



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2017

Vol. 28

Issue 1

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

## SANTA ROSA HIGH TODAY

An Interview with Principal Brad Coscarelli

*Brad Coscarelli, the energetic and much loved Principal at SRHS, has been on the job for seven years. Before that, he spent an additional seven years at SRHS as Assistant Principal and Vice Principal. The Foundation interviewed him to learn what has changed at SRHS over the decades, and what has remained the same. Some of his answers are sure to surprise you.*  
Don Cambou, Editor



Brad Coscarelli, Principal

**Foundation:** Most of our members graduated SRHS in the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. How has the school changed since they were here?

**Coscarelli:** We are very popular. We're known as the school of choice. So we have a lot of students that will come here from outside

our attendance area. Almost half of our students come here from West Sonoma County, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Napa... They'll commute up to an hour each way just to come to SRHS. It's a truly comprehensive high school. We have wood shop, welding shop, auto shop, an Ag Department, and our 23 year old ArtQuest program. ArtQuest is for the passionate student. It's grown into eight specialty areas: Visual Fine Arts, Dance, Theater Arts, Instrumental, Choir, Photography, Video, and Digital Arts. A little over a quarter of our students are in the ArtQuest program.

Nevers Field is now an all weather turf and track with an amazing light system and grandstands, so we play all our home football games here on campus. By the way, Because of Title IX, football is now a coed sport, as is wrestling. We have many opportunities for girls in athletics.

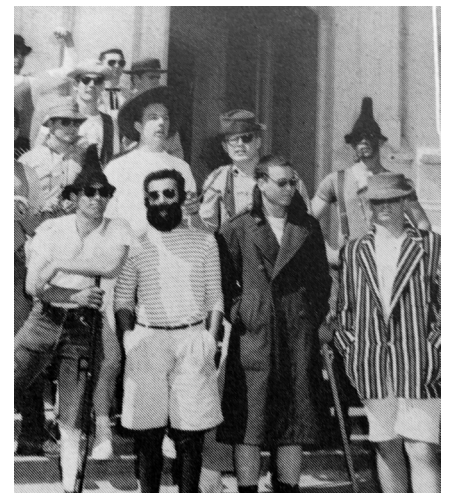
Twelve million dollar DeSoto Hall was built 13 or 14 years ago on the footprint of the old tennis courts. It has 25 classrooms. It's an award winning building. The brick and moldings match the familiar front of SRHS.

*Continued on page 4*

## SENIOR CHARACTER DAY

By Chris Zeek  
and Don Cambou

If you attended Santa Rosa High any time from the mid-fifties until 1990, you probably remember a gloriously whacky day when seniors got to play Halloween dress up in Spring. It was called Senior Character Day.



In the 50's

A day when two girls could dress as a pair of shoes, or a group of girls could be Playboy Bunnies. When boys could be Einstein or cavemen, the Blues Brothers, or motorcycle gangs.

Senior Character Day probably had its roots with the "Whang-Doodle Day" of the 1920s when students

*Continued on page 5*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to our loyal Foundation Members; 2017 promises to be an exciting year. I am excited to announce that in the last quarter of 2016 we added 4 new Board Members; Rose Machen Moeller '68, Brian Mecchi '77, Joanne McLaughlin '74, and Chris Zeek '68.



As promised the Foundation website is being updated! For those that attended the Golf Tournament in September 2016 you can now see pictures from the event and the announcement of winners. If you have a reunion coming up let us announce it for you. Please send the information to [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org) and it will be posted to the website with your class information. During the 1st quarter of 2017 the website will also have a link for ordering Foundation logo wear. Please visit our site at [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org).

The Foundation also organizes the Student of the Month program for SRHS. Each month 6 to 7 students are nominated by the instructors at SRHS. Several Foundation members then take these students to lunch at Chevy's Restaurant. Also joining us is one of the Assistant Principals. Letters from the nominating teachers are read at lunch and congratulations are delivered. The Foundation then hosts a dinner in May for the honored students, their families, and the teachers who nominated them. Each student receives a certificate and their picture is taken with their families; it has proven to be a proud night for the parents and honorees.

