



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2017

Vol. 28

Issue 2

*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.*

## SANTA ROSA HIGH'S HOMETOWN, STATE, AND NATIONAL LUMINARIES

by Mike Daniels

*(Editor's note: The Foundation is pleased to share the first in a series of articles by SRHS grad, teacher, and booster Mike Daniels. Mike was previously the editor of this newsletter. He is one of Santa Rosa's most dedicated historians. This article ends with 1926 grads, so expect the journey to continue in upcoming issues. Don Cambou, current editor.)*

The many thousands of SRHS graduates will agree that SRHS looks like a high school ought to. Its two-story classic brick exterior has graced Mendocino Avenue since 1925.

To subtract 1925 from 2017 would indicate that SRHS is 92 years old, but the school is much older, 143 years old in fact. In seven more years the home of the Panthers will celebrate its sesquicentennial.

The city of Santa Rosa is just sixteen years older. It was chartered in 1858 and will celebrate its 150th birthday in 2018—that's next year!

During those many years SRHS graduates and their families have played a significant role in shaping the city. A look at some of the city's early pioneers and some

early SRHS alumni reflects the connection between the city and the high school.

The Crane family from Petaluma Hill Road is well known today because of the Crane melon, a highly popular fruit sought after every fall. Three members of the Crane family—Joel, Martha and Olive—graduated in 1878, the first graduating class of SRHS. They were followed by Thomas and Robert in 1883, Edna in 1910 and a number of others in later years.

Have you walked the Prince Memorial Greenway in Santa Rosa? Theo Prince graduated in 1896, Burton in 1897 and Sanford in 1899.

Ware Avenue, in the Burbank neighborhood, is named after A.B. Ware, a lawyer and county district attorney of the late 19th century. Of his children, Nettie was in the first class of 1878, Allison graduated in 1896, Phillip in 1900, Lilla in 1904, Mabel in 1908 and Wallace in 1911.

Feodor Hahman partnered with Barney Hoen in a business at the Carrillo Adobe in Santa Rosa's

*Continued on page 4*

## SRHS IN MINIATURE

By Don Cambou

Ceramics instructor **Christine Lewis Giffen** had an idea. Her students would create a community out of clay. They would have to work together and communicate with each other to achieve success. The project was a winner. So last school year (2015 – 16), she decided to do it again. But this time her students picked the community. They chose SRHS.

Lewis Giffen's fellow Ceramics instructor, **Stefanie Nagorka**, would join in with her own classes. Together, the two teachers marshalled a small army of over 100 students from six classes to create SRHS out of clay.

"We started with a huge overhead evacuation map of the campus. We also used Google Earth," Lewis Giffen recalls. The students also scouted the campus on foot, taking countless photos. They logged every building, every car, every tree and trash can. They broke the campus into sections – one for each class. That meant the classes had to communicate with each other about size, color and texture. Then they molded each building, tree and car out of clay, painted, glazed, and fired the pieces, and created a 55 inch by 44 inch *Continued on page 5*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe we are 9 months into our Fiscal year; where has the time gone! The Polenta Committee, chaired by Paulette Gomes, put on the annual Polenta Feed on April 21st. It was a big success and fun for all who attended. The event, a sell-out, could not have been done without the support of the Foundation Board Members, Volunteers, student servers & Donors! For all this hard work I say Thank You!



Next on the agenda is the Student of the Month Dinner, Rose Parade and Scholarships all in May. This year our scholarships will total \$111,670., our Scholarship Committee chaired by Nadine Smedshammer, are hard at work with the interview and selection process. In September we will have our 22nd annual Golf Tournament, chaired by Doug Pavese and co-chaired by Sue Bolt.

In March we launched our SRHS Foundation Apparel site. Ken Miller, class of '79, helped introduce us to American Solutions for Business to get this accomplished. To order a wide range of Foundation apparel, go to the website at [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org) and click on the American Solutions for Business logo.



