



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2022

Vol.35

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.*

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, 2022

By Monica Baldenegro and Kristine Erken

Scholarship season has come to a close but not without an amazing show! Forty four scholarships were awarded totalling \$129,310! This is the most money the Santa Rosa High School Foundation has ever given in a scholarship year. With so many amazing students at Santa Rosa High, it's not easy to determine who will receive these awards. The incredible amount of money given to our students each year is a result of earnings on donations given to the SRHS Foundation. All these scholarships exist "in perpetuity," meaning their principal never diminishes.

The scholarship nomination and selection process has been developed over the years into how it played out this year. Nadine Smedshammer led the initial scholarship committee and she continues to be a part of the team which now also includes Monica Baldenegro and Kristine Erken. This team works throughout the year, and in January the committee starts the engines running and keeps them going through the end of the school year. The Committee contacts the Department Chairs at Santa Rosa High School and asks them to collaborate

with their departments to determine which seniors they agree should receive 22 Memorial Scholarships. These scholarships are supported by families and friends of Santa Rosa High School graduates and others who have passed away. The criteria for each scholarship is set by the family or friends to best represent the attributes they want to remember about their deceased loved one. The Memorial Scholarships are the first scholarships to be given during scholarship season. These scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,940.

The Fleck Scholarships, named in honor of James Fleck '46 and his wife Marie, whose trust included a huge \$2,100,000 bequest to the SRHS Foundation, are the second set of awards given. The Fleck Scholarships are determined in a different way. Each department has a varying number of nominations they submit for review to the SRHS Foundation Scholarship Committee. The departments collaborate and determine which of their seniors best fit the criteria to be nominated for a Fleck Scholarship. Once they

## THE STORY OF LORENZO

by Mike Daniels '59

The basement of the Santa Rosa High School main building has seen a number of uses over the years. It's been a dressing and equipment room for athletics, complete with showers. It's been a classroom for journalism. It's housed student body officers. It's even been filled with first aid and other emergency equipment in the event of nuclear war.

Today the area is home base for the campus custodial staff, a place to store tools and provide a respite from their almost constant campus duties.

Just outside the entrance sits a huge boulder. Fixed on the rock is a plaque that honors head custodian Lorenzo Solis, a man who loved Santa Rosa High School in a way few others could. His untimely loss left a huge void.

His background remains pretty much a mystery as he didn't share much about his personal life. He came to the US from Mexico where he may have been a talented professional soccer player. His career may have been cut short by injury. Whatever the case, he brought his work skills and ethic with him and embraced the campus and it loved him back. He kept it running with efficiency. He tackled and solved all problems

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued on page 4*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mary Beseda

It is hard to believe that the 2021/2022 school year is almost ending, and what a year it has been for the students, staff and the SRHS Foundation. The students at SRHS were able to start the 2021 school year with in-person classes and the school environment almost normal!

Mary Orsborn Beseda  
President

The SRHS Foundation Board also returned to in-

person Board meetings with some of the Board Members attending via Zoom. The in-person/Zoom combination might be our norm moving forward. It allows for out of area Board members to attend along with local Board members and presenters to be in attendance.

The 25th annual Polenta Feed was on April 22nd, 2022 and was a success! With a little over three hundred in attendance, the feedback from the attendees was that they enjoyed the new format and the ability to visit with classmates. The last Polenta Feed in 2019 had 650 people in attendance the average spend per capita was \$72.00 vs 315 attendees in 2022 with an average spend per capita of \$97.00; indicative of the generosity of our members, alumni, friends, and supporters! This year the 50/50 raffle benefited the Athletic Programs at SRHS. Two members of the Panther Athletic Club (PAC), Laura Correa & Sheila Twyman volunteered to sell tickets and did a fantastic job, one-half the pot was \$843.00! New this year was the ability of our attendees to help support Project Graduation with the sponsorship of front yard signs or sponsoring a Project Grad attendance ticket for a graduating senior! Two members from Project Graduation also volunteered their time, Jeanie

Kim, and Nikki Burke. The Polenta Feed would not be possible without the hard work of Paulette Gomes, Polenta Chair and the Polenta Committee!

Next on the agenda is in-person graduation on June 3, 2022. This year attendees will enjoy a rented jumbotron provided by the SRHS Foundation. This will allow all attendees to have a better visual of the graduating seniors! Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2022!

