



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2023

Vol.36

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.*

## ARTQUEST AND THE SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY PERFORM TOGETHER

By Don Cambou

Over 400 of Santa Rosa High's 1800 plus students are in the school's popular ArtQuest program. It's a rigorous, full academic program that enables students to develop their artistic skills and encourages their artistic passions. It draws students from all over Sonoma County, and even Napa County. Each year, ArtQuest students participate in one grand project that encompasses all of its artistic disciplines. This school year, that project was a collaboration with the Santa Rosa Symphony in the presentation of Mozart's opera, The Magic Flute.



*A Standing Ovation: ArtQuest narrators and dancers in front row, ArtQuest choirs behind them.*

Early in the school year, Symphony Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong visited SRHS and met with the ArtQuest students to begin planning the

Free Mason (Mozart) against the embedded aristocracy. Busloads of ArtQuest students travelled to Sebastopol's Rialto Theater to see a live, HD presentation of the New York Metropolitan Opera's version of the famous work. Your Foundation helped pay for the busses and drivers; part of \$11,893 Foundation support of ArtQuest this school year alone.

The Santa Rosa Symphony's Magic Flute was scheduled for April 15 at Sonoma State's Green

*Continued on page 4*

## SRHS FOUNDATION GRANTS RECORD NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

By Kristine Erken, Monica Baldenegro and Nadine Smedshammer with Don Cambou

In the Spring of 2009, The Santa Rosa High School Foundation awarded 11 scholarships in the total amount of \$7,525. By 2015 the amount of scholarship money given to the kids rose dramatically due to a contribution given by James Fleck class of '46. He and his wife left 2.1 million dollars to Santa Rosa High School for scholarships. That year saw a total of 35 scholarships. This year, the number of scholarships rose again to a total of 46. A full six of those scholarships represent earnings on \$400,000 of Gary Rasche's '61 donation of a million dollars to the school's Wood, Auto, and Manufacturing Shops. But the Foundation has also seen an impressive increase in the number of smaller scholarships. In fact, the donations that create these scholarships aren't small at all – each requires a donation of at least \$10,000. All the Foundation scholarships exist “in perpetuity,” meaning that their principal never diminishes. The scholarships represent earnings on all those donations.

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2023



Mary Orsborn Beseda  
President

By Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

The end of the SRHS Foundation's Fiscal year is fast approaching, and what an exciting year we have had! We just wrapped up the 26th Annual Polenta Feed, with a sell out crowd of 450 Alumni, Members and Friends of the Foundation. Ted William's was our Auctioneer this year with seven live auction items bringing in a record \$14,150.00, and fifty-three silent auction items

which generated \$8,804.00, another record! There were sixteen raffle items, including six one-month car washes from Easy Breezy Car Wash, that also gave everyone in attendance a free car wash. Overall, it was a fun evening, kudos to Paulette Gomes, Polenta Chair, Donna Doyle, co-chair, and the Polenta committee. We could not do this without our staunch supporters and volunteers.

Our next event will be a book signing with former Captain Brett Crozier '88 on June 16. Former Press Democrat writer Chris Smith will interview Crozier in the auditorium at SRHS. (See the article in the left column of this page). Hundreds of Santa Rosan's are anticipated to attend and purchase autographed books. Please go to our website at [www.srhfsf.org](http://www.srhfsf.org) to sign up.

Through March the contributions to the Foundation were up 24% from the previous year, and ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS was up 25%, extremely exciting! Through this same period New Memberships and renewals was down 19%. Through May 2023 Panther Project Funds had approved Grants totaling \$63,865.74, compared to last year \$39,197.78, a true indication that school is back to normal! 46 Scholarships awarded this year totaled \$145,041.00, including two new scholarships, Charles "Chuck" Kracker and the Sandra Lee Husby Spencer Scholarship.

The SRHS Foundation also added four new Board Members, John Coddling '82, Veronica Stoops Haas '69, Mike Daniels '59 -- a Founding Board Member who has returned, and most recently Paddy Robotham Coreris '66. Paddy has agreed to be our incoming Board Secretary for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year. After many years serving on the Foundation Board, Chris Zeek has decided to retire effective 6-30-23, we want to thank him for his tireless service to the Foundation and the students and staff at SRHS.

The SRHS Foundation wants to thank our staunch supporters throughout the years, you are what make SRHS GREAT!

*Once a Panther, Always a Panther*

## SRHS Foundation Directors

Monica Baldenegro '95

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President

Don Cambou '64 Newsletter Editor

John Coddling '82

Paddy Robotham Coreris '66

\* Mike Daniels '59

\* Donna Dennes Doyle '67

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Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68

Veronica Stoops Haas '69

Rhonda Rehm Loop '73 Treasurer

JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56

Brian Mecchi '77

Tony Negri, Friend

\* Doug Pavese '58

Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59

Ilona Mayer Williams '64

Chris Zeek '68 Vice President

*\* Founding Director*

## CAPTAIN BRETT CROZIER BOOK SIGNING AT SRHS

On April 2, 2020, **Brett Crozier '88**, captain of the most powerful and prestigious aircraft carrier in the United States Navy, the U.S.S Theodore Roosevelt, walked off his ship for the last time. Thousands of his sailors saluted and chanted his name in admiration. This remarkable moment occurred after Crozier made the decision to try to protect his sailors by pleading with his superiors for help when COVID-19 swept through the vessel. Two days later, he was relieved of command. He broke no law, only protocol. He retired from the Navy in March of 2022, after thirty years of service.