## SRHS Foundation Directors

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74, President	Brian Mecchi '77
Stephen Olsen '61, V President	Rose Machen Moeller '68
Joanne Ratzlaff McLaughlin '74, Secretary	Dick Owens '72
Tony Negri, Friend, Treasurer	Carol Laabs Patterson '55
Sue Ellen Bolt, Friend	Doug Pavese '58 *
Don Cambou '64	Donna Dennes Peterson '67 *
Benjamin F. Catching, Friend	Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59
Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68	Ilona Mayer Williams '64
Art Horner, Faculty Liaison	Chris Zeek '68
JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56	* Founding Director

The Panther Project Fund has had many exciting requests from the instructors at SRHS; thus far this Fiscal year we have approved \$72,611. in grant requests. PPF is where your Membership dollars go to work to enhance and improve programs at SRHS.

For those of you who are Facebook fans, please Friend and Like our page at Santa Rosa High School Foundation; we are working hard to keep this up to date with fun announcements and pictures.

The SRHS Foundation Board is actively working on bringing in new Board Members and Volunteers for our Committees. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member or a Volunteer please contact us at [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org) or leave a message on our Pandy line 707-571-7747. You are also welcome to attend one of our Board meetings!

As President I am committed to bringing the Students and Faculty at SRHS the needed tools to enhance the quality of education received.

Once a Panther, Always a Panther!

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74



## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Article submissions are invited, as are story ideas. Please limit articles to 500 words and letters to 150 words. Please limit Panther Patter submissions to 150 words. All submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Foundation.

Please submit articles and letters in unformatted text. Microsoft Word is preferred.

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

Email submissions to [doncambou1@gmail.com](mailto:doncambou1@gmail.com). Or mail hard copies to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006.

On behalf of my mother Rena Mecchi, the SRHS Foundation & Board President Mary Beseda, and myself, I would like to say THANK YOU for your support of the Bruce Mecchi Memorial Scholarship fundraiser held Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the Applebee's Restaurant on Santa Rosa Avenue. With your help, we made our goal of \$10,000 to make this scholarship a self-sufficient fund.

A special thanks to SRHS Foundation Board member Sue Bolt, whose hard work and little pushes helped to make this event happen. Another thanks to my friends Rick Gomes & Paulette Guaspari Gomes, 1968 classmates of my brother, Bruce, for their blessings to move forward on this fundraiser, and for sharing stories of my brother's days at SRHS. To other classmates and friends of Bruce's who started this memorial scholarship 48 years ago with a \$1.00/person pancake breakfast (which was covered by the Press Democrat), we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. They are Rick Gomes '68, Molly Latta Barnum '67, Vickie Gomes Lakatos, '64, Janice Burnett Hartzog '67 (deceased), Jack Hartzog '68 (deceased), and Hugh Cambra '68. Without their hard work, dedication and devoted friendship, this scholarship would never have gotten off the ground. They were able to proudly see the first recipient, Eugene Guenza from the class of '69, receive the first Bruce Mecchi Memorial Scholarship.

A heart-felt thanks goes to the Foundation Board for keeping this scholarship going strong! And thank you to Applebee's Restaurant for donating a percentage of the meal sales served during this "Dining to Donate" event.

To all who participated -- your support, generosity, and attendance at this event is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
 Rene Mecchi  
 Brian Mecchi, Class of '77 & SRHS Foundation Director

Dear Foundation,

Thank you SO much for helping to fund our recent trip to Seattle! Because of the Foundation's generous sponsorship, the SRHS Journalism and Yearbook classes were able to attend JEA, the national student journalism convention, along with 4000 other students from across the country. While there, we attended two days of classes and seminars dedicated to improving our programs. Some of our students also participated in competitions, to great success! We were recognized with 5 different awards, from Superior to Honorable mention, in our best showing yet... The experience of learning and exploring together in a new city is invaluable, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Cheers!  
 Jessica Dennis, SRHS