The Foundation is looking for Board Members! We are looking for individuals who share our commitment to Santa Rosa High School. The Board oversees an endowment in excess of \$5M and our Mission is threefold:

- Preserving and documenting the history and traditions at SRHS
- Providing Financial Support to the school
- Promoting Community Involvement

The Board is made up of volunteers, and elected Board members are asked to serve a three-year term. Board members and volunteers also serve on sub-committees. Please email your interest to [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org) or call the Pandy line at 707-571-7747.

Once a Panther, Always a Panther!

## CORRECTION

Our Winter 2022 newsletter stated in the article "Friday Night Lights: The SRHS Way" that the Bartley Pump Company paid for Weeks Drilling to bore four 30 foot deep holes to support the high light poles. In fact, the article should have stated that Ward and Pat Thompson of the Weeks Drilling and Pump Company donated all the equipment and crew to drill those large borings and place the conductor casings. Our apologies, and thanks to Ward and Pat Thompson for their continuing generous support of the SRHS Foundation.

## SRHS Foundation Directors

- Monica Baldenegro '95
- Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President
- Don Cambou '64 Newsletter Editor
- \* Donna Dennes Doyle '67
- Kristine Erken, Friend
- Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68
- Rhonda Rehm Loop '73 Treasurer
- JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56  
Corresponding Secretary
- Brian Mecchi '77
- Tony Negri, Friend
- Mark Noonan '70
- \* Doug Pavese '58
- Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59
- Christine Romani Tonelli '88
- Ilona Mayer Williams '64
- Chris Zeek '68 Vice President

*\* Founding Director*

have submitted their nominations, the Scholarship Committee selects the recipients. The process is often difficult due to the many amazing students that are nominated by the different departments. This year 22 Fleck scholarships were granted in the amount of \$4,825 each.

The students are all notified that they have received a scholarship through a surprise reveal meeting. This event includes students and families, and over the past three years has been held via Zoom. Although not in person, it still holds the same level of excitement as it does when we're in person.

If you are interested in developing a scholarship in honor of a loved one or have questions about creating a scholarship, please contact Monica Baldenegro or Kristine Erken at mbgrockssrhs@gmail.com, or donations@srhsf.org.

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2022 RECIPIENTS

Student Name	Scholarship	
Julia Garey	Berta Wiggins	\$725
Kelly Fleischer	Betty Jean Gong	\$500
Jesus Lopez Vega	Bruce Mecchi	\$725
Cielo Sanchez-Loyola	Cristian Valencia	
	Figueroa	\$525
Isabella Damberger-Sheldon	Emmett O'Neill	\$500
Kalkidan "Kali" Gilardoni	Rasche - Auto	\$1,940
Lola Cook	Rasche - Auto	\$1,940
Lucas Shimetz	Rasche - Manufacturing	\$1,940
Nolan Fowle	Rasche - Manufacturing	\$1,940
Jacqueline Cucina	Rasche - Woodshop	\$1,940
Justin Garcia-Diaz	Rasche - Woodshop	\$1,940
Jenny Young	Henry and Doris Matteri	\$612
Guilianna Facciano	Henry and Doris Matteri	\$612
Samuel De La Cruz	Jack Kellar "Lucky Jade"	\$1,263
Piper Lefson	Jack Kellar "Lucky Jade"	\$1,263
Carson Cook	Jerry Poncia (music)	\$525
Taylor Seder	Lisa Nilsen	\$500
Nanucha- Francisca Barbosa	Lorenzo Solis	\$575
Zohar Kennard	Patrick Gallagher	\$1,700
Caitlyn Oliver	Peter Slusser (Ag)	\$500
Carson Cook	Peter Slusser (Debate)	\$500
Simon Haupt	Robert Clell McKinney	\$500

## JAMES FLECK SCHOLARSHIPS 2022 RECIPIENTS

### 22 SCHOLARSHIPS @ \$4,825 EACH

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ARTQUEST</b>
Tara Elsa	James Cheney
Justin Garcia-Diaz	<b>VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS</b>
Ava Roberts	Celine Boyer
<b>MATH</b>	<b>RESOURCE</b>
Sebastian Bohn	Olivia House
Katei Jo Brumbaugh	<b>PE</b>
Emery Burke	Jordan Zamora
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>
Alexis Castro Valdivia	Jocelyn Villalobos
Madelin Lana	<b>COUNSELING</b>
Emmanuel Vallarta	Alexander Manning
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>FLECK COMMITTEE</b>
Logan Lane	Isabella Damberger-Sheldon
Emma Meiners	Ellen Marsh
Molly Murphey	Grace Moore
<b>CAREER TECHNICAL ED</b>	
Jennifer Young	