Now, he has written a book with Michael Vlessides, *Surf When You Can: Lessons in Life, Loyalty and Leadership from a Maverick Navy Captain*. His book tour was scheduled to kick off at Copperfield Books in Santa Rosa. When that venue was deemed too small to host the event, the SRHS Foundation stepped in. The Foundation secured the SRHS thousand seat auditorium for the event. On June 16, former Press Democrat writer Chris Smith will interview Crozier there. Crozier will autograph books for purchase.

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2023 RECIPIENTS

The process of deciding who will receive those scholarships is very time consuming and emotionally demanding. How do you pick between two equally deserving students? Longtime Foundation Board Member Nadine Smedshammer led the initial scholarship committee for 14 years. Now, newer Board members Monica Baldenegro and Kristine Erken work closely with Smedshammer to accomplish the huge task. They work all year with SRHS Department Chairs to find the right recipient for each scholarship. Many of the scholarships are very specific about what attributes the recipient should display, compounding the difficulty of the selection process.

Although 46 scholarships is laudable, there are more scholarships in the pipeline. This newsletter will announce every new scholarship, its purpose, and the person or persons the scholarship honors.

If you are interested in developing a scholarship in honor of a loved one or a group, or have questions about creating a scholarship, please contact Monica Baldenegro at mbrockssrhs@gmail.com.

Now let's take a look at this year's 46 recipients!



*Fleck Scholarship recipients*

### THE JAMES FLECK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$4,800 EACH

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Hector Martinez Perez | Isabella Escutia          |
| Ember Trowbridge      | Cristobal Ortiz           |
| Billy Carretta        | Leah Cederborg            |
| Nischal Panthi        | Daisy Solis               |
| Chelle Servais        | Cosette Waterman          |
| Jazmin Seinal         | Alejandra Chavez Roque    |
| Emily Cromwell        | Sofia Henderson           |
| Danika (Lily) King    | Rylan Herring             |
| Anuska Parajuli       | Kayley Anguiano Valezquez |
| Kenan Habtemichael    | Tina Dang                 |
| Olivia Costa          | Diana Valencia Dimas      |

| Student Name           | Scholarship  |         |
|------------------------|--|---------|
|                        | The Gary Rasche Memorial Scholarships                |         |
| Jack Grove             | - Auto   | \$3,495 |
| Brandon Lowe           | - Auto   | \$3,495 |
| Clark Howe             | - Manufacturing                                      | \$3,495 |
| Ember Trowbridge       | - Manufacturing                                      | \$3,495 |
| Holden Aboudara        | - Wood   | \$3,495 |
| Julio Martinez         | - Wood   | \$3,495 |
| Diana Valencia Dimas   | The Berta Wiggins Golf Scholarship                   | \$725   |
| Layla Rager            | Patrick Gallagher                                    | \$1,700 |
| Tina Dang              | The Robert Clell McKinney Scholarship                | \$500   |
| Andrew Stevens         | Betty Jean Gong                                      | \$500   |
| Jaiden Albini-Curtis   | Bruce Mecchi Memorial Fund                           | \$725   |
| Adrian Ibarra          | Cristian Valencia Figueroa                           | \$525   |
| Sophie Kaplan          | The Emmett O'Neill Scholarship                       | \$500   |
| Brandon Lowe           | Chuck Kracker  | \$1,483 |
| Maria Santos Borges    | The Henry and Doris Matteri Agriculture Scholarships | \$1,224 |
| Alyssa Arevalos        | The Henry and Doris Matteri Agriculture Scholarships | \$1,224 |
| Hector Martinez Perez  | The Jack Kellar "Lucky Jade" Scholarship             | \$1,895 |
| Preeti Panthi          | The Jack Kellar "Lucky Jade" Scholarship             | \$1,895 |
| Barbara Solis Quintana | The Lisa Nilsen Scholarship                          | \$500   |
| Barbara Solis Quintana | Jerry Poncia Memorial Fund                           | \$525   |
| Sophia Henderson       | Peter Slusser (Ag.)                                  | \$500   |
| Chelle Servais         | Peter Slusser (Debate)                               | \$500   |
| Andre Achacon          | Sandra Lee Husby Spencer Scholarship                 | \$2,675 |
| Dakota Borgfeldt       | The Lorenzo Solis Scholarship                        | \$1,150 |



*Memorial Scholarship recipients*

*ArtQuest and the Santa Rosa Symphony,  
continued from page 1*

Music Center, more than half a school year away, yet all eight artistic disciplines began planning and Music Director Lecce-Chong would visit the ArtQuest students every other month. When the Symphony date was still three months away, they started practicing and Lecce-Chong's visits became much more frequent.

