



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2018

Vol. 29

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.

“IT’S ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT”

By Don Cambou

In 1946, less than a year after the end of World War II, a ruggedly handsome young man named James Fleck graduated from Santa Rosa High. His classmates believe he never returned. That makes his 2012 Trust gift to the SRHSF all the more startling. While the Foundation regards every donation it receives as generous and meaningful, this one was different. James Fleck left a gift of over two million dollars.

Who was this mysterious benefactor? During his years at SRHS, he was a fine athlete, excelling in football, baseball, and track. He was the secretary and vice president of the Block S Society. Fleck went on to Santa Rosa Junior College, then graduated from San Jose State. After college graduation, he enlisted in the Air Force and served in the Korean War. He returned to the South Bay and married Marie Leonard. He made a career working as a California Highway Patrol officer. During his life, he never joined, or donated to, the SRHSF. Since he never attended a high school reunion,



he faded from his classmates’ memories.

But with his death, Fleck became one of the most revered names at SRHS. Marie had preceded him in death, so James’ death marked the execution of their family trust. In a few short lines, the trust stipulated that half the value of the trust go to SRHSF and half to Marie’s alma mater, West Rutland School in West Rutland, Vermont. For the SRHSF gift, the trust stated simply: “The Board of Directors of the Foundation shall award the income from the Fund to any Santa Rosa High School graduate in need of college tuition and who, in the opinion of the Board, demonstrates great future promise.” The task of using that statement to create a fair system of allocating the income of Fleck’s Fund fell largely to Nadine Smedshammer, the longtime head of the SRHSF’s Scholarship Committee.

After thinking long and hard about an equitable way to distribute the Fleck income proceeds, Smedshammer came up with a

Continued on page 4

CARING FOR STUDENTS AFTER THE FIRES PART TWO

By Don Cambou

In the lead story of our Winter Newsletter, we tried to give you some insight into how Santa Rosa High has been dealing with the traumas of its students whose families lost their homes in October’s fires. We spoke with principal Brad Coscarelli and lead architect of the emergency assistance effort, counselor Kris Bertsch-Rydell. In this issue, we’ll try to pick up where we left off – around the Christmas break.

For students who’d lost their homes, the school’s efforts before Christmas break came off as planned, with special activities and \$100 gift cards for each of them. According to counselor Bertsch-Rydell the real surprise came from the students. Yes, they were thrilled with the Foundation sponsored \$100 gift cards, but not because they could buy themselves special goodies. Most of the students wanted to use the cards to buy Holiday gifts for their family members.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe we are already in the 4th quarter of our Fiscal year 2017/2018; it has been a busy year thus far.



Since the last newsletter we added two new Board Members; Maiah Lucas from the class of 2017 was the recipient of the Berta Wiggins Memorial Scholarship! She is active on the scholarship committee and also with the PPF, Panther Project Fund. We are in hopes that Maiah will assist us in reaching out to the younger demographics of the SRHS Alumni. Our second new Board Member is Sylvie Anne Moore '65. Sylvie recently retired after 47 years in the airline business; first with Pan Am and more recently with United. Sylvie hit the ground running. She immediately attended a Polenta Feed meeting and was invaluable with set-up at the event, working the bar, and assisting with clean-up. She also donated orange & black wine bags she obtained in China.

Sylvie attended her first PPF meeting where she was instrumental in assisting Dawn Stornetta, Ag Department, to arrange air flight for 16 students attending the State Convention in Anaheim. I would like to welcome both Maiah & Sylvie to our Board of Directors.

Tony Negri, our Board Treasurer, and former faculty member at SRHS has been overseeing the implementation of six new water stations at SRHS. Three stations were donated by the Foundation through the PPF and three were donated by STP, Student Teacher Parent organization. It has been a daunting process aligning the plumber and electrician necessary to get them installed. The water stations provide chilled, filtered water to the students in their own reusable bottles.

Our Development Committee that also manages ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS, will be launching a new fundraising campaign by selling the remaining 10 granite/marble front sign plaques. Watch for more information on our website at www.srhsf.org, follow us on Face Book, or wait for the mass mailing that is planned to go out soon to Foundation Members.