## POLENTA FEED IS BACK

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes, Chairperson, Polenta Committee

The Annual Polenta Feed is back. We restricted ticket sales because of lingering Covid concerns, so only 315 attended. Nevertheless, this year's event was a success. Many thanks are extended to all that attended. Randy Apel and crew prepared the delicious Polenta and Stew. The biggest prize of the evening was a Live Auction item: the Lobster dinner for 10. It went for \$1750.00. We were able to auction off TWO dinners for 10 at that price. After expenses, the Feed earned over \$23,000 net profit for SRHS student activities and needs.

A big thank you goes to the SRHS boys and girls that did a fantastic job serving, along with Annette Cole who was their leader in charge. Plus, all the wonderful volunteers that came out early Friday morning to help get the Polenta Feed set up. Special thank you goes to the Polenta Feed Committee members. Without them, this event would not have happened. They are Donna Doyle, Co-Chair; Mary Beseda; Rhonda Loop; JoAnn MacDonald; Tony Negri; Ilona Williams; and Chris Zeek.

that came to him, even leaving mundane cleanup jobs to solve pressing needs. Secretaries, classroom aides, teachers, students and other custodians respected and appreciated him. His dedication knew no boundaries. Nadine Smedshammer, the vice principal's secretary, called him the "linchpin that held the school together."

When he came to SRHS in the mid-1990s, Lorenzo's language skills clashed with the idioms and slang so readily tossed about by students and staff. To help his understanding, main office secretary Marlene Callen shared and explained jokes and double entendres. Lorenzo's communication skills soon skyrocketed.

Before he arrived at SRHS, 1978's Proposition 13 and some changes in school funding sources had forced cutbacks at many levels. Custodial services at SRHS and throughout the school district suffered losses in personnel and supplies.

But those losses did not deter Lorenzo. He supplemented where he could, staying after his work day to repair, to clean or to prepare. He collected aluminum cans from the trash and turned them in for cash he used to purchase supplies.

He understood cultural differences and worked to overcome them. In Mexico, for example, events like Project Graduation didn't exist for graduating high school students. As a result, the Latino seniors at SRHS were reluctant to participate in the event. Lorenzo encouraged attendance, and his presence at the occasion from beginning to the 4 am closing motivated the students.

He led by example in other areas too. Tackling the grimy jobs himself, Lorenzo demonstrated interest and ability in keeping the campus operational. His coworkers, appreciating that, followed his lead as they developed a fondness and a respect for their head custodian.

And Lorenzo did have a sense of humor. In one instance he used it to prevent an awkward student situation. Late one afternoon, well after classes were dismissed, secretaries noticed a student couple on the front lawn in an over-the-top passionate embrace. (Raging hormones!) Because the couple was so visible, Lorenzo was notified. He turned on the sprinklers. The heated situation cooled immediately.

When the administration was reluctant to allow the parking of student vehicles on the lawn behind the science wing as part of the annual Country Fair Day Car Show, Lorenzo lobbied on behalf of the students, reminding the administration "grass will grow back."

He did take a special interest in seeing that all SRHS athletes had clean facilities and that their equipment was repaired and ready for use. His athletic interest went

beyond the immediate. Discovering one day a trove of trophies honoring girls' athletics in a North Gym storage area, Lorenzo cleaned and repaired the trophies and installed them for display in the lobby. That bit of athletic heritage would have been lost had he not stepped up.



Lorenzo Solis

A humble person who avoided special attention, he was confused but pleased when the secretaries and other staff gave him a baby shower because his wife was expecting one of his two daughters. He was especially happy that they would one day attend SRHS.

His dedication knew no boundaries. Sadly, it contributed to his untimely death. One late afternoon in 2007, his work for the day over, Lorenzo remained at school, helping secretary Callen in the former snack bar. Uncharacteristically, he said he wasn't feeling well, that he suffered some pains. The secretary said that he needed to get to an emergency room and that she'd drive him. He insisted he'd be OK and kept working.

The next morning his pain continued. His wife insisted he see a doctor, but Lorenzo resisted, saying he was needed at school. Just blocks from home, he suffered a heart attack, his pickup colliding with a telephone pole. He died at the scene.

Ironically, principal Tony Negri, driving by the accident, thought the truck looked like Lorenzo's. He arrived at school to find the campus in mourning at the loss of this exceptional man.