ArtQuest's Vocal Music would provide the A Capella Choir and Concert Choir for the production.

ArtQuest Dance would provide the Magic Flute Dancers.

ArtQuest Theater Arts would provide English Narrators for the main characters, since the production would be in German.

ArtQuest Photography would document the collaboration and performance.

ArtQuest Video Arts would produce a documentary on the collaboration and performance.

ArtQuest Digital Arts would design the supertitles to be displayed in English.

ArtQuest Visual Fine Arts would create life-sized sculptures of The Magic Flute characters to be installed in the Green Center's Courtyard.

ArtQuest Instrumental Music would perform in the lobby of the Green Music Center during the pre-show.

On April first, at ArtQuest's Spring Showcase on the SRHS campus, many of the students had an opportunity to exhibit portions of their planned Magic Flute performances. Nearly half of ArtQuest's 400 students would take part in the Magic Flute Symphony presentation.

Next came rehearsals with the Santa Rosa Symphony. April 14 brought the dress rehearsal. Katie Loomis, ArtQuest's program director, remembers, "The students were supportive of one another and excited both on and off the stage."



*ArtQuest Dancers at  
Magic Flute rehearsal*

The next day, ArtQuest sculptures, performers, and documentarians seemed to be everywhere at the Green Center. They weren't just background players. They were an integral part of the opera performance. They played their rolls flawlessly. Loomis was thrilled. "I felt extremely proud of our dedicated and talented students and teachers who made this collaboration such a success and I am so appreciative of the Santa Rosa Symphony for giving our students this once in a lifetime opportunity." At the end of the performance, with ArtQuest narrators and dancers on stage in the front row, and the music choirs behind them, the opera received a standing ovation. Again, Loomis remembers, "Family and community members alike were cheering and applauding for all our ArtQuest singers, actors, and dancers. It was wonderful to share that moment with them."

Most likely, some of those ArtQuest students will go on to careers in the arts. Many ArtQuest students before them have done just that. But no doubt all of the student participants in The Magic Flute Opera will fondly remember that experience for the rest of their lives.

## **PANTHER PROJECT FUND COMES BACK STRONG**

By Don Cambou

In another sign that SRHS has returned to normalcy after two Covid years, the total dollar amount that the Panther Project Fund (PPF) granted this year is approaching its pre Covid average of over \$80,000. This school year the Fund awarded \$63,885.74 in grants. That adds to the total of well over two million dollars the Fund has awarded to SRHS teachers, coaches, and administrators since its inception over 30 years ago. Students were back in the classroom fulltime, and teachers and coaches were anxious to secure PPF grants so that their students could have fuller high school experiences.

Here are some of the many grants given this year by

the PPF, listed not because of highest dollar mounts, but rather by the uniqueness of the requests:

\$2,608.48 to the Makers Club (Matt O'Donnell, teacher) to purchase a vinyl cutter, 3 3-D printers and associated supplies.

\$6,500 to complete a discus ring and two shot put rings (Paul Troppy, throws coach), making SRHS the best high school throwing facility in northern California.

\$2,000 to help pay for seven busses, 350 admissions, and 14 substitute teachers to see the Met's "Magic Flute" in HD at the Rialto Theater – see p. 1. (Janet Fisher, teacher)

\$1,500 for hotel rooms and meals for three SRHS gold medal winning Team Welding Fabricators at the SkillsUSA California State Conference. (Tom Gutsch, teacher)

\$2,638.02 for additional Cheer Uniforms for the SRHS Cheer Team (Samantha Sharp, Secretary)

\$975 for awards and prizes for the School Wide Poetry Out Loud Competition (Will Lyon, teacher)

\$1,000 to pay speakers for the National Honor Society's "Tolerance Day." (Jim Seder, teacher)

\$4,000 to help fund Project Grad, a Safe and Sober all night post-graduation party for the entire Senior class. (Stacy Martin, Project Grad)

\$3,294.98 to purchase colorimeter wireless sensors for the chemistry lab. The sensors connect directly to student chromebooks so students will be able to collect and analyze data without additional equipment. (Doug Purvis, teacher)

\$1635.50 to fund the beloved lunchtime PB&J Club (peanut butter and jelly) "Make a Sandwich, Make a Friend." (Kris Bertsch, Counselor)

The Panther Project Fund receives its monies from unrestricted sources like the annual Polenta Feed, earnings from ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS, the Foundation's unrestricted endowment fund, earnings on eight memorial funds, and contributions from members, friends and businesses.