Last but not least our Fire Relief Fund has raised over \$50,000.00 in cash and gift cards. The funds received have allowed us to fund various projects for the 130 students

impacted by the fires. The funds have been disbursed to some of the following school sponsored projects:

- Purchase of Backpacks and school supplies
- Purchase of gift cards to Target and Macy's in October, December and May 2018.
- \$2,000.00 for the SRHS Choir to assist its fire impacted members who were invited to sing at Carnegie Hall
- \$1,000.00 to the Ag Department to assist fire impacted students with the cost of attending the State Conference in Anaheim
- \$1,000.00 for the purchase of tickets to the Prom for fire impacted students.
- \$2,450.00 to Project Graduation for the purchase of Project Grad tickets for 35 Seniors attending who lost their homes to the October Fires.

These are just some of the ways the Fire Relief Fund has helped the students impacted by the fires.

I am looking forward to our final quarter where the process of selecting and awarding Memorial Scholarships and Fleck Scholarships are done and the Student of the Month dinner is scheduled in early May. We also just wrapped up the twenty second annual Polenta Feed, again with a sellout crowd! Early results indicate that revenue for the event is up 7%. Special thanks to Paulette Gomes, our Polenta Chairperson, the Polenta Committee and our faithful Volunteers.

I want to thank our Foundation Members, Alumni and the Staff and Parents at SRHS for their continued support!

“Once a Panther, Always a Panther”
Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

SRHS Foundation Directors

Monica Baldenegro '95	Tony Negri, Friend Treasurer
Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President	Stephen Olsen '61 Vice President
Don Cambou '64	Dick Owens '72
Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68	Carol Laabs Patterson '55
Maiah Lucas 2017	* Doug Pavese '58
JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56	* Donna Dennes Peterson '67
Joanne Ratzlaff McLaughlin '74	Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59
Secretary	Ilona Mayer Williams '64
Brian Mecchi '77	Chris Zeek '68
Rose Machen Moeller '68	Art Horner, School Liaison
Sylvie Moore '65	* Founding Director

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note: Bob Parker '63 was moved by the heart transplant accounts of Don Coover '62 and Jim Keegan '66 in our Winter newsletter. He submitted the following letter and account of his own heart related ordeal. His account has been lightly edited.

Use the attached as you wish. Seems to fit the stories you had in the Winter newsletter. Most of you will not remember me, but many of you were at SRHS when my mother, Edna Parker, was the Girl's Dean. After high school, I earned a BS degree from Caltech, and a doctorate from USC, then worked for Hughes Aircraft and Boeing my entire career.

Best wishes,
Bob Parker

In the last weeks of January 2003, I came down with something that I and my doctor thought was the flu, but it hung on a long time... Finally, the last weekend in January I began to have symptoms of irregular heartbeat... my resting heart rate, about 70, would suddenly jump to 165 for 30 seconds, and then return to 70.

That Monday, I called my family doctor, and... in his office, the condition recurred. He took one look at my EKG, turned to his assistant and barked, "Kathy, call the paramedics!"... I was taken literally across the street to Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance, where the doctors found I had a dissecting aneurysm of my ascending aorta, the same condition that later in the year killed the television actor John Ritter...

It was about 7 in the evening on the next day when a surgeon, accompanied by my family doctor, came into my room, summarized his findings, and said quietly but firmly "You have to have this surgery right now or you're going to die." I called my significant other, Kathleen, to tell her,... she... rushed to the hospital. We both listened to the surgeon, who explained that not only did I have to have immediate surgery, I had a 20% chance of dying during the operation, which he described as being "the biggest surgery you can have except for a heart-lung transplant." I asked him how many of these he did in a year; he said "about five"; when I asked, why so few, he replied succinctly, "Most people who have what you have arrive here dead."

We asked for a few minutes, looked at each other, called a minister who came immediately to the hospital room, and, as Kathleen says, "Put our hearts in each other's hands as the anesthesiology team paced outside the door." Neither of us knew whether I would survive this surgery.

The surgery lasted over seven hours. The surgeon replaced my ascending aorta with a Dacron graft, repaired the aortic valve, glued as much of the rest of aorta back together as he could reach, and re-assembled me. I was in the hospital 2 weeks; went through 13 weeks of rehabilitation; and was out of work for six months. Recovery was difficult, but went well, and now you would never know that I have a synthetic aorta.

Kathleen and I now live in the mountains between Reno and Lake Tahoe.

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. Or mail hard copies to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006.

Caring for Students After the Fires...continued from page 1

Soon after their return from break, the 125 students had an exciting surprise. The Rebuild North Bay Foundation, a non-profit created by Darius Anderson, had donated 20 PlayStation 4s to SRHS's student fire victims. SRHS used a lottery to award the 20 multi featured game consoles.

