno
Bob/Donna Dennes '67 Doyle
Bill/Suzie Simas Friedman '66
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65
Kathleen Jowdy-Koran – Friend
James '66/Diane Dennes '67 Keegan
Dan McMahon - Friend
Brian Mecchi '77
Rena Mecchi - Friend
Virginia Paige - Friend
Richard/Cheryl Perkins – Friends
Lee/Kay Phillips - Friend
Elva Pringle – Friend
C. William/Mary Louise Reinking –
Friends
Jean Schulz – Friend
Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59
Smedshammer
Mark '67/Cathy Trione
Gary '58/Nancy Latham Vice
W. Barton/Lynn Weitzenberg - Friends
Lee/Ilona Mayer '64 Williams
Chris/Vera Jordan Zeek '68
Bob/Dolores Zeni – Friends
PANDY PALS:
Molly Latta Barnum '67
Vicki Chiaroni Beggs '67
Mary Hesse Jenkins '67
Joan Perry Ryan '67
Jamey Blair Taylor '67
Kit Lane Warren '67

VIVIAN DICKINSON

MAZZETTA '46

Marilyn Dolce Davis '69
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
Renee Lazzini Milligan '75
Craig/Melinda Falco Moeller '72

DONALD MC CARTY '66

Chris/Vera Jordan Zeek '68

BRUCE MECCHI '68
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dennis '68/Kathy McCarty
Brian Mecchi '77
Rena Mecchi – Friend

STEVE NIENABER '58

Patricia Sutton Clinton '60

ROBERT RATTO '48
DIRECTED: WOOD SHOP

Julia Ratto – Friend

FREYA FICK RICHARDSON '60

Patricia Sutton Clinton '60

ROBERT "BOB" STONE '54

Allen Garayalde '55

BROOK TAUZER '44

Margaret Bock '44
T. Tauzer Smith '75

MARIE ACOUISTAPACE
TOTTY '64

Lee/Ilona Mayer '64 Williams

EVELYN BAKER TOWNSEND
'41

Ward '58/Patricia Townsend '59
Thompson

KIRK VEALE '57

Allen Garayalde '55

BERTA WIGGINS MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Alana Kelly '78
Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59
Smedshammer

In Memoriam

Peggy King Leiser	1940	Peter Magrini	1960
Evelyn Baker Townsend	1941	Lester McCray, Jr.	1960
John Fisher	1949	Donald Pabros	1961
Patricia Acuff Thompson	1949	Raymond Rasmussen	1961
Donald Tarpley	1951	Alan Francescutti	1963
Judith Schulze	1953	Angelo Flores	1964
Charlene Earnhart Griener	1954	Lawrence Wright	1964
Sandra Husby Spencer	1954	Judy Duncan	1968
Hunter Quistgard	1955	Patrick Ward	1969
Lorena Schulze	1955	Robert Jordan	1970
Ronald Bridgeman	1956	Ernest Babbini	1973
Harold Cleek	1957	Charles Kracker	1975
Marie Hindringer Kelly	1957	Sandy Fuselier Viveiros	1980

ERNIE NEVERS DID IT ALL!

By Mike Daniels, '59

He was recently added as a charter member of the brand new California High School Football Hall of Fame. The SRHS campus football field is named in his honor. He's a member of the Stanford Athletic Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame. He's a charter member of the National Football League Hall of Fame and holds two NFL records—most points scored in a game (40) and the most rushing touchdowns in a game (6). Yet he attended Santa Rosa High for only two semesters. Just who was Ernie Nevers anyway?

Skilled in every sport, Nevers' collegiate and professional accomplishments after SRHS resounded with national significance in the 1920s. The high school wasn't slow to stake out a claim to his fame.

Prior to Nevers, SRHS fielded a woeful football team. In 1919 Coach Victor Hodge's very first team lost every game.

Nevers suited up the next year, and that ignominious record was quickly forgotten. With Nevers as ball carrier, passer, kicker and tackler, SRHS won seven of ten games. Nevers scored 108 of the team's total 170 points, as SRHS won the right to play Berkeley High for the state's northern championship.