Journalism and Yearbook Students hit Seattle

### In Memoriam

Velma Stubbs Arnold Pool '33  
 Peter Bassignani '35  
 Olga Rehm Wilson '36  
 Pauline Marlar '38  
 Barbara Bassett Duncan '41  
 Carl Jensen '41  
 John Wilson '41  
 James Dias '42  
 Albert Gemmet '43  
 James Paine '43  
 George Scinto '43  
 Ruth Hanson Woods '45  
 Dorothy Olenberger Cameron '46

William Ronchelli '46  
 Bernie Pola '47  
 Georgia Shelton Beauchamp '47  
 Tod Rickey '48  
 Bruce Cameron '50  
 Katie Rousseau Robinson '51  
 Joyce Russell Rich '51  
 Marianne Christensen Wilson '55  
 Lois Brinkley Jorgensen '57  
 Richard Ferrari '57  
 Augustine Remesal '57  
 Richard Eisenhower '59  
 Daniel Morehouse '59

Steven Palmberg '61  
 Sharon Guenza Wulf '62  
 Kathy Serb Young '65  
 Gary Roberts '66  
 Michelle Friedman '70  
 Jerry Machen '71  
 Richa Buford Taylor '77  
 Dale Carlson '78  
 David Stimson '79  
 Jovanie Barrett '08  
 Ricardo Olivarez '14  
 Ralph Guyon- Retired Faculty

earliest years. His family name graces Hahman Avenue today. Lottie Hahman was a member of the first class to graduate from SRHS, 1878. Clara graduated in 1883, Martha in 1885, Henrietta in 1924 and Paul in 1927.

Clement Young was elected California governor in 1926. He graduated from SRHS in 1886 and sister Lena in 1889. Roy Simpson, who became California State Superintendent of Schools, graduated in 1912. Alice Simpson is a 1915 alumna.

Loren Hardisty, whose family would open a family business in 1923 selling house goods and coffee among other items, graduated in 1898. The store is still in operation today.

Fred Juilliard, whose family operated a nursery on Santa Rosa Avenue that is today's Juilliard Park, graduated in 1886.

Henrietta Metzger's family operated the Metzger Brewery that was purchased by Frank and Joe Grace in 1897. She graduated in 1899.

William and Charles Lee came to Santa Rosa from Michigan and by the 1880s had created a successful storage and moving company. Charles was elected mayor in the mid-teens. They were the first to rebuild after the 1906 earthquake and the Lee Bros. building still stands at Fourth and Wilson Streets. Ina Lee graduated in 1897, Nellie in 1908, Galen in 1909, Annabel in 1911, and Stacy in 1921 (Stacy played with Ernie Nevers on the 1920 championship football team).

Did you ever buy tires at Forsyth Tire Co on Third and A Streets or after the move to Fourth Street? M. Margaret Forsyth graduated in 1900, Mary and Henry in 1911, another Margaret in 1915, Gladys in 1923, Norton in 1927 (He ran the tire business, was a trustee of SRJC and has a building on that campus named for him). John and Betty Forsyth graduated in 1931.

Jesse Peter, after whom the SRJC museum is named, graduated in 1902.

Archie Lockhart served on the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education for many years. He graduated in 1908, his sister Mabel in 1907 and his brother Robert in 1910.

Remember the White House Department Store on Fourth and B Streets? Donald Carithers of the W.H. family graduated in 1917 and his brother Will in 1919.

The overhead storage area of the now-gone Mailer-Frey Hardware on Fourth Street housed some SRHS classes

after the 1921 fire destroyed the school. Jesse Mailer graduated in 1895 and Clark in 1927. Clark was known for his athletic skills.

Obert Pedersen of the furniture store family graduated in 1907. Fred Pedersen 1 in 1913.