*Dick Colombini*

## DICK COLOMBINI: A TRIBUTE

By Mike Daniels

If ever a true Santa Rosa High School icon existed, it is the late Dick Colombini, Class of 1949. His recent passing left a void that will be difficult to fill. He and his construction company played a major role in the financing, construction and maintenance of many campus projects. Dick said he was simply giving back for the preparation he received for his athletic and scholastic career.

Among those projects are the handsome brick bench by the North Gym that he and his class built. It's a companion to the two by the auditorium, constructed by the classes of 1925 and 1950.

He contributed labor, materials and oversight to the sign on Mendocino Avenue that helps beautify the campus. He installed lighting for the Ernie Nevers monument and the flagpole on Nevers Field. He oversaw and contributed labor and materials to the state-of-the-art discus ring beyond the west side of the football stadium.

Some details of the construction of that ring are especially noteworthy. Dick contributed fifteen yards of concrete and a truck to pump it. Dick partnered on the project with SRHS throws coach Paul Troppy, David Earl '90, Josh Grace '89, Luca Mazzanti '17 and MHS alum Cameron Bowles, all of whom donated money and labor. Another 15 SRHS students were enlisted to work on the form and on the day of the pour. Just this year, Dick did it again for yet another Troppy discus ring.

Dick was involved in the painting of the main building halls and lockers in 1989—a gesture that proved to the faculty and administration that the young Foundation

was committed to its goal of bettering the campus.

Dick played football for the legendary Jimmy Underhill throughout his years at SRHS. As a senior Dick's teammates chose him to receive the prestigious Block S Blanket Award. Underhill was demanding, Dick said, but he understood the coach prepared him for the rigors of college and of life.

He also paid tribute to long-time teachers Sy Hawkins, Irene Scott, Florence Tangney, Helen Valentine and Mitch Soso as significant influences.

As a student at University of San Francisco, Dick played football on the Dons squad that was invited to play in the 1951 Orange Bowl in Miami. When USF was told its two African-American players could not play, the team, in a bold move for the time, decided to boycott the game. Dick remained very proud of that decision throughout his life. That great USF team included four future NFL Hall of Fame players.

After graduation from USF, Dick spent two years in the US Army before returning to Santa Rosa where he joined his father in Colombini Construction, a company he continued to operate until his death. Among the company's many landmark projects are additions to St. Rose Church, Lawrence Cook and Santa Rosa middle schools, the construction of Cardinal Newman High, the Union Hotel, Waterfall Towers, WestAmerica Bank and SRJC's Forsyth Hall.

Dick was recognized by the Gray Family Foundation, which honored him as having "Made a Difference" to Santa Rosa.

The same can be said of Dick's contributions to SRHS.

# A REMEMBRANCE: HERBERT GREENBERG

By Gwen Stebbings Rigby, class of 1964

“Écoutez! Écoutez bien!” This is French for “Listen! Listen well!” and Herbert (Herb) Greenberg, teacher of French at Santa Rosa High School for 25 years from 1962 to 1981, said this often to drag students’ wandering attention back to the blackboard. Telling students to listen is certainly not revolutionary, but to say it in French, and only in French, was the signature of a teacher ahead of his time.

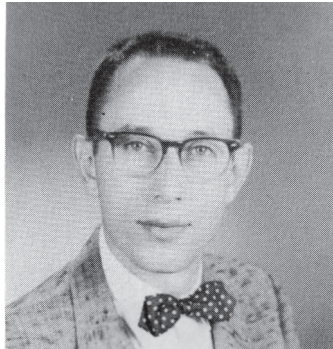
Mr. Greenberg insisted on French in class. At that time foreign language classes focused on grammar and translation, and explanations usually came in English. Only decades later did a more conversational or direct approach change foreign language teaching. As a foreign language teacher and trainer myself, I saw the foreign language-based methodologies taking a foothold in language classes in the 1980s. Greenberg preceded this trend. His use of French language intimidated some students. It was “learning by fire,” as Honora Bessone Shipe, class of ’64, called it – and it certainly cut back classroom chatter. She added, “But he was, and remains in my memory, one of my favorite teachers. He was demanding, but engaging.”

Mr. Greenberg, who always wore a bow tie, proved to be popular with many students. He had a deadpan sort of humor, waving his arm in slow motion to the blackboard to regain our attention and encouraging our attempts at understanding through self-deprecating humor. Honora remembers, “When he was trying to convey the correct French pronunciation of ‘in’ he would say, ‘like Monsieur le singe’ (Mr. Monkey) and then mimic a monkey sound.” Although I do not remember any jokes from sixty years ago, I can still hear his chuckle when he found himself funny. It radiated throughout the room and relaxed us all.

Honora also remembers that Greenberg made the announcement and then discussed the death of President Kennedy in French. This may sound pompous, but she said that he showed he cared even during this totally unexpected language lesson. In thinking back to this event, his staying in character might have reduced the shock of the assassination for me.