The Foundation sponsored PB and J (peanut butter and jelly) lunch club remains open every Thursday. The lunch club now attracts up to 120 students. The Panther Pantry remains fully stocked with food and clothing for students in need. It allows students to fill up shopping bags with groceries and clothes. And it remains very discreet to protect the identities of students who use the service.

The burden on the counselors hasn't decreased. Some students are doing better. But others have relapsed. Bertsch-Rydell says, "From one minute to the next we can't predict what craziness will be coming through our

door." But the counselors support each other. According to Bertsch-Rydell, "After a tough session, we visit each other, have our cry, and go back to work." Marriage and Family therapist Jita Parekh now reinforces the work of the counselors by offering a six week support group for the students who need the most help. She meets with two groups of eight students every week. As Santa Rosans continue learning, recovery will be long and difficult.

In early May, the student fire victims received more Foundation funded \$100 gift cards. When they return in the fall, more backpacks and toiletries will await those who need them. Perhaps more gift cards will await them as well.

If you'd like to contribute to this important on-going effort, visit the Foundation's website, www.srhsf.org, and hit the "Donate" button. You can also call the Pandy Line at [707-571-7747](tel:707-571-7747), or email info@srhsf.org.

It's Absolutely Magnificent...continued from page 1

solution. Foundation founding members Mike Grace and Doug Pavese helped her fine tune the plan.

Here's how it works. The Fleck Scholarships are meant to benefit students at all levels; they can be granted to students heading to beauty school or trade schools, as well as to those heading to Stanford or Harvard. Every SRHS department receives at least one scholarship. So that no "lobbying" can occur, students cannot apply for the scholarships; the nominations come from each department. The Foundation's Scholarship Selection Committee chooses each year's winners.

Since its inception midway through the 2014-15 school year, the Foundation has awarded 82 Fleck Scholarships,

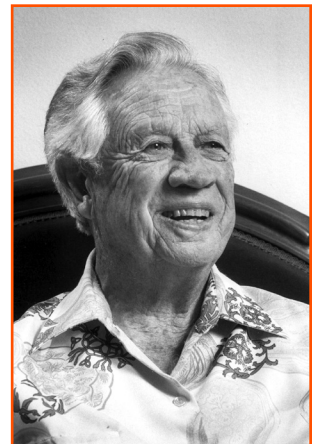
usually in the \$4,500 to \$5,000 range. The current school year is no exception. Twenty two additional students will receive scholarships of \$4,472 this May. The total worth of this year's Fleck Scholarships will be over \$100,000. The yearly value of the scholarship is based on the income generated by the two million plus investment. Because the principal remains essentially untouched, the Fleck scholarship will continue "in perpetuity." So two decades from now the total number of Fleck scholarship recipients should be well over 500, with no end in sight.

When Brook Tauzer, who attended SRHS at the same time as Fleck, and was the dean of students at Santa Rosa Junior College, reflected on the Fleck gift he said, "I think it's absolutely magnificent."

THE JAMISON LEGACY LIVES ON

By Steve Olson

J. Wesley Jamison educated and served as a mentor for thousands of students during his 38 years at the helm of the SRHS Ag Department. When he passed away in 1989, a memorial fund was established within the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation to keep his legacy alive and provide financial support for future generations of local FFA members. The memorial fund has grown over the years with current assets exceeding \$120,000 thanks to the continuing support of his former students, friends, family and fellow Rotarians. The fund is overseen by a committee of dedicated volunteers including several of Mr. Jamison's former FFA members like Bob Matteri, Lex McCorvey, Tim Tesconi, Sam McMillan and Steve Olson. The annual proceeds from the fund currently supports the J. Wesley Jamison Merit Award, which helps worthy local FFA members purchase project lambs, pigs and goats to be shown and sold at the Sonoma County Fair. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Jamison Fund may do so by sending their check to the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation, PO Box 1513, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402. Questions can be directed to Steve Olson at [707-525-8118](tel:707-525-8118) or emailing olsonsa@sbcglobal.net.



REMEMBER WHEN: 1918

by Rick Blaine

Editor's note: Rick Blaine has been ghosting around the SRHS campus for a long time now. This is his remembrance of his 1918 graduating class.