Thomas Geary, elected district attorney in 1882 and congressman in 1888 and who was considered to run for vice president on the Grover Cleveland ticket, fathered a number of SRHS graduates: Marion in 1903, Finlaw in 1906, Jean in 1907, Donald in 1910 and Ella in 1910. Both Finlaw and Donald were supporters of NFL Hall of Fame member Ernie Nevers, who had attended SRHS in 1921. Finlaw was associated with the Geary law firm that still is in business and Donald was a superior court judge for many years.

Glen Murdock, who later figured in development of northern Santa Rosa in the Lewis Road and Hillcrest areas, graduated in 1893. He helped organize the very first SRHS football team in 1892.

The Earle Baum Center supports people with sight loss and annually hosts the Earle Fest, a musical fundraiser. It takes its name from Baum, a 1915 alumnus who lost his sight but still operated a farm.

If you were a student at Santa Rosa Junior High School in the 1940s or 50s, you remember Esther Serel who taught and was vice principal. She graduated from SRHS in 1924.

If in your younger years you were a patron of the Children's Library in the basement of the Carnegie Library at Fourth and E streets, you encountered Librarian Dagny Juell, who graduated in 1913.

Helen Cochrane, who taught vocal classes at SRHS for years and years, was a member of the graduating class of 1914. Mildred Turner taught PE and dance at SRHS and together with Cochrane annually created student song and dance performances also graduated in 1914.

Martha Erwin, who taught English for many years, graduated in 1922. In the fall of her senior year, 1921, SRHS burned to the ground.

Long time SRHS science teacher Ted Leifrinck graduated in 1921.

Legendary SRHS agriculture teacher Wes Jamison graduated in 1926. Juanita Baird, who shepherded the night school to success, graduated in 1925. PE teacher Frances McCause graduated in 1923—sister Mabel in 1920 and brother James in 1926.

(to be continued...)

*Miniature...continued from page 1*  
scale model of SRHS. They worked through lunch hours and after school. They paid meticulous attention to detail, right down to the make, model, and color of **Principal Brad Coscarelli's** truck parked in front of the main building. The impressive result represents several thousand student hours of work.

Alumni **Chris Zeek '68**, **Dave Hunt '66**, and **Clyde Wiggins '52** saw the finished model and decided it should be put on display for all to admire. **Coscarelli** chose the entry way to DeSoto Hall as the perfect place to exhibit the work. Zeek, Hunt, and Wiggins donated all the materials for the display box, then got busy building it. Head Custodian **Chris Swenson** and Night Custodian **Todd Meyers** pitched in to finish the construction. Zeek had a plaque made with a list of every student who worked on the project. The community of clay brought together a community of students, teachers, and alumni. And the newest expression of SRHS pride is now on permanent display.

How do you match success like that? Lewis Giffen, Nagorka, and students are working on a new mega project. Collaborating with all department heads, they are making totem poles for every department in the school. The Foundation granted Lewis Giffen \$2500 to help create the permanent installation of the five to six foot tall totems. Expect some creative surprises.



# SMALLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS BULK UP

By Don Cambou

Over a decade ago, the Santa Rosa High School Foundation raised the amount for the creation of new endowed Memorial Scholarships to \$10,000. Since the endowed scholarships that the Foundation manages continue in perpetuity the scholarship must maintain its corpus (the original amount given). The Foundation's spending policy goal is to annually fund 5% of the earnings of the scholarship funds it manages. That means a scholarship endowed with \$10,000 can give a \$500 scholarship each year without diminishing its corpus. But there is a problem. Some of the earlier endowed Memorial Scholarships were under that \$10,000 limit. Each year, the Foundation contributes enough to those scholarship payouts to reach the \$500 scholarship amounts. But that's money that could go elsewhere to aid SRHS and its students. So the Foundation encourages the families and friends of those smaller scholarships to try to raise them to the newer \$10,000 minimum.