The Panther Project Fund has had exciting requests from the instructors at SRHS; thus far this fiscal year we have approved \$35,270.00 in Grant requests. This is

where your Membership dollars go to work to enhance programs at SRHS.

The SRHS Foundation Board is actively working on bringing in new Board Members. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member please contact me at [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org), or leave a message on the Pandy line 707-571-7747, or attend one of our monthly Board meetings!

In the final 6 months of our Fiscal year we have several fundraisers on the calendar. First on February 7, 2017, working in tandem with Applebee's on Santa Rosa Ave, we are participating in Dining to Donate. This event will raise funds for the Bruce Mecchi Memorial Fund, which funds a scholarship for a senior entering either Forestry or the Fire Fighter Academy 1 at SRJC. The second event the annual Polenta Feed on April 21, 2017; this is our largest event each year with a sell-out crowd of 650!

As the President of the SRHS Foundation I look forward to continuing the goals of the Foundation as expressed in our Mission Statement.

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

## POP QUIZ

**How many of your SRHS instructors can you name?**

**15 or more: You're an Alpha Panther**

**9 to 14: Orange and Black is in your veins**

**8 or less: Go back to school**

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

## SRHS Foundation Directors

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

Hi,

I was just rereading an article in the Foundation newsletter on Remember when: 1966 by Rick Blaine.... who is Rick Blaine? Didn't he graduate in the '50's... he wrote the article like he was in our class. He missed a few key things we did in that class. It caught my attention since he misspelled Healey Shoes....

Thanks

Adrienne Healey '66 Hotchkiss

*Adrienne,*

*You're very perceptive. Apparently, the mysterious Mr. Blaine, like Forrest Gump, has a knack for always being in the pivotal place at the pivotal time. Rick spent many, many years at SRHS. To find out more about the enigma that is Rick Blaine, dust off your Winter, 2015 newsletter, or find it online at srhsf.org. There, read former editor Mike Daniels' parting words. Then you'll understand how Rick maintains his youthful position in SRHS lore even as time goes by. Don Cambou, current Editor.*

My mother, Gertrude Cate Larsen, class of '46, was a member of the Foundation but died last January. Mom was the youngest of 11 children having arrived in Santa Rosa as a consequence of the dust bowl. She was the ONLY child in her family to graduate from high school and was very proud of that fact. She valued education especially for women and made sure all of her children had the ability to attend college.

I had the pleasure of attending with my mother the polenta dinner a couple of years ago. I was amazed to see the alumni's enthusiastic community support and could see why Mom continued to be a Foundation member. When I cleared out her files, I was amazed to see the SRHS file was the largest, at least six inches thick going back seemingly decades.

I am a retired alternative high school principal and can only wish our high school could garner the support that SRHS enjoys! Hats off to your hard work.

Best Wishes,

Ingrid Larsen Mitchell

Hi, in your news letter you listed my mother Evelyn Palmberg as a graduate of SRHS in 1938 which is correct but I also wondered if you could list her maiden last name which is Perry.

Evelyn Ella Perry Palmberg She is Deceased at 96 years old.

Thank you so much for remembering her.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gwen Palmberg Karloske her daughter.

## BE A BIG CAT

Renew or upgrade your Foundation membership by joining the Big Cat Club.



\$75 for a one year membership.

You'll receive a Pandy emblazoned shopping bag.

\$100 for a one year membership.

You'll receive an embroidered Pandy baseball cap.

At the end of your Big Cat year, your membership will revert to the basic membership fee.

Contact the Foundation at [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org) or use the form on the last page of this issue.

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



We have a hundred teachers and a hundred classrooms.

**Foundation:** If some of our members returned to the school, what would they see that's the same as when they graduated?

**Coscarelli:** The auditorium would bring them back. So would the main building and the north gym. They wouldn't see the old smoking area for faculty and students. That's



Nevers Field

gone. Now cigarettes are almost unheard of. Some things about the students haven't changed. We still have issues with alcohol. We still have some students who drive too fast out of the parking lot. We still have some fights. But we also still have Prom and Homecoming. Some traditions haven't died.