Within two years faculty and staff fundraising activities had generated a perpetual scholarship in his honor. It is awarded yearly to the graduating senior whose work ethic and dedication best reflects that of Lorenzo Solis.

(Interested in donating to the Lorenzo Scholarship Fund? Just call the Pandy Line at (707) 571-7747 or email [donations@srhsf.org](mailto:donations@srhsf.org) for info)



# WHERE THE BIG CATS MEET

By Don Cambou

Lots of big events happen at Santa Rosa High's Nevers Field. You know most of them: Football on Friday nights in autumn, including the Big Game against Montgomery; the graduation ceremony in late spring; last year, Nevers Field even hosted



*Carrie Joseph*

the Prom. But unless you're a track and field fan, chances are you've never heard of one of the biggest events. It's called the Big Cat Meet, and it's been held at Nevers Field for the last thirty years. On the first Saturday of every March, SRHS plays host to over 1200 high school athletes. The bleachers hold the weight of an even larger number of spectators. The meet starts at nine a.m. and doesn't end until 6 p.m.

Three decades ago, legendary SRHS track coach Doug Courtemarche and Rancho Cotate track coach John Anderson had an idea. Why not host an early season, practice, invitational track meet for any North Bay track team that would choose to attend? They would call it the Big Cat Meet, since SRHS was home to the Panthers, and Rancho Cotate was home to the Cougars. That idea has evolved into a 25 team event. This year, teams came from as far away as Fort Bragg, Napa's American Canyon, and even San Francisco. This year's meet also had a special ceremony to name the track for one of the founders of the Big Cat – Doug Cortemarche.

In spite of its size, the Big Cat Meet is low key. Carrie Joseph, a former track athlete herself, started coaching in 1997 and is now SRHS's head track coach. She describes the Big Cat as a "developmental" meet with "rustbuster" races. "We're the starting gun for the season," says Joseph. It's a chance for experienced athletes to establish a benchmark for themselves – a mark they'll try to surpass in the months ahead. For new and less practiced athletes, the starter goes slower, and works to explain the starting sequence. The meet features 16 events in each of four divisions. 100 parents and SRHS alumni help Joseph run the meet. Even the Coast Guard and Marines send volunteers to help manage the event. After weeks of preparation, Joseph's big

day at the track starts at 5:30 a.m. and ends around 7:30 p.m. She walks 15 miles that day to make sure everything is running smoothly.

Just because the meet is a low key, practice meet, doesn't mean that top athletes don't compete there. Over the years, the Big Cat has seen the likes of SRHS's Julia Stamps '97 who was a national cross country champion in high school and a multiple All-American at Stanford, Montgomery's Kim Conley, a two time Olympian in the 5000 meters, Jake Arnold, a nationally ranked decathlete who competed in the World Championships in 2007 and 2009, and Sara Hall, a versatile distance runner who currently claims the American record in the half marathon.

The Big Cat Meet started as a free event. Now, each school attending pays three dollars for every athlete in competition. Track is expensive, Joseph reminds us. Starting blocks cost \$1,000 a set. Forget the sand pit – a new pole vault pad goes for \$15,000. One hundred and twenty hurdles, and their storage container, also go for \$15,000. The SRHS Foundation has contributed thousands of dollars to the track program over the years. The Foundation, with PAC (the Panther Athletic Club), the parents of athletes, and alumni purchased the hurdles. The Foundation also paid for the programs's uniforms, and is responsible for building the lighting array that illuminates the track and field (see that story in our last newsletter).

Costs extend to the throwing rings for discus and shot put. SRHS now has four of them, and is the finest area for throwing in the North Bay. Paul



*Part of the crowd, "Big Cat 2022"*

**HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?**

*Where the Big Cats Meet, continued from page 5*

Troppy '84, the current “throws” coach at SRHS is largely responsible for that. He, Dick Colombini '49, David Earl '90, and Montgomery's Cameron Bowles '82, all put in money and many hours of their own time to build three new rings. Each ring must have a cage – imagine a 3 ½ pound discus, released at 90 mph coming your way, and you'll quickly understand why. Josh Grace '89, a former thrower and a part of four generations of Grace throwers, paid for half of the \$6,400 cage for the last ring to be built. The Foundation picked up the other half. The Big Cat Meet sees 150 throwers competing, and every throw is measured.