The **Bruce Mecchi Memorial Scholarship** is a bright example of that strategy. Bruce died at 18 on July 4, 1968 while fighting a fire as a volunteer fireman. Firefighters, family, friends, and his 1968 classmates created the original scholarship, awarded to students wishing to study Forestry and Firefighting at Santa Rosa Junior College. But while a scholarship of nearly \$400 a year was a rich award in 1968, its value has lessened over the years. With the Foundation's help, Bruce's brother **Brian '77** spearheaded a campaign to raise the corpus to over \$10,000. He and fellow board member **Sue Bolt** arranged a fundraising dinner at Applebee's. He sent out notices to family, friends, and 1968 classmates. Mary Beseda also used the SHRSF Facebook page and website to advertise the event. The

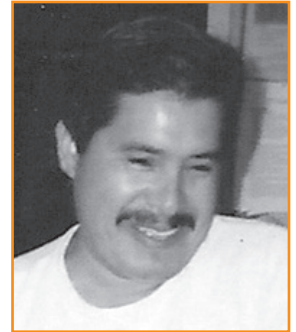


Bruce Mecchi

effort was successful. It added nearly \$2,400 to the Bruce Mecchi Scholarship, and that total continues to rise. (See *list of Mecchi donors on p.8.*) Other smaller scholarships haven't yet reached the \$10,000 mark.

Berta Wiggins graduated from SRHS in '55. She became an avid and accomplished golfer in the years following her retirement as a secretary in the Bennett Valley School District. The **Berta Wiggins Golf Scholarship** was established to honor a senior girl who shared her passion for golf and who is a member of the SRHS Golf Team. **Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer's family** is working to raise the corpus on the Wiggins scholarship, currently funded at just under \$9,000.

A few under-funded scholarships could use significant help now. The **Robert Clell McKinney Art Scholarship** is currently funded at just under \$7,000. Mr. McKinney was a leading North Coast modernist painter and sculptor. His daughter, **Conci McKinney-Mack** established an Art Scholarship in the name of her father that would on a yearly basis provide a financial scholarship to a college bound, graduating student focusing on Fine Arts: drawing, painting and/or sculpture. The **Lorenzo Solis Scholarship** is named for former head custodian Lorenzo Solis. For many years Lorenzo was the centerpiece, the linchpin, of daily operations no matter how mundane or complicated. Retired SRHS staff **Tony Negri, Nadine Smedshammer, Will Dunn, and Mike Daniels** decided to keep the spirit of Lorenzo alive by creating a perpetual scholarship in his honor. The Solis scholarship is currently funded at just over \$7,000.



Lorenzo Solis

If you have a particular relationship to, or affinity for, any of these scholarships, please consider a donation to help raise them above the \$10,000 minimum. Contact Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer at [707-544-3158](tel:707-544-3158) for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### SRHS CLASSES OF 1956 AND 1957 REUNION

September 15th & 16th, 2017    Friday, September 15th is Grad Night    Saturday, September 16th is Reunion Night  
Flamingo Hotel Details to Follow    Questions: Call Jacky Schalich 707-546-4631 Or JoAnn MacDonald 707-546-6185

# CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Chris Zeek

January, February and March 2017

My name is Chris Zeek '68 and I am taking over as the Membership Committee Chairman for Susan Burch. It will be very hard to follow Susan, as she did an excellent job in her time as Chairperson. I look forward to increasing the Foundation's membership and answering any questions or concerns you may have. My contact information is listed below.

I am pleased to report that we have welcomed 12 new members, 134 renewals, and many Contributions and Memorial gifts this period to total \$7,463.02. This is money that goes right back to the school. Thank you for your generous Panther hearts!