Santa Rosa, the United States and the world were sure different a hundred years ago. Consider: just 10,000 people lived in the Santa Rosa area. Streets were mostly paved and lights were becoming electric. The General Hospital opened on A Street. Cattle drives from the Southern Pacific Depot on North Street down College Avenue to Noonan's Meat at the Northwestern Railroad tracks were a thing of the past. "Speedburners" in their fast automobiles on College now were the source of complaints. Telephones were becoming common.

On the national level, Woodrow Wilson was president and the United States had entered World War I. We were "making the world safe for democracy." Time zones and daylight savings time were created. The Spanish flu wouldn't appear until the fall. It would kill about 2% of the county's population. Ted Williams and Billy Graham were born and the Mormon Church's leader Joseph Smith died. Mississippi was first to ratify Prohibition, and the first woman was elected to Congress—Jeanette Rankin of Montana. The nation's population was about 105 million. Milk cost nine cents a quart, a dozen eggs went for thirty-four, a stamp was two cents, a loaf of bread seven cents, a gallon of gas fifteen cents, and you could buy a house for about \$3,200. The average yearly income was around \$1,500.

Sixty-one of us graduated from 24-year-old Santa Rosa High School that spring. We were taught by a faculty of 22 in the three-story classroom building on Humboldt Street. (Fire would destroy it in another three years.) Our senior year was influenced by the war. Fifteen SRHS alumni were fighting in Europe as we seniors collected scrap, sold Thrift Stamps, flew a Service Flag with 15 stars, participated in the Food Pledge Campaign and 100% of us joined Junior Red Cross.

Miss O'Meara (She taught for 50 years!) asked us to donate to the Belgian Relief Fund. We doubled her quota with our donations to the Little Brown Jug on her desk. Girls knitted socks and sweaters for suffering Belgians. We challenged the faculty to see who could buy the most Thrift Stamps. The teachers won, but our War Savings Stamp drive resulted in \$1,500. We were, as the Echo put it, "gloriously over the top" in wartime activities.

While much of our senior year was focused on the war, we still had time for fun. We "learned-looking" seniors

enjoyed dances, marshmallow roasts and picnics at the Russian River. The girls gave benefit teas. The faculty presented a play to benefit the Echo, now in its second year as an annual publication instead of monthly. Parents and students attended the play in the Annex and "each faculty member had a part." It was a big deal.

The idea of a junior college emerged, and a committee of wives of business and professional leaders explored the suggestion and presented it to the board of education. The board approved the concept and Santa Rosa Junior College became a reality. With a student body of nineteen and a faculty of eight, it would open for classes the next fall and would share the SRHS campus for twelve years.

We went to school on foot or by bicycle. If you had access to a car, it was probably a Model T with a crank start, no windows or doors, no gas gauge, no radio and hand-operated windshield wipers. Students who lived out in the country rode the train. Petaluma's high school was a year older than SRHS (1873) and Analy High in Sebastopol opened in 1908, but students who lived in the northern county and along the Russian River found it easier to take the train to Fulton and then to Santa Rosa than to attend those schools. The "learning train" started in Monte Rio and made stops at Guerneville, Korbel, Hacienda and Mirabel. Once at Santa Rosa, students walked to Humboldt Street.

Our debate team was "marvelous" all year. We defeated Sonoma in a discussion whether California should adopt compulsory health insurance. (A topic still under discussion one hundred years later!)

We competed athletically in the Northwestern League. (The North Bay League would form eight years later, and the Panther would have to wait until 1925 to be born.) In track we faced Vallejo, Analy, St. Helena, Healdsburg, Napa and Petaluma. We threw the javelin then. Our basketball team won five games and lost six. Our baseball team lost just one game.

The big athletic rival was Analy High whose students burned a big "A" on the SRHS lawn. Analy did defeat SRHS in basketball, but our baseball team won. Football wouldn't begin in earnest until the fall of the next school year.

The girls' basketball team "did splendid work" losing four games but beating Sonoma High and Sweet's Business College.

Continued on page 7

CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Chris Zeek/Rose Machen Moeller

December 2017, January, February, and March 2018

The Foundation welcomes nine new members and appreciates 113 renewals, bringing our current membership to 1,027. Thanks to the continued generosity of members and non-member donors, current contributions total \$3,177.62. Since its inception in fall through March, The Fire Relief fund has received nearly \$48,000 in cash donations. These donations benefit the students directly and provide many opportunities they would not have without them. We will continue to support our SRHS family through the Fire Relief fund.