Joseph is right, track is expensive. But don't think that money goes to the coaches. They get a small stipend, but typically spend more out of their own pockets to make the SRHS program, and the Big Cat Meet, as good as they can be. Coaches get other forms of compensation. Joseph says running the Big Cat Meets are some of the best days in her life. She sums it up this way, “We're proud of the

meet and how it's become a tradition for teams to be a part of. It's a great demonstration of our dedication to the North Bay.”



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## **PANTHER PROJECT FUND KEEPS GIVING IN TRYING TIMES**

By Don Cambou

During its 30 plus years of existence, the Foundation's Panther Project Fund (PPF) has given grants of well over two million dollars to Santa Rosa High teachers, coaches, and administrators. But during nearly a year and a half of distance learning, and a half year of fairly strict Covid rules on campus, requests to the fund, and accompanying grants, have ebbed. This school year the fund made grants of over \$37,000, far from the average in recent pre Covid years of \$80,000 to \$90,000. Yet Tony Negri, Chairman of the PPF states that the fund covered nearly all requests that the committee found legitimate. He attributes the lowered grant requests to several factors. First, Covid brought an influx of state and federal money to schools. For example, every student was given a Chromebook (laptop computer) during the distance learning period. Then, the distance learning period meant that many new teachers didn't learn that they could make grant proposals and actually get them funded through the PPF. And during the current school year, many teachers struggled to get their classes back to normal.

Nevertheless, the PPF committee started meeting again on the first Friday of every month at 6:30 am at the I-Hop on 4th Street to hear the grant requests from

the teachers and administrators who wanted them. Some of this year's highlights included a \$5,000 grant to the Athletic Department for new football uniforms; \$2,500 to Student Government for its instantly famous Holiday Lights display; nearly \$2,000 to the Science Department for ten new microscopes, and another \$3,200 to the Science Department for Chemistry Lab Sensors; \$5,500 to Administration for eleven \$500 grants to each department; \$4,000 to Project Grad to create a fun, safe post-graduation night party; \$3,655 to ArtQuest for shirts for its bands; and finally \$2,000 to Administration to rent a 17 ½ foot wide jumbotron so that all parents and relatives can see their new graduates close up as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas.

Soon federal and state special funding will dry up, new teachers will learn how to present grant proposals, and PPF grants will again rise to pre Covid levels. The PPF receives its monies from sources like the Polenta Feed, earnings from the ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS Fund, the SRHS Foundation's Unrestricted Endowment Fund, various funds designated for the PPF, and special contributions from Foundation members and other friends and businesses.

# CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2022

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68 and Mark Noonan '70

For the period February 2022 through April 2022, the Foundation welcomed 9 new members, 81 renewing members, and 6 Lifetime members. Membership dues total \$ 6,825.00 for this period. Total active membership in the Foundation now stands at 609. We continue to actively contact members regarding upcoming renewals.

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

Diane Camilli Abraham '57	Ed Hansen '57	Sandra Lee Husby Spence '54
Barney Davidge '69	Nancy Hoffman Hodapp '52	Pat Greuner Tilley '58
Nancy Cuneo Diez '49	Robert '53/Beverly Chiappuzzo '57	Doralyn Fisher Wicklund '52
Lisa Mazzetta Fitzpatrick '69	Jensen	Lucy Stratton Wilkes '58
Josh/Jeanette Spenst Grace '89	James W. Mastin '71	
Ted Grosman '60	Martha Maxwell '57	

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Robert '58/Marci Tarelton '67 Jenkins	Julie Garayalde Peterich '84	Dave Sloat '61
Ted Lindquist '65	Peter Petersen '57	

## ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Amazon Smile  
Benevity

Bright Funds  
United Way

## SEAT PLAQUES

Gregory Ball '53  
**Gregory Ball, Class of 1953**

Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68  
**Alan "Sam" Gomes, Class of 1980**

Sharon Seegelken '72  
**Henry Seegelken**  
**Sharon & Joanne Seegelken**

Jackie Fournier Barnard '89  
**Jackie (Fournier) Barnard**  
**Class of 1989-Go Panthers**

Jack '66/Kay Hartman  
**Jack L. Hartman, Class of 1966**  
**Daniel M. Held, Class of 1990**  
**David M. Held, Class of 1993**

Ronald Teel '53  
**Ron Teel – Class of 1953**  
**Proudly "Guymonized"**

Shawn Brumbaugh '85/Jennifer Richardson '86  
**Brumbaugh-Richardson, Shawn'85, Jen'86, Zoe'20, Katie'22**