The dancing might shock some of the older grads. You were face to face. They're back to front.

School pride, school spirit is still big. We're known throughout Northern California for that. We have other schools come here to learn how to get more spirit at their school.

**Foundation:** What are you particularly proud of about the school?

**Coscarelli:** Most of the time when I talk to our students, they are happy to be here. They want to be here. Our graduation rate is high. Our academics are superb. It goes back to our vision to create good people, good active community members. To have people fighting to get into SRHS says a lot.

**Foundation:** What would you like SRHS to be like in five years?

**Coscarelli:** Generally, we all want to make the school better. I'd like to see our truancy rate go down and our graduation rate go up. I know a high school diploma is critical. I want the students to be happy at school and not have to worry about being bullied or harassed. I'd like to see them all have enough food. All the supplies they need. Lots of technology in the classroom. We still have students that are homeless. We still have students who are hungry, who come to school in winter with flip flops on their feet and it makes me very sad. We still have students with no internet access at home.

**Foundation:** What does SRHS really need?

**Coscarelli:** Strong community support. It's so important. And that's where the SRHS Foundation comes in. Without the Foundation, there would be a lot of times when I would have to tell teachers, "You have a wonderful idea for your classroom or project or experiment, but I have no money to purchase that."

My entire school budget is right around 85 thousand dollars a year. You could say "discretionary budget." I usually will give each teacher around \$65 for the full year for his or her classroom. When I tell people that, I think they're shocked. So this is where the Foundation is key. Without the Foundation, I don't know what some of these classrooms would look like. How can I buy a teacher a \$3,000 computer for the classroom? How could I say "yes" to a dozen teachers who want to go to a conference somewhere if the cost is \$6,000? The teachers learn fast when they start working here that if I say I can't afford



DeSoto Hall

it, it's not a definite "no." It's let's explore other ways to make this happen. The teachers know if they can't get it from me, oftentimes they can get it through the Foundation, sometimes with another funding source joining in. The Foundation likes to see that other groups are also buying in. The Foundation contributes over \$100 thousand almost every year to these projects. And that doesn't include the scholarships.

I think SRHS is the best school around. My own children go here. We have more students asking to come here than we have capacity for.

*Senior Character Day...continued from page 1*  
 dressed in costume and competed for prizes in a number of categories. After decades of quiescence, the volcano of youthful exuberance erupted once more in 1956. Class officers convinced the Administration that their class of seniors should be allowed to wear a costume or casual outfit for one day. One participant remembers the excitement of wearing her floral design pedal pushers to school. Yes, SRHS had a strict dress code in those days.

Senior Character Day quickly hit its stride. Costumes became elaborate and outrageous. In the 1960s, the big day incorporated awards: Most Popular, Best Looking, Most Athletic, Most Talkative, Funniest, Most Likely to Succeed, and Best All Round Senior Girl and Boy. Costume judges picked the Best Group, Best Couple, Best Singles, Ugliest and Funniest.

In 1966, a group of attractive girls dressed up as Playboy Bunnies. They received one of the Best Groups Awards and a rousing ovation. In 1968, eight girls made costumes and paper mache heads of the Seven Dwarfs and one of the girl's mother made the Snow White costume. One of the girl's fathers painted all of the dwarf's faces. But the Vice Principal disqualified them, claiming they didn't make the costumes. They were very disheartened over his decision.



Playboy Bunnies



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

To this day, one of the group (if not all of the group) is very upset with the Vice Principal's decision. 1969 saw four guys attached at the hip, literally. A father owned a moving and storage company and provided four uniforms. A mother sewed them all together. Since each guy had a different class schedule, the group had to scramble to report en masse to be in attendance. 1972 saw one of the most original – and stinking – costumes of the period. A senior boy came as a sea creature. He went out to the Sonoma Coast and gathered a reeking mess of seaweed. With a lot of twine he put the costume together. The finishing touch was