Mr. Greenberg cheered his students on in his own fashion. He thought I was much more talented in French

than I really was. He suggested that I take French classes next door, at Santa Rosa Junior College. I was too intimidated about competing with college students, especially in a foreign language, and so he allowed independent studies, giving me books to read and report on. The one book I remember was “Mont St. Michel et Chartres,” a five hundred-page tome of two medieval religious sites. I agonized over the technical details and historical pedantry. Yet he never criticized my lack of involvement in this book and never let on that he knew I didn’t read the whole book. After graduation, I left for a family stay in France, and I’m sure that he wrote me a glowing recommendation.



Herbert Greenberg

Twenty years later, I saw Mr. Greenberg, now The Old Poster Peddler, at foreign language conferences. He had retired and was taking advantage of his classroom experience and connections to travel to Europe and Central and South America once or twice a year to buy foreign language posters – of touristic sites, movies, and signs with common language phrases. His mail order business and sales at conferences provided enough funding for his trips. “That’s the ticket!” I thought to myself. He generously invited me to enter his enterprise and sell posters with him, sharing his mailing list and contacts in Europe without hesitation. Eventually, his widow gave me all his posters and sales materials.

Conference attendees all remembered the Old Poster Peddler’s offbeat, pun-laden humor and encyclopedic memory of places and slogans in several languages (French, Spanish, German and Italian). We never really know our high school teachers. I learned much later that this mild-mannered, cultured French teacher had a BA and an MA from Stanford, had three sons and was a Marine in World War II.

Mr. Greenberg remained dedicated to all things French, in the classroom and out. I followed his footsteps as best I could, sans bow tie, both in the classroom and in my travels. He was my mentor in speaking only French and Spanish with my students, and he decorated my classroom with original posters. Vive Monsieur Greenberg!

# MY EXPERIENCES AS A STUDENT AND TEACHER AT SRHS

By Mike Daniels '59

“Yesterday is today’s memory” – Kahlil Gibron

I graduated from Santa Rosa High in 1959 and taught English there from the late 1970s until 2005. I experienced changes but much, I found, remained the same. Students still learn and teachers still, well, teach.

In 1959 we respected authority, believing our teachers knew their stuff. We behaved accordingly.

That faculty had taught at SRHS for years and years, and because of multi-generation SRHS families, it wasn’t uncommon to be taught by your parents’ instructors.

My junior year English teacher taught my mom, a good student. Me, not so, as I was told often. Senior year I was in her class again, so I asked to be moved. But just five minutes into the new class, that teacher marched in, grabbed my ear—really!—and took me back to her class. While my performance didn’t improve, I can still recite some of the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*. Memorization was important.

By the 70s and 80s student placement had changed. Counselors were attuned to student wants, and if the student sought a different class—say, for personal or academic reasons—well, that student was moved.

Those students were willing, sometimes eager, to correct or challenge a teacher’s lesson. Once, early on in my teaching, I stressed the importance of subject-verb agreement (singular subject/singular verb, plural/plural). Making flat out assertions isn’t wise, I learned. They found an exception. In the grammar text. I stumbled on a fabricated explanation. The bell rang. They filed out. One whispered on his way out, “Think subjunctive mood.” (I looked it up that night. It’s when subject and verb do not agree and is used in a hypothetical situation—“If I were a rich man. . .” singular subject/plural verb)

Also willing and eager to challenge grades, students considered them absolutely vital. On a campus reunion tour an ’86 student said to me, “I hated you, Mr. Daniels. You wouldn’t give me the A I thought I deserved. You told me in 20 years that grade wouldn’t matter.” When I offered to change it, he answered, “No, don’t. I teach now and I use that line all the time.”

I modeled that challenging behavior once, and it

certainly didn’t endear me to my boss. The weather in the spring often is warm, so after lunch I regularly opened the windows on my second-floor classroom. Because of the warmth, it was challenging to keep lethargic students focused, a challenge compounded by the lawn mower noise. Several times I asked the principal to reschedule the mowing. My requests went nowhere. So, one particularly warm and noisy day I took the class outside to sit in front of the mower. The kids and the guy on the mower enjoyed it, but the principal did not. Oh, he was angry and told me so, but the mowing schedule changed.

Most electives were not coed in 1959. Boys took auto and wood shop and girls home economics. Agriculture historically was for males, and the farming families wanted their boys in that program.

Montgomery High’s opening in 1958 did alleviate SRHS overcrowding, but it divided the Panther student body. Especially affected were the seniors. Because of their address, many unhappy seniors had to become Vikings.

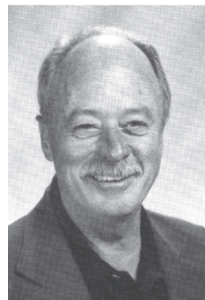
Nine unhappy senior girls that year suddenly decided they wanted careers in agriculture. MHS didn’t offer ag. The SRHS ag department chair resisted the idea of teaching girls—after all, boys learned about animal reproduction and other stuff, material inappropriate for girls, the thinking went. In spite of departmental resistance, the district superintendent ruled in favor of the girls, and a special class for them resulted. Reproduction was not taught, but a sexual barrier was broken, and the nine now happy girls remained at SRHS.