Rhonda Rehm Loop '73  
**Debbie Roberts Kiefer, Class of 1972**

Ted Thronson '56  
**Ted Thronson '56, Go Panthers**

Sally Havner Kaufmann Cowan '52  
**In Memory of Jerry F. Havner, Class of 1955**

Carol Anderson Lorenzo '55  
**Gary E. Noonan, Class of 55, Dear Friend**

Allen Williams '71  
**The Williams Brothers**  
**Mike '70, Allen '71, Steve '73**

Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56  
**Florine Trombetta Ellingson, Class of 1956**

Donald McCarty '66  
**Kathy Ann McCarty '72, A Life of Service**

Denise Dwyer Fossi '72  
**Denise, Mike, Laura Fossi**  
**Jerry, Cassie, Sean Dwyer**

Stephaine Lowry Nacouzi '77  
**Stepi Lowry Nacouzi M.D.**  
**Valedictorian 1977, Mom of 7**

## 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

Elaine Rasmussen Thompson '58  
Larry '59/Paulette Timmer

### AGRICULTURE DEPT IN MEMORY

**KIRK VEALE '57**  
Steve '60/Elaine Olson

### TIM ALEXANDER '72

Dan/Sharon Perry Alexander '70  
Joan Perry Ryan '67



**LAWRENCE ANDERSON, RET STAFF/  
COACH**

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59  
Brian Mecchi '77  
Joan Perry Ryan '67  
Gary Vice '58

**LYNDA TROMBETTA ANGELL '59**

Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56

**BASEBALL PROGRAM**

Dan Kelly '59

**BASEBALL PROGRAM IN MEMORY**

**ROBERT "BOBBY" BROWN '64**

Jan Brown, Friend  
Larry Ingham '64

**BASEBALL PROGRAM IN MEMORY**

**ROBERT RATTO '48**

Julia Ratto, Friend

**NATE CACIANTI '46**

Carol Cacianti Mazzia '68

**CLASS OF 1955 - MEMBERS NO**

**LONGER WITH US**

Philip Spalding '55

**ALVIN COHEN '49**

Gary Meagher '49

**CHARLOTTE DEGNER DANIELS '39**

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

**FRED DANIELS '38**

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

**RICK DANIELS '60**

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

**LENNIE BARTON FLINT '67**

Sue Garvey Grave '67

Joan Perry Ryan '67

**RICHARD "DICK" HUTCHINSON,  
M.D. '59**

Neil McHugh '59

**IN HONOR: EARL JOHNSON '58**

Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

**DONALD R. LAABS '53**

Peggie Laabs, Friend

**KATHY ANN MC CARTY '72**

Donald McCarty '66

**VIVIAN C. MAZZETTA '46**

John/Marcia Hoeft, Friends  
Janice Mufich, Friend  
Anita Vanderford, Friend

**PAT MC MANUS, RET STAFF**

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59

**METAL/WELDING PROGRAM**

David Engman '57

**FRANK/ALICE NIENABER, FRIENDS**

Ruth Taylor Hauschildt '58

**STEVEN R. NIENABER '58**

Ruth Taylor Hauschildt '58  
A.M. "Chick" Venturini, M.D. '58

**BILL PEDERSEN '45**

Joan Perry Ryan '67

**IN HONOR: DICK PELLASCINI  
(HUSBAND LINDA HANSEN '58)**

Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

**RON LEROY POMEROY '56**

Assistance League of Sonoma County  
Mike/Gayle Baker, Friends  
Nancy Lind Cooper, Friend  
Letha Pomeroy Freitas '58  
JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56  
Gary Mann '63  
Rob/Anne O'Donnell, Friends  
Jack '57/Lana Santini '59 Hasset  
Dale/Judy Winzeler Sartor, Friends

**SUE BRIGGS SLOAT '65**

Dave Sloat '61

**PETER SLUSSER DEBATE  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Redwood Foundation

**ROBERT "BOB" STONE '54**

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59  
Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56  
David Hunter '56  
Gary Vice '58