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

John Bribiescas '66	Kendace/ Michael Fallentine-Friends	Cynthia Norman '57
Dana May Casperson '59	Coy Gore '55	Steve Orsborn '68
Veronica Charvet '61	Ted/ Tippi Grisham '60/'61	Sandra Lee Spencer '54
Kay Clegg '64	Adrienne Healy Hotchkiss '66	Mark Temple '68
Patricia Clinton '60	Robert/ Pamela Janes-Parents	Robert Tuttle '40
Gail Cronin '55	Delores Alanna's '71	Wells Fargo Community
Wes/ Carol Daniels '85	David Lightfoot '69	Support Campaign
Shirley Dimitratos '52	Toni MacDonald '64	

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Terry Treloggin-Clark  
The Ballo Family

If you are interested in becoming a Lifetime Member, please see the form available in this newsletter or go on-line to [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org) to join or make contributions. Or contact me, Chris Zeek at [czeek68@att.net](mailto:czeek68@att.net). The Santa Rosa High School Foundation will continue to grow with your help and our students will continue to flourish, while encouraging a commitment to education. Please talk to your family and friends about becoming members of The Foundation. Any questions or concerns should be directed to me, Chris Zeek at 707-334-0635.

## MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may send the Foundation a contribution in the name of a deceased Panther, or in the name of a specific living person or scholarship.

### Agriculture Contribution

Jim/ Elaine Thompson '55/'58

### Bruce Camilli Memorial

Diane Camilli '57  
Dolph Camilli '56  
Karin Camilli '59  
Joann Camilli '56  
Dan Kelly '59  
Diane Kay Kendall '61

### Douglas Campbell Memorial

Janet Tompkins '49

### John Caulfield Memorial

Barbara McDougall '60  
Ilona Williams '64

### Diane Comstock Memorial

Martha Keegan '47

### Estelle DeChant Memorial

Jean DeChant Tosten '58

### Jack Demeo Memorial

Dan Kelly '59  
James Slaten '52

### Robert "Nino" Falco Memorial

Craig Moeller '72  
PG&E Matching Gift

### Carol Jacobson Memorial

Bob/ Julie Ratto '48

### Janitorial Services Contribution

Bali Lowrie-Reed - Parent

### Eleanor "Trudy" Barry Jones Memorial

Arlene Gagliardi- Friend  
Scott/ Lisa Jones- Friends  
Dorothy Merced '57

### Robert Clell McKinney Art Scholarship

Conci McKinney-Mack- Daughter



### Bruce Mecchi Scholarship

Applebee's Dine & Donate  
Lois Bastos- Friend  
Cheryl Bertucelli '72  
Jonathon Chinn- Friend  
Michael Ferro- Friend  
Forestry Crab Feed  
Rick/ Paulette Gomes '68  
Hugh/ Barbara Henderson- Friends  
Hunt & Behrens  
Neil/ Dorothy Lovell- Friends  
Carol Mazzia '68  
JoAnn MacDonald '56  
Dennis McCarty '68  
Brian Mecchi '77  
Ray/ Karen Mecchi- Friends  
Rena Mecchi- Parent

Kirk/ Rose Moeller '68  
Yvonne Papeman- Friend  
Donna Dennes Peterson  
Thomas Roberts- Friend  
Charles/ Josephine Ronconi- Friends  
Gary Ronconi- Friend  
Oren/ Nadine Smedshammer '59  
Jim/ Tina Vanzetti '76  
Rich Whitestone- Friend  
Chris Zeek '68  
3 Former Montgomery Students

### Bernie Pola Memorial

Susan Burch- Friend  
Roger/ Bertie Clooney- Friends  
George Econome '52  
Sarah Pola- Friend

Peter/ Catherine Schneider- Friends  
Eddie/ Glenna Wilburn- Friends

### Gary Roberts Memorial

Jim/ Diane Keegan '66/'67

### Walt Rogina Memorial

Allen/ Yvonne Garayalde '57

### Berta Wiggins Scholarship

Oren/ Nadine Smedshammer '59

### Ruth Hansen Woods Memorial

Doris Nash '45

### Sharon Guenza Wuld Memorial

Bill Grace '62

## ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SOLD OUT POLENTA FEED

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes and Don Cambou

This year's April 21st Polenta feed looks to be the most successful ever. 650 happy and hungry Foundation supporters sat down together for wine coupled with another delicious meal prepared by chef Randy Apel and his staff – that's after they ran up a bar tab of nearly \$4,000. As an animated Pandy wandered through the crowd, 38 SRHS students were busy serving dinner. Generous guests tipped them well. Meanwhile, SRHS Ag Boosters gave out tastes of Panther Chardonnay to anyone over 21.