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

Wells Fargo Community	Peggy Call- '41	Steve Orsborn- '68
Kristina Boudreaux- Parent	Don Cambou- '64	Ed Pisenti- '55
Don & Cherie Green- Parent	Coy Gore- '55	Norma Rettinhouse- '55
John & Debra Franzman- Friends	Laurence Hartley- '62	Sandra Spencer- '54
Bob & Pam Janes- Parents	James & Shirley Ann Hurley- '58	Robert Tuttle- '40
James & Dana Simonds- Parents	Gary Meagher- '49	Dennis Tyler- '53
Marilyn Swire- Friend	Lucille Moholt-Siebert- '68	Ed Walker- '62
Aileen Bianchini- '43	Gwen Neary- 2006	

LIFETIME MEMBERS

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 to join or make contributions. Or contact me, Rose Machen Moeller at wildrows01@gmail.com. The Santa Rosa High School Foundation will continue to grow with your help and our students will continue to flourish. Please encourage family and friends to become members of SRHSF.

David Brown- '80

RECENT FIRE RELIEF FUND DONATIONS

Connie Barnett	Barbara Fisher	Patricia Nabti
Lori Blackburn	Alana Kelly	Susan Nelsen
Joanne Bruggemann	Patricia Lieftrinck Downs	Shirley Seaton
Merlynn Sue Carr	Betty Lowdermilk	Suzanne Smith
Divana Dobberteen	Anthony Martin	Pat Tilley
Joseph Fairbanks	Carol Mazzia	

SEAT PLAQUES

Lori Blackburn- '80

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 specific department, athletic, or group need, or scholarship.

AG Dept

Elaine Thompson- '58

William Barclay/Music Dept

Jim Nelson- '61

Dick Azevedo

Clarence Tauzer- '44

Don Arrabit- '44

Marie Laskell- '47

Mary Testorelli- '47

Janet Blom

Ann Poulson- '50

John Cambou

Virginia Cambou- '65

Eugene Caneveri

Merv Stithem- '53
Charles Mertel- '53

Diane Diekmann Orr

Sue Grave- '67

Robert Nino Falco

Lenora Falco- '40
Craig & Melinda Moeller- '72

Louise Fertita

Jim Slaten- '52

Bill Gass

Bill & Carol Fairbanks- '55 & '57
Joseph Fairbanks- '57
Chris & Vera Zeek- '68

Thelma Grossi

Virginia Templeton- '63

Toni Guannella Kuhaulelio
Ray & Kathy Lazzini- '48

Ray Lazzini Memorial

Bob & Julie Ratto

Judith Loyd

Merv Stithem- '53

Bruce Mecchi Scholarship

Contribution in memory of Lois Bertuccelli Bastas, Mecchi Family Friend
Louise Bostrom- Friend
Brian Mecchi- '77
Rena Mecchi- Friend

Roy Memeo

Martha Keegan- '47
Clarence Tauzer- '44
Diane Toso- '63

Mary Testorelli- '47

Hugh Page

Robert & Delores Zeni- Friends

Shirley Nielsen Pelton

Martha Keegan- '47
Jim '52 and Carol '51 Underhill

Al Pisenti

Elaine Thompson- '58

Howard E Seacord

Betty Seacord- Parent

Ed Von der Porten

Mike Daniels

Billy Wycoff

Mike Daniels

In Memoriam

Shirley Lewis "Pete" Cambra- '37

Al Pisenti- '41

Celestine "Cel" Rena Bianchi-Rossi

Bertoli- '38

Barbara Ellen Nader Mello- '42

Roy Albert Memeo- '44

Ray Lazzini- '48

Richard Barbieri- '49

Gordon Barsuglia- '52

John Mayhue- '54

Shirley Alice Neilsen Pelton- '55

Janet Gweneth Gilmore Porill- '57

Tim Calegari- '58

Felicia Ann Romero Gonzales- '85

Nicole "Nikki" Marie Henkel- '87

Susan Fisher Albritton- '88

Larry Flor – retired faculty

Ed Von der Porten – retired faculty

Billy Wycoff – retired faculty



Remember When...continued from page 5

We wore "snappy styles," both boys and girls. Boys bought theirs from Brooks Clothing, Keegan Brothers or Hodgson-Henderson Co. The White House offered "Graduation Clothes, Outing Clothes and Working Clothes" for both sexes.

In words that would be echoed many times in the future, the Class of 1918 was urged to do "your duty, now that High School days are over, and the time for entrance in life's arena is here, to make the best of opportunities, and to leave the world better than when you entered."