In the years since, coed elective classes have become the norm. Girls are in auto and wood shop, in welding and in sports. Title IX, which equalized funding for the sexes in 1972, contributed to those changes. Participation in some sports—football, basketball, soccer—understandably are limited to boys or girls, while others—swimming, track and field, cross country—are coed. Exceptions: girls have kicked on the football team and have competed in wrestling.

Yes, students today still learn and teachers still teach. As playwright Noel Coward put it, “As one gets older, one discovers everything is going to be exactly the same but with different hats on.”



Mike Daniels,  
1959 Senior photo



Mike Daniels,  
Teacher, 1998

# CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2023

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68 and Chris Zeek '68

For the period February 2023 through April 2023, the Foundation welcomed 16 new members, 64 renewing members and 3 lifetime members. Membership dues total \$ 4,235.00 for this period. Total active membership in the Foundation now stands at 825. We continue to actively contact members regarding up coming renewals.

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

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert "Bob" Brown '64      | Judy Odegard Reilly '70   |
| Patricia Sutton Clinton '60 | Mary Linn Hart Sadler '65 |
| Nick Econome '52            | Linda Biondi Willat '78   |
| Julianne Avila Hanson '66   |                           |

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Carol Langford Daniels '85      Wes Daniels '85      Samantha Zappelli '89

## NEW MEMBERS

|                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Chris Anderson '68              | Robert "Bob" Nielsen '54     |
| Joe Beretta '78                 | Debra Bandy Potts '69        |
| Darrel Billings '56             | Robert Pellegrini '73        |
| Robert "Bob" Brown '64          | Marco Pellegrini 2004        |
| Emma Frey 2017                  | Gina Pellegrini Sanchez 2006 |
| Fred/Nichole Whiteside '93 Frey | Terri Schummer Saraceni '68  |
| Charles Hardin '60              | Robert "Bob" West '72        |
| Robert "Bob" Maddigan '73       | Samantha Zappelli '89        |

## ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Benevity                     | United Way California Capital Region |
| Give Lively Foundation, Inc. | United Way Of The Wine Country       |

## SEAT PLAQUE

Brian Mecchi '77/Rena Ronconi Mecchi – Parent  
Aldo Ronconi  
Class of 1951

## 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.

### JOHN BRIBIESCAS '66

Carol Brown Bribiescas – Parent

### RICHARD "DICK" COLOMBINI '49

Darlene Bath '56  
Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda  
George '58/Delene Poli '61 Cleek  
Edna Gaddie – Friend  
Kate Geismar – Friend  
Marie Bridges Laskelle '47  
Bill/Jeanie Marioni – Friends  
Gail Nielsen – Friend  
Suzanne Rubattino – Friend

Jean Schulz – Friend

Beverly Stumbaugh – Friend  
Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson  
Art Valencia '59

### ROBERT "BOB" DAVIS '59

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde '55  
Dan Kelly '59  
Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59  
Smedshammer  
Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