On stage, **President Mary Orsborn Beseda** welcomed board members, teachers and staff, each decade of alumni, and Foundation friends. **Chris Zeek** presented founding and current board member **Donna Dennes Peterson** with the Wall of Fame award. Her name will

join others in perpetuity in SRHS's main building. Zeek also served as auctioneer for the live auction. **Bill Friedman, Bill Harris, Dan Tocchini, Mark Simpson,** and **Lisa Schilbe** walked away with the big ticket items – after shelling out almost \$6,000. The richly stuffed 19 raffle baskets, and limited Golden Ticket raffle that offered a chance to win 28 bottles of fine wine, together took in another \$6,000.

Not surprisingly, putting all those classmates and friends together in one room resulted in a big, happy, memory laden event. The Foundation wishes to thank all its members and friends for their support of the year's biggest fundraiser; and hopes to see you at next year's Polenta Feed on Friday, April 27th, 2018.

## EYE ON THE PRIZE

The boisterous atmosphere and exciting bidding for one of the Polenta Feed's perennial top auction items starts in silence, and in the cold. The 50 degree waters off our Sonoma and Mendocino coast are host to one of our most succulent treasures: the abalone. And freediving there to depths of 15 to 20 feet, you'll find longtime SRHS Social Studies and History teacher, **Andy Brennan**. Alone in his thick wetsuit, he uses a pry bar to release the abs from the rocks they cling to. Every year, he donates three to six of the prized mollusks to the SRHSF for the Polenta Feed auction. Polenta master chef **Randy Apel** will cook the abs and all the trimmings for the lucky (and generous) winning bidder and nine of his/her friends. In a decade, Brennan has contributed over 50 pounds of abalone; and the prize abalone dinners have raised 10 to 15 thousand dollars for the Foundation.





# SRHS MUSEUM WINS AWARD

By Don Cambou

On April 24th of this year, the Santa Rosa City Council presented a Santa Rosa Merit Award to the SRHS Museum "... for its exceptional volunteer efforts in expanding the community's historical knowledge of Santa Rosa." It's the only high school museum in the area. Former SRHS student, teacher, and Foundation board member Mike Daniels '59, as well as current teacher and Foundation Faculty Liaison Art Horner were there to accept the award. After all, the museum was their idea.

Daniels started collecting school memorabilia in the late 1980s, during his SRHS teaching days. As he recalls, "I saw custodians throwing out old stuff, so I started keeping it in my classroom." Before Daniels could be accused of being a hoarder, Horner and then Principal Tony Negri came to his rescue. In 2007, they snagged a recently vacated room on the second floor of the main building, and started loading in Daniels' collection. Soon, additional contributions began to appear. A desk from the old SRHS Humboldt Street incarnation. From an artichoke field in the Salinas area came a silver trophy won by SRHS in an athletic competition. A 1920s radio cabinet built by a SRHS wood shop student. Photos of athletes, uniforms, old footballs and basketballs, trophies, yearbooks, teachers' old grade books, agriculture memorabilia, dance, music and drama paraphernalia. Additionally, memorabilia of SRHS' involvement with the movies, including Francis Coppola's production of Peggy Sue Got Married and a photo of Clark Gable and Carol Lombard standing in front of SRHS. Historic photos and awards lined the walls. Mannequins appeared wearing classic SRHS garb. And the donations of artifacts kept coming.

This notice appeared ten years ago in a Foundation newsletter. "The Museum came into being because of the efforts of Mary Testorelli '47, Dick Hutchinson '59, Mike Daniels '59, Alicia Hodenfield '85 and Dave Thompson '92. The idea resulted from the interests of SRHS faculty Art Horner, Mike Daniels and Tony Negri."