Although Berkeley won that game by the lopsided score of 61-0, Nevers was responsible for the growth of high

school football popularity in Northern California.

After football, Nevers went out for basketball. He played in only three games, but his talents continued to impress. The Press Democrat called him a "whirlwind at the forward position" and "one of the best basketball players ever seen in the county." In spite of that abbreviated career, Nevers was named team captain and the California High School Basketball Player of the Year for the 1920-21 season.

The Nevers family moved back to Wisconsin where Nevers continued basketball and baseball play before graduating from Superior Central High School.

The next fall he was back in Santa Rosa at SRJC where he played on the school's first football team.

Sports-minded lawyer Finlaw Geary guided Nevers to Stanford University where his athleticism earned him eleven varsity letters--football, basketball, baseball and track and field. Twice named a football All-American, he scored the single Stanford touchdown in the 1925 Rose Bowl loss to Notre Dame's famed Four Horsemen.

After college, Nevers played baseball with the American League St. Louis Browns. A pitcher, he gave up two home runs to Babe Ruth in 1927, the year the Bambino set the record of 60 round trippers.

In 1926 and 1927 Nevers played for the NFL Duluth Eskimos. Then he played three years for the NFL Chicago Cardinals. But he also played on the semi-pro Santa Rosa Bonecrushers in games on the field named in his honor.

After football Nevers had a brief fling in the movie industry and served in the Marines in WW II. Nevers kept his local contacts, appearing at sports banquets and visiting SRHS football teams. He passed away in 1976.



Ernie Nevers



26TH ANNUAL POLENTA FEED – FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

It's almost time again for the 26th Annual SRHS Foundation Polenta Feed, to be held on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. The social hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$40 for Foundation Members and \$45 for non-members, **ADULTS ONLY**.

Tickets go on sale beginning January 15th and are available **for Foundation members only until March 1st**. After March 1st tickets will be available to all supporters

of SRHS. We will stop selling tickets on April 19, 2023. Tickets are ordered by calling the Pandy Line at **571-7747**. Leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned by the following day. Tickets sell quickly so mark your calendar now to make that call on January 15th.

Join the fun with other alumni and supporters of SRHS. You won't want to miss this fantastic event!

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther!"



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*Donations fiscal year 2022/2023
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Larry Weese 1964 *****

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One Thousand Panthers is a campaign to enrich the SRHSF Endowment Fund by utilizing \$1,000 donations by 1,000 Panthers to reach a goal of \$1 million.

Proceeds are allocated to student needs at SRHS through the Panther Project Fund of the SRHS Foundation

The campaign began in 2011 and will continue until the goal is met.

CURRENTLY WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 295 DONORS

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JOIN US! Call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747, or visit us online at www.SRHSF.org for assistance.

Thank you for your generous donations.

Donations options are by cash, check, or credit cards are accepted from individuals and groups (pooled).

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SRHS FOOTBALL'S GIFT TO BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

By Don Cambou

Sometimes there's more to football than winning or losing a game. SRHS football coaches proved that this season. Early in the season, Coach Roy Keegan and his team decided the team would wear pink socks for breast cancer awareness. Assistant Coach John Navarro went out and bought pink socks for the entire team. Each member of the 25 boy team paid \$10 for his socks, with the understanding that the money would go to breast cancer research, and not to Coach Navarro. Keegan matched the \$250 raised for a total of \$500.

They would wear their socks during a game with the Windsor Jaguars on October 7. Keegan told Windsor

Coach Dean Sexton what he and the SRHS team had done. Sexton thought it was a great idea, and made the same deal with his squad. On game night, cheerleaders from both teams got on board and walked the stands collecting donations. Working together, the two teams and cheerleaders collected \$1400 that they sent to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. Keegan says he hopes to make this a yearly tradition.

Which team was the winner on that game night? Both teams.

HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

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By Pandy
Fall 2022

Maridee Noonan '76 recently joined her daughter **Nicole Noonan-Miller** for a little swim. They both swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco in the annual “Escape from Alcatraz” event. Impressive for any age, but Maridee did it to celebrate her 65th birthday! Congrats to both!... And while we’re talking about swimming, **Art Horner**, SRHS History teacher and co-founder of the SRHS Museum, recently received an Olympic swimming cap in the mail. There was no note, but the cap was signed, “once a panther, always a panther, Molly Hannis USA”. **Molly Hannis 2010** swam breaststroke in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Sharon Bailey Glasco '85 recently earned the Samuel H. Graf Faculty Achievement Award at Oregon’s Linfield University. The award recognizes faculty members who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the institution beyond their regular duties. Sharon is the Chair of the Department of History.

Musician and songstress **Janet Herring Dove '67**, sang and played guitar for the very first Kate Wolf Festival 25 years ago, held in Sonoma County. She sang and played again this last year, for an audience of 5,000 people!

Gary Sugiyama '67 formed the Mountain String Band a couple of years ago, (guitar, ukulele, original songs, and vocals). The band includes his wife **Becky Brendlin '67**, friend Keller McDonald (both on ukulele and vocals), and Frank Blount (on bass). They play Folk Americana, which also covers the folk music of Hawaii. For all Hawaiian music check out Maile Swing, another band with Gary and Becky. Both bands play around Sonoma County.

Frank Romano '69 has studied in many universities, including U.C. Davis and the Sorbonne in France. He’s also taught international law and literature at University Pantheon-Sorbonne. He’s had law offices in San Francisco and Marseilles, France. To that, add that he has authored five editions of “Love and Terror in the Middle East.”...**Clarke Holland '70** also studied law. He graduated from UCLA Law School in 1977. He specialized in Insurance Law, especially as it relates to natural and manmade disasters, as a partner at the firm of LHB Partners in San Francisco. At the other end of the spectrum, he’s been a world ranked weight lifter for age and weight class. In 2022, he was the national champion in the over 70 age and 73 kg weight class. Clarke’s snatch was 55 kg (121 lbs), and his Clean and Jerk was 70 kg (155 lbs). My knees hurt just thinking about it.

Dan Newell '64 has organized three dinner get-togethers for his SRHS classmates, in addition to a couple of cruises. But in 2023, he and his wife Tracey are going it alone – for 2 ½ years. Destinations will include Tahiti, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Florida, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Wales, Denmark, Greece Athens, Italy, Switzerland and Austria. Lastly, they will spend time with family, including a long awaited visit with their granddaughter in Germany, whose parents both serve in the Army.

The Class of 1967 celebrated their 55th reunion in August. They’ve had a reunion every five years since graduation. For their 55th, they met at Oakmont’s Wild Oaks Saddle Club. Nineteen of the grads came from out of state. Two grads, **Mark Trione** and **Fred Biagi** donated their award winning wines from Trione Winery & Biagi Family Winery. **Donna Dennes Doyle** describes the evening as “Spectacular. The backdrop of the hills was breathtaking.” If anyone missed an invitation, send your updated information to Eloise Jamison White at: el538@sbcglobal.net or Donna Dennes Doyle at: ddennes@hotmail.com.

Brian Barclay '72 received his B.A. and Masters at USC in Piano Studies, followed by his PhD at the Manhattan School of Music, also in Piano Studies. He taught at the Harlem School of Arts and Turtle Bay Music School. In a career highlight in 1995, he gave a solo piano recital at Weill Hall, the recital hall of Carnegie Hall. Later in 1995 he moved back to California, living in Huntington Beach. There he is very active in the Music Teachers Association of California. He continues to teach piano in his private studio.

If you are or were a mover and a shaker OR if you know a classmate who is, let us hear about it. If you’ve done or are doing something really cool, OR if you know a classmate who is, let us hear about it. Our readers want to know. Contact Don Cambou at doncambou1@gmail.com.



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Please return this form to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. If you prefer, you may complete your transaction online through our website: www.srhhsf.org. For more information, please call the Pandey Line at (707) 571-SRHS (7747) OR email us at: info@srhhsf.org. Tax ID #68-0195375 (for a gift of Marketable Securities, please contact us for more information.) Remember... **Once A Panther, Always a Panther!**