The BLOOD FEUD is Back!

From the late 50s through the 60s, the most humongous sports rivalry in town was SRHS vs. Montgomery. Flash forward four decades. The old sports rivals discovered a new, lifesaving competition: giving blood. They called it "The Blood Feud." From 2009 to 2012 the men and women of SRHS and MHS donated an astounding 358 pints of blood.

This coming fall, the Blood Feud will be on again. Dates pending. 60s athletes Mike Grace '65 SRHS,

Mike Francis '63 MHS, and Bob Parker '66 MHS are spearheading this year's event. Your SRHS Foundation and the Montgomery Foundation are co-sponsoring this new Feud. More information to come. If you're ready to "Beat Monty!" and bleed for the Orange and Black, contact Mike Grace at mgrace@sonic.net or 707-483-6095.

A PAC SPORTS STORY THE FLEA CIRCUS

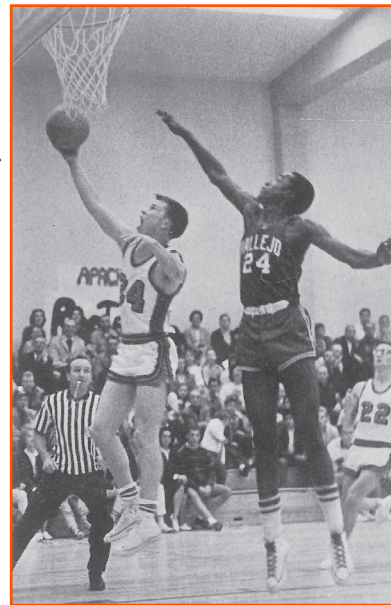
By Don Cambou

During the 1963 – 64 basketball season, the gyms of the North Bay League were filled with fleas. Pesky little fellows in constant motion who could deliver a vicious bite. The “Flea Circus” was officially known as the Santa Rosa High Varsity basketball team. No member of the starting five was taller than six feet. Yet they almost won the league championship. The team compiled an 18 W – 9 L record. They were invited to the prestigious Gridley Tournament, where they finished a very impressive second. In that tourney, they even snapped Gilroy’s 21 game winning streak.

Led by the likes of lightning quick Bill Zollner ’64, floor general Bob Brown ’64, shooting and defensive whiz John Grace ’64, and sharp shooter Mark Jenkins ’65, the fleas terrorized much larger and taller teams. Driven by Coach George Vine, the fleas played a shuffle offense and a smothering man to man defense. They also had a deep bench – consisting of more fleas. Thus, they kept themselves, and the ball, in unrelenting motion.

It was a time when boys’ sports ruled, and the gyms were always packed and rocking on game night. The origin of the nickname appears lost in the sands of time. But SRHS students and faculty embraced the diminutive title. After all, have you ever tried to catch a flea? And, man, can they jump.

The Panther Athletic Club (PAC) supports all Panther athletic activities. For more information email Michael Burch at pacboostersrhs@gmail.com or contact Marlene Callen at 707-338-1486.



Zollner lays it in.

22ND ANNUAL POLENTA FEED A HUGE WINNER

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes

The Foundation Polenta Feed held at the Veterans Memorial was another successful fund raising event for SRHS. Many thanks are extended to the alumni, staff and friends who attended.

This year event was dedicated to Ray Lazzini, Class of 1948. For nearly 20 years Ray was the polenta cook and supporter of the SRHS Foundation. His wife Kathy and family attended the night in his honor. Ray will be missed by the Foundation, alumni and many friends that knew him.

650 hungry Panthers and friends packed the Vets for another soulful reunion. Randy Apel and crew prepared the delicious polenta and stew. The generous bunch of diners made sure a lot of money poured in to the raffle and live auction. Two SRHS counselors, Kristine Erken and Blaire Murphy, won the live auction bidding war for a lobster dinner for 10 at \$1625.00 – the biggest

prize of the evening. After expenses, the Feed earned over \$28,000 for SRHS student activities and needs.

A big thank you to the boys and girls soccer team and other students that did a fantastic job serving.

Special thanks go to the Polenta Feed Committee: Donna Peterson, Co-Chair, Mary Beseda, JoAnn MacDonald, Brian Mecchi, Sylvie Moore, Tony Negri, Dick Owens, Ilona Williams and Chris Zeek. Without them this event wouldn’t have happened.