**RONNIE THOMAS '57**

Bob Guenza '57

**JOHN TIBBETTS '57**

Bob Guenza '57

**ROBERT A. TROMBETTA '41**

Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56

**KIRK VEALE '57**

Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

**IN HONOR: BILL WILLIAMS '58**

Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

**WOODSHOP PROGRAM, IN  
MEMORY ROBERT RATTO '48**

Julia Ratto, Friend

**YEARBOOK PROGRAM**

Stephen '70/Linda Barrow '72 Thomas

**In Memoriam**

James Dunwoody	Faculty	Andrew "Mac" Scott	1964
Elaine Bossa Bacigalupi	1941	Robert Suacci	1964
Helen "Aileen" Michetti Bianchini	1943	Marie Aquistapace Toppo	1964
Jerome Schank, Jr.	1943	John Kirby	1966
Elvira Voight Lavell	1951	Donald McCarty	1966
Geraldine Wilson	1957	Robert Bufano	1967
Stephen Helmke	1958	Terri Ekren	1968
Earl Johnson, DDS	1958	Rebecca Twyman Toso	1968
Angela Bongi	1959	Brian Lima	1972
Richard Brown	1959	Michael Bianchi	1977
Gail Nelligan Crowder	1959	Alan "Sam" Gomes	1980
Tom Malugani	1961	MacArthur Lundeen	1995
Sandra Robbins Benko Fichtenberg	1964		



# MR. ELMORE: A REMEMBRANCE

By Tom Boag '59

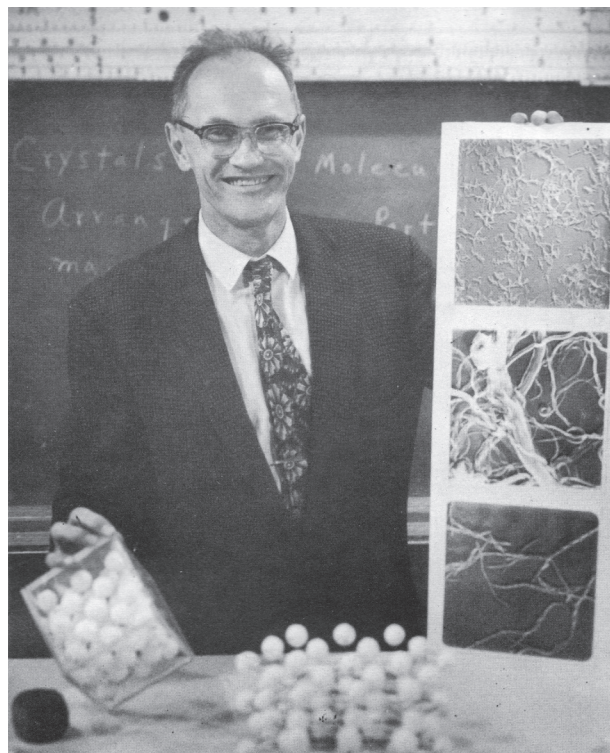
Where do you begin to describe your all-time favorite teacher (even if you didn't get a chance to do so in person – alas!) and I have had a lot between SRHS, Stanford, San Jose State, and SRJC. I want to tell you about a gift.

Mr. Elmore (never “Clair”) helped a geeky, hopelessly introverted, techy kid (me) and taught not only about chemistry (and electronics and slide rule... and safety) but also about competition, feeling good about myself, curiosity, trust, handling disappointment, taking risk, trying harder. I still have my slide rule in my office – It always reminds me “To Divide, move the Slide” – and I remember the bigger-than-life eight-foot-long rule above the blackboard.

Mr. Elmore looked the part of the mad scientist, with frizzled hair, a slightly crippled hand (You never asked about that – but you could invent stories.), always a tie. A kind person, always time to talk, never got mad (Worst comment was “Oh nuts!”), infinite energy, infinitely logical, infinitely curious. Taught me about scientific reasoning – even how simple it was to build an atom bomb... assuming you had a few ingredients...which might be in the stockroom.

There is a video around still that shows a bit of a classic Mr. Elmore lecture – fully spontaneous, on any subject, he could reach into a pile of junk (always nearby or in one of those magic drawers in his lecture table) and pull out a few bits of wire or glass and put an experiment together that actually worked and really taught you something – about anything. He could teach anybody – interested students, hulking apathetic jocks, prom queens, custodians (He ran a monthly class for them, about cleaning solvents, soaps, how to clean a floor better.). There was a Carbide cannon – not some little toy but a six-foot heavy pipe that we pointed out the back window toward the Ag. Building (empty field then) – Press the button and BOOM! – and a cloud of shredded rags flew all over the back yard. Mr. Elmore was a showman. Always fast-moving classes, full attention.