### TERRI LYNN EKREN '69

Mary Beth Ekren Wells '73

### SUSAN EVATT

Charles Johnson '61

### PETE "SPIRITO" FALCO '41 DIRECTED: ATHLETIC DEPT

Ron Falco '65

### JUDY KELLAR FOX '65

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

### COY GORE '55

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde '55

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



**DAVID GROSS '59**

Merlynne Sue Gross Carr '55

**IN HONOR JACK HASSETT '57**  
**- 85TH BIRTHDAY 2/21/23**

Gloria De Salvo '63

**CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND**  
**KAWAMURA '61**

Connie Codding – Friend

**MARIE HINDRINGER KELLY**  
**'57**

Robert Guenza '57

**PEGGY KING LEISER '40**

Connie Codding - Friend

**PETER MAGRINI '60**

Rosalie Ahl Caulfield '60

Bob '58/Bobbie Olenberger '60 Cheli

George Dutton – Friend

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde '55

David '59/Jan Gervais

Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65

Dan Kelly '59

Barbara Cunningham Mc Dougall '60

Karen Porritt Murphey '60

Stephanie Reed – Friend

Marvin Sharpe - Friend

Art Valencia '59

Tom Provost '57/Kathy Agee Vice '60

Gary Vice – '58

William '64/Diana Tillmannshofer '62  
Zollner

**BRUCE MECCHI '68**  
**MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Phylis Fallon Accornero '68

Nancy Bennett '68

Lynne Pellegrini Diezi '68

Donna Dennes Doyle '67

Robert '67/Susan Falco

Ron Falco '65

Vickie Gomes Lakatos '64

JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56

Santa Rosa Fire Fighters Foundation

Stephen Olsen '61

Doug Pavese '58

Robert Richutti '68

Josephine Ronconi – Friend

Betty Wood Turner '68

Gary Zanolini '68

**MARIUS "MORI" NELSON '45**

Tim '70/Michelle Nelson '72 Cambra

Don '70/Alda Guisti '72 Creed

Bob/Donna Dennes '67 Doyle

Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68

Randy/Robin Peters - Friends

**STEVEN CHARLES ORSBORN**  
**'68**

Patrick Hansford - Relative

Dave/Joan Keegan Boyce – Parents

Betty Wood Turner '68

**RAYMOND CHARLES**  
**RASMUSSEN '61 DIRECTED:**  
**AGRICULTURE DEPT**

Elaine Rasmussen Thompson '58

**JOANN ZAPPA SILVA '48**

Jo Bugnone Xerogeanes '48



**In Memoriam**

|                          |      |                                  |      |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| John Morris, Jr.         | 1944 | William Walker                   | 1959 |
| Marius Nelson            | 1945 | Robert Skov                      | 1959 |
| Ronald Alexander         | 1947 | Ben Whitaker                     | 1959 |
| Carole Wells Dunn        | 1948 | Lewanna Bloyd Archer             | 1960 |
| Joann Zappa Silva        | 1948 | Nora Metcaffé Elliot             | 1960 |
| Donald Bloyd             | 1949 | Keith Graham                     | 1960 |
| Richard Colombini        | 1949 | Jerald Marquis                   | 1960 |
| JoAnn Hurt-Welch         | 1949 | Ernest Nott                      | 1960 |
| Elnora Joiner Bloyd      | 1951 | Kathleen Fritzsche Daniels Henri | 1961 |
| Betty Seegelken Cameron  | 1951 | Conrad Cavallero                 | 1962 |
| Ann Chartrand Garzoli    | 1951 | Ronald Matteoli                  | 1982 |
| Alfred Cameron           | 1953 | Judy Kellar Fox                  | 1965 |
| Keith Totemeir           | 1953 | Julianne Avila Hanson            | 1966 |
| Deanne Kellogg Farley    | 1956 | Dennis Tesconi                   | 1966 |
| Gordon Koop              | 1956 | Elizabeth Ray West               | 1966 |
| Delores Hightower Walker | 1956 | Sharry Woolf Green               | 1968 |
| Donald Chandler          | 1957 | Robert Case                      | 1969 |
| Sharon Correia Martinez  | 1958 | Lois Canfield Pinnell            | 1969 |
| Sue Ann Garwood Hale     | 1958 | Gary Puckett                     | 1969 |
| Donald MacDonald         | 1958 | Steven Consani                   | 1970 |
| Scotty Carr              | 1959 | Lisa Kellogg O'Connors           | 1982 |
| Kathryn Slaten Clark     | 1959 | Michael Ledson                   | 1988 |





# ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

*Donations fiscal year 2022/2023 to 3-31-23*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Carolyn C. Anderson, PhD.*  | Daniel McMahon** In memory of Pam Griffin McMahon 1967   |
| Richard M. Bastoni 1957**   | Lewis Myers Jr. 1950   |
| Todd 1973 & Mary Orsborn 1974 Beseda #**  | R Douglas Nunes 1963 In tribute to the Degner sisters: Charlotte 1939, Margaret 1941 and Jane 1943 |
| In memory of three Albany Drive BFFs : Alma De Maria 1943, Aileen Michetti Branchini 1943, Norma Rochetti Malone 1941 | Steve 1960 & Elaine Olson  |
| The Bolt Family *   | Karen Petersen 1972  |
| Arnold & Dale Martin 1961 Bussard ****  | Peter Dennis Petersen 1957* In Memory of Arlene Hareland Petersen 1960                             |
| Rick & Rocky Call 1967  | Ann Patzer Poulson 1950  |
| Gail Rocco Dutton 1962***** In memory of Warren Dutton Jr. 1962   | Jim Streeter 1976  |
| William Frey* In memory of Walter "Walt" Frey 1944, In memory of Ann Brown Frey 1946                                  | Marilyn Walker 1966  |
| Bill & Suzie Simas Friedman 1966 ****   | Marianne Wurnitsch Scheffler 1953 *  |
| Art & Andi Gambini **** Art Gambini 1968, Andi and Kevin Gambini 2001, In memory of Rae Gambini 1937                  | Ward 1958 & Pat Townsend 1959 Thompson#*****   |
| Jim Grace 1961 * Remembering Bob Yates  | In Memory of Pete Magrini 1960, In memory of Charlotte Townsend Kawamura 1961                      |
| Jerry Grey 1958 ****  | Mark & Kathy Trione 1967 *****   |
| Alana Kelly 1978*****   | Larry Weese 1964 *****   |
| Donor #581, Anonymous ****  | Anonymous Donor #3451*****   |
| Mike & Louise Liewald 1970  |  |

*\* indicates multiple donations  
# indicates plaque donation*

One Thousand Panthers is 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 302 DONORS  
(many with multiple donations)**

**OVER \$558,461.35 IN THE FUND**

**JOIN US!** Call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747, or visit us online at [www.SRHSF.org](http://www.SRHSF.org) for assistance.