Many significant contributions have been made possible by the ONE THOUSAND PANTHER Campaign

Santa Rosa High School Foundation

“Once A Panther, Always A Panther”

ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

Thank you for your generous support!
2017-2018 Donations to Date

David Armstrong 1958
in Memory of a Great Teacher - Cliff Hodder

Karen Lynn Basso 1964

Fiona 2012, Casey 2014, Griffin 2017 Becker

Robert ‘Bob’ 1978 & Amy Borges

Arnold & Dale Martin Bussard 1961*

Harrison F. Comstock 1943

in Memory of Diane Hayes Comstock 1947

Frane & Janae Franicevich

Parents of Zora 2014 & Sunce 2015

Bill & Suzie Friedman 1966 **

Michael 1971 & Kim Roberts 1971 Gutzman ***

Richard Heidebrink 1944 **

James 1966 & Diane Dennes 1967 Keegan

Alana Kelly 1978 *****

Bruce & Connie Kinnison Parents of Grads 2000 & 2004

Karen Giovannini & Louis Lovell Parents of 2021 Grad

Gary Mann 1963

Tim & Janice March

William R. Mitchell MD 1963

Thomas G. Moore 1954

Gary Rasche 1961 *****

Oren 1959 & Nadine Smedshammer

Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955 **

Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955 Trust *****

In memory of Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955

Susan Wiesner Smith

Edward M. & Anne Fuermann Smith ****

Kirsten Towne Smith ****

Virginia Grossi Templeton 1963

In loving memory of Thelma Del Rosso Grossi 1946 **

Don 1961 & Prisca 1970 Waltenspiel

Larry Weese 1964 *****

Chris & Vera Zeek 1968

Pandy Fund #2:

Sally Kaufmann Havner Cowan MD 1952

John Grace 1964

Jim & Janice Pedroni Jordan 1966

Eugene 1959 & Catherine Sato

Janet Mosure Tompkins 1949 *

in Memory of Douglas Campbell - Journalism teacher

* indicates multiple donations. Wow!

A Campaign in progress to enrich the SRHSF Endowment Fund
by utilizing \$1,000 donations by 1000 Panther supporters 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 228 donors (many with multiple donations) totaling over \$330,500

JOIN US! We are making a difference.

Call the Pandy Line (707-571-7747) or visit us online at www.SRHSF.org for assistance.

Donation options are available.

Donations by cash, check, credit card are accepted from individuals and groups (pooled), pledges over 2, 4, and 5 years, employer matching funds, and marketable securities. CALL US!



A MUSEUM GIFT FROM 1902

By Mike Daniels

The Santa Rosa High School Museum now houses a newly acquired plum, full of lost knowledge. It's a "Santa Rosa High School Circular of Information" for the academic year 1902-03. It was recently donated by Justina Irwin of Rocklin, near Sacramento. Ms. Irwin purchased a "mystery" bag of material from the Rocklin library and in it found the circular. She passed it on to a grateful museum.

Comprehensive in content, its twenty pages describe the Humboldt Street school building as "one of the best equipped in the State, contains one study hall which will accommodate 300 pupils, two physics laboratories, one chemical laboratory, one biological laboratory, one lecture room (seating 80 pupils), six recitation rooms, besides several smaller rooms. The laboratories have been especially well equipped. They were planned for the work to be done therein and they are abundantly supplied with apparatus."

The small book also lists the members of the board of education, the administration (both principal and vice principal taught classes in addition to administrative duties), faculty (7), student enrollment (300), explanations of each department, graduation requirements (tied to the admission requirements to the University of California), course descriptions, and the names of every graduate since 1878. Those names are a catalogue of significant folk in early Santa Rosa—Geary, Pressley, Overton, Colgan, Hahman, Ware, Farmer and others.

The "Circular of Information" follows other pieces of history that have surfaced elsewhere and are donated to the collection. That's how an 1898 athletic trophy found in a Central California artichoke field, and a cabinet made in 1920s woodshop and found in a Marin County dump, found their way to the museum. And some items once spirited away have been returned once the luster of pirated possession has worn off.

The Santa Rosa High School museum, one of a very few found at any public high school, came into reality in 2007. It holds quite a lot of artifacts, from 19th century and more contemporary.

Among the older holdings are copies of the "Porcupine," the 19th/early 20th Century precursor to the "Echo," and bricks, gargoyles and a desk from the Humboldt Street campus that burned in 1921.