Today, a decade later, the museum is a much used and cherished part of SRHS history. Every sophomore visits the museum as part of his/her history class requirement. Other upper classmen use the museum for research projects. Groups make a museum tour part of their class reunion festivities. And the contributions of new treasures keep coming. Not bad for a project that started because a teacher began gathering stuff destined for the trash heap.

If you or your group would like to visit the museum or donate items to the museum, contact Mike Daniels at [mdaniels@sonic.net](mailto:mdaniels@sonic.net).



Tony Negri speaks to class reunion at SRHS Museum



Mayor Chris Coursey presents award to Mike Daniels and Art Horner



By: Pandy  
SPRING 2017

Retired SRJC instructor and longtime viticulture expert **Rich Thomas '59** was recently honored for his extensive influence in Sonoma County grape growing and wine production. Rich was given the Nick Frey Community

Contribution Award, whose recipients are recognized by the Sonoma County Winegrowers for contributions to the grape growing community... **Rick Call '67** recently donated to the SRHS Museum a number of copies of the Santa Rosan that he found in an antique store. Several copies are from 1940, the content of which center on campus goings-on. Other editions, from the early 1970s, chronicle student struggles to be heard on a variety of topics just emerging into public consciousness—for example, contraception, venereal disease, sex education, John Birch Society and censorship—topics that consumed 1970 student interest in sharp contrast to that of 1940...

**Dr. Kathryn Pearson Peyton '85** was one of twelve Northeast Florida women honored at Florida Blue's "Women with Heart" event. Each of the twelve women will spend one month volunteering and advocating for a downtown Jacksonville clinic that serves the vulnerable working uninsured population. The fundraiser at which Dr. Pearson Peyton was honored raised more than \$100,000 for the clinic... At 70, many of us look to a quiet retirement. Not **Bob "Skipper" Scinto '64**. He still flies over 300,000 miles a year –

that will take you to the moon and a fifth of the way home -- as Head of Global Sales for Data Centers for the East Penn Manufacturing Company. He sells and helps



Bob Scinto, right. Busy in Shanghai

maintain battery back-up for all the biggies: Google, Amazon, Facebook, Verizon, and Sprint, as well as the New York Stock Exchange and many other financial companies. Without Skipper on the job, your world could go dark... On March 4th, at the annual Big Cat Track Meet at Nevers Field, many former SRHS track stars gathered to honor

**Head Coach Doug Courtemarche** for his 25 years of inspiring service. Among those lauding him were **Nika Horn-Bowen '92**, an NBL 1600 meter champion for all her years at SRHS; **Zack Barrett '95**, a two time NBL cross country champion; and **Julia Stamps-Mellon '97**, a national record holder and All American in cross country and the 3,000 meters...



Coach Courtemarche is honored at Big Cat Meet

On a Saturday evening in mid-March, singer/songwriter **Dave Hamilton '66** got a huge lift when some 20 or so Panthers from the mid-60s showed up to his gig at Willibee's in downtown SR to applaud and support his performance.

That's the value of "Once a Panther, Always a Panther"... In yet another example of Panther Pride, **Tim Kniffin '85** finds his acting career is being followed and supported by a slew of his classmates.



Dave Hamilton

They flocked to see his role in the film "Burn Country," **Kurt Hawkyard '85** led a group to see Tim in his role as Atticus Finch in a production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" on the Napa College stage, and they turned out to see him as the accountant Roy in "The Odd Couple" at Petaluma's Cinnabar Theater...

For some classes, a reunion every five years just isn't enough. So two years after their 50th, the **Class of '64** gathered at Armstrong Grove in Guerneville to collectively celebrate their 70th birthdays. The weather was perfect as they enjoyed a catered barbecue lunch and a chance to catch up with former classmates. Organizers planned activities that included a little trivia fun, a hoola-hoop contest, and even a chance to prove who could blow the biggest bubblegum bubble. Playing among the thousand year old giants, they were the youngsters.





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