Thank you for your generous donations.

Donations options by cash, check, credit cards are accepted from individuals and groups (pooled) Donations can include pledges over 2, 4, and 5 years, employer matching funds, and marketable securities.

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



By Pandy  
Spring 2023

**Derek Moeller 2003** is a certified electrician and the owner of Moeller Electric in Santa Rosa. In the past few years, he deeply discounted his labor on two major Foundation supported electrical projects on campus. The first was the installation of five hydration stations that supply students and teachers with cool, filtered water. That project involved upgrading the electrical system in the nearly century old main campus building. The second project involved upgrading the nearly 90 year old electrical system that served the auto

and woodshops. Those building had 110 volt wiring, while most of today's powerful shop machinery needs 220 volt wiring, service panels, and breakers. Additionally, he billed all new materials at his cost. His efforts saved the Foundation and the School District many thousands of dollars. Thank you Derek!



*Derek Moeller at work on new Wood Shop electrical panel*

**Shannon Johansen '87** (Shannon Rider is her stage name) recently played to great acclaim the lead role in Santa Rosa's 6th Street Playhouse production of "Always, Patsy Cline." Shannon's ability to capture country singer Patsy Cline's infection, tone and pronunciation was said to be perfection.

**Kevin Gambini 2001**, has owned Santa Rosa's Breakaway Bikes near Howarth Park since 2014. But he and his partner, COO Matt Stewart are moving Breakaway's 1,400 foot shop into a 2,600 foot space just three doors down. Why is that important? Because industry giants have been snapping up local bike shops, until the locally owned shops are a rarity. Best of luck keeping a Santa Rosa owned shop in the hands of Santa Rosans, and facing the giants!

Don't mess with graduating **Senior Jasmine Vo 2023**. She is a North Bay League champion wrestler, and was voted the NBL's "girls wrestler of the year" by the league's coaches. Recently, she was also recognized by the U.S. Marine Corps and the National Wrestling Coaches Association with the High School Scholar All American Award. That yearly award is given to students who "demonstrate academic excellence, fighting spirit, mental toughness, and work ethic." Those qualities should serve her well when she enters the Marine Corps next year. Finally, she was named SRHS's top female athlete of the year. Congratulations Jasmine!

In 2019, **Don Cambou '64** started the Renewable Energy/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scholarship at SRHS with a single scholarship. This year, four Renewable Energy/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scholarships were awarded at SRHS, one at Montgomery High, and one at Roseland University Prep. For more information, contact Don at [doncambou1@gmail.com](mailto:doncambou1@gmail.com)



On Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6:00am, **76 SRHS and ArtQuest music students**, 10 chaperones and 2 music teachers (**Mr. Decker** and **Mrs. Tusa**) loaded 2 buses and set off on a four day trip to Disneyland. Both the Symphonic Band and the Choir performed on the main stage in the California Adventure park on Friday. The music students stepped into the spotlight and dazzled a live audience, experiencing the excitement of being a professional performers. Both groups also participated in a Soundtrack Studio experience on the Disneyland Imagination Campus on Sunday. They were immersed in a recording studio environment where they sight-read music from Disney films, with Disney music professionals teaching and sharing the high expectations of being a professional musician and how to succeed in the field. For the rest of the time, students enjoyed the many pleasures that comes with going

to Disneyland and California Adventure. Memories made on this trip will last a lifetime. SRHS Foundation donated \$5000 towards the cost of this field trip helping to offset the cost for each student.



**SRHS FOUNDATION**

*"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"*

P.O. Box 11006

Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006

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Please check your expiration date above your address to see if it is time for you to renew your membership.

If you have already renewed

**THANK YOU!**

**WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

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| Address             |  |             | City | State         | Zip |

|  |                             |                                     |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Home Phone   | Cell Phone                  | Email                               |
| Preferred Method to receive mail & Newsletter: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail             |                             |                                     |
| SRHS Grad Year _____   | Spouse SRHS Grad Year _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> SRHS Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SRHS Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Grandparent (circle one): Grad Year of Student(s) _____ |                             |                                     |

|  |  |  |   |
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| <b>Membership Fee:</b>                             |  |  |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Directed gift for _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift in honor/memory of _____ |  |   |
|  | (Department or Program)                                | (circle one)                                       |   |
| <b>Join One Thousand Panthers:</b>                 |  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 or more           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 ~ 2 years               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 ~ 4 years           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 ~ 5 years  |
| Please acknowledge this donation in name of: _____ |  |  |   |

**YOU MAY SEND CHECK (made payable to SRHS Foundation) for GRAND TOTAL OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR**

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3 digit CVV# (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ Name as printed on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.srhhsf.org). For more information, please call the Pandy Line at (707) 571-SRHS (7747) OR email us at: [info@srhhsf.org](mailto: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!**