Before the museum, many artifacts had been stored here and there around the Mendocino Avenue campus since it was finished in 1925. And some banished to trash were rescued while others were certainly lost.

Interested in viewing the "Circular of Information" and the many other historical treasures in the museum? Make arrangements through Art Horner ahorner@srs.k12.ca.us or Mike Daniels mdaniels@sonic.net.



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOLFERS – SAVE THE DATE

23rd Annual Golf Tournament, Dinner
and Auctions
Friday, September 14, 2018

Oakmont West Golf Course

Check-In begins at 11:15 AM • Shotgun Start 12:45 PM

- Golf Cart, Range Balls, Lunch with Drinks
- 18 Holes of Golf – 4 Person Scramble (Men's & Co-ed Flights)
- Dinner and Auction Following Golf in the Quail Inn. Guests are Welcome

Tee Prizes ★ Raffle Prizes ★ Best Foursome and Other Golfer Prizes

A registration form will be in our Summer Newsletter and available on our website at www.srhsf.org or by calling our Pandy Line at 707-571-7747.

All Proceeds Benefit SRHS Sports and Academic Programs





By: Pandy
 SPRING '18

In late March of this year, SRHS track phenom **Kristen Carter 2018** already owned the Redwood Empire's fastest times ever in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and 400 meters. So why not try something a little different, like the 300

meter hurdles. She attacked the course and finished with the fastest time in the United States – until it was eclipsed 24 hours later. Kristin will certainly make the CIF State meet in June. The only question is which events she'll choose to run...

Jim Helmer was one of many who lost their homes in the October fires. He taught Video Production in the ArtQuest program at SRHS from 2000 through 2016. Around Christmas, his uncle sent Jim money to buy clothing. Jim protested that others needed the money more than he. But his uncle was insistent. When his uncle sent more money around Easter, Jim decided to "pay it forward." He worked with the school to contribute to students who had also suffered fire losses. His gifts of over \$1,000 rented Prom tuxedos and dresses, and paid for tickets and dinners...

Bob Levy '64, a lifetime surfer and master woodworker, wanted to do something for his four St. Rose School classmates who lost their homes in October's fires. So he crafted each of them an instant heirloom. He made a distinct and very original hope chest for each. Bob used six kinds of wood in various combinations to create the gifts. He presented the four chests at an informal but very emotional get together at the home of **Ilona Mayer Williams '64**...



Bob Levy, center

Mark DeMeo '58 is one of the far too many who lost everything--house and belongings--in the October fires that swept through much of Santa Rosa. Daughter **Nicole DeMeo '85** of Media Luna Winery brought a little solace to her dad when she contacted the Foundation to see if it

could restore a yearbook. A pristine 1958 Echo was found, and Nicole gave it to her dad in a family ceremony of remembrance...

Gary Marlow '62 recently donated copies of the 1918, 1920 and 1930 Echo and his mom's 1932 SRHS diploma to the SRHS Museum. She was Elvera Richards then and was president of the Laurean Club (produced the creative writing magazine), president of the Dramaticas Club, served on the Santa Rosan and was a member of the Scholarship Society...

Many members of the **Class of 1985** have embraced education as a vocation or an avocation: **Shawn Brumbaugh**, science instructor at SRJC; **Tim Crawford**, asst. prof. of political science at Boston College; **David Vann**, professor at University of Warwick, United Kingdom; **Holly Kralj**, lecturer in nursing at CSU Chico; **Sharon Bailey Glasco**, associate prof. of Latin America and world history, Linfield College, Oregon; **Anne-Marie O'Brien**, asst. prof of nursing, Marymount University; **Megan O'Brien McLaughlin**, school board member, Fairfax County Schools, Virginia; **Heather Dueck Miller**, teacher, Santa Rosa City Schools; **Kelly Burton Hunter**, math teacher, Windsor School District; **Michelle Lerversee**, Spanish teacher, Santa Cruz; **Matt Reed**, Assistant Superintendent, Brevard Public Schools, Florida.

Larry Flor, who taught a computer class called Cisco Networking at SRHS from 1999 to 2016, died this April. His students won many awards, including a gold medal at the state level. He had stage 4 pancreatic cancer, a very aggressive disease. He loved teaching so much that less than a month before his death, he substitute taught a class at SRHS. Up until the end, he maintained a very optimistic attitude, and wanted to give encouragement to others to never give up. He was a classical pianist and said his love of playing kept him going.





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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 Pandy 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!**