How do you take a kid from a stuttering/stalled-out Latin recitation (in front of Mrs. Bullock) and give him pride and a safe (well, mostly) place to explore, have responsibility, and even contribute? I got to be a sort-of TA or setup assistant. I got full run of the infamous stockroom where you could find anything, some incredibly dangerous and rare, but only after careful warnings of what not to touch. (Fortunately, I never burned the place down. “Never go into the little metal-lined cabinet under the stockroom sink – That's where the Lithium and Sodium is.”). Mr. Elmore actually trusted me. (There was a still back there – made alcohol for “lemonade” that was occasionally tasted.)



*Mr. Elmore in his element*

A few of us (Benedict, Jurberg, ..., I) got to take some special field trips. These weren't the “arrange-a-bus, check insurance, get permission” kind of tour. These were the “get-in-Mr. Elmore's-car and go” type. (Mr. Elmore never paid more than \$200 for a car – Drove it until it dropped.) Several tours – Lawrence Radiation Lab (Private tour of Bevatron because Mr. Elmore had worked there), Shell Research (Got to use an Electron Microscope.), and a steel mill (Almost got too close to the open-hearth furnace.). These were mind-stretching experiences that had a major effect on my later Silicon Valley career. I will never forget.

Competition: Some kids were into sports, became stars, got their names up on signs – Not me. But I got my name up on the wall when Mr. Elmore posted the results of tests or even final grades – right on top of that wonderful Periodic Table of Elements display by the door. (“See, that's what Platinum looks like.”) There were several of us who competed for top position on that list – We learned that competition is real-world, part of life. There are different kinds of “stars” – and opportunities for many. If I didn't win top position, Mr. Elmore would tell me “You didn't work hard enough.” I got to prepare a couple of sample elements for that display.

So yes, a gift to me and many others. You learned a lot more than chemistry in that room.



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By Pandey  
Spring 2022

**Michelle Leversee '85** recently became Teacher of the Year at Del Mar High School in San Jose. Del Mar has a faculty of 176. Congratulations Michelle!...Seen at the Polenta Feed -- **Penny Hastings '59**, got to tell our next FFA president, **Sofia Henderson '23**, how she and seven other young women were the first to integrate the SRHS Ag department. We've come a long way...**Lisa Keller Evich '85** was recently promoted to the Director of Wine Making at Simi.

**Celestino Fernandez '68** received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University. He taught in the University of Arizona's Sociology Department, eventually becoming that department's head. He received many honors, including being recognized as Teacher of the Year. He resides in Tucson, AZ...**Susan Hamilton**, also a '68 grad, was the Presiding Judge of the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board of San Francisco from 1978 to 2011. Then she helped and trained judges as an employee of the state of California until her retirement in 2017. She resides in San Francisco.

**William "Buzz" Montalvo '85** joined the Army soon after high school. He spent the next 25 years there, including 15 of those years in the Special Forces. He did multiple tours of duty. He's now involved with the Heros and Horses program, that has a stated vision "to offer combat veterans an alternative solution for defining and approaching their physical and mental scars." He also just finished the paperwork required to become a fishing guide in Montana.

The Renewable Energy/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scholarship Fund was able to award three \$1,000 scholarships this year. Recipients were SRHS seniors **Sebastian Bohn**, **Molly Murphey**, and **Emmanuel Vallarta**. For more information about the scholarship fund, contact **Don Cambou '64** at [doncambou1@gmail.com](mailto:doncambou1@gmail.com).

For the first time in three years, SRHS **graduating seniors** had their Prom and Project Grad Night indoors. They also took their Senior Trip to Six Flags in Vallejo.

**Wes Daniels '85**, a fifth generation Santa Rosan, serves as member of the Board of Directors for Luther Burbank Center for the Arts. Among other community activities, he's on the Board Directors of the Living Room, a non profit that provides necessary services to women and children. Wes is another example of the many SRHS alumni helping to make Santa Rosa a better place to live.

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## ANIMALS AND AUTOS RETURN IN FORCE

By Don Cambou

Friday, May 13 students saw the return of the County Fair Day and the Del Barrett Auto Show to the SRHS campus. The County Fair Day dates back to the 1970s; the Auto Show to the 90s. It's named in honor of Del Barrett, a Show founder who died in his senior year. The events have been combined for over a quarter century, The Ag department students brought out their animals, there were fair games and music, and 18 students displayed their cars on the lawn of Desoto Hall. Students enjoyed an extra long mid-day break, with a BBQ lunch. Social Studies teacher Art Horner, the Foundation's school liaison, calls the event "another great example of our traditions coming back, particularly since half the students didn't even know of its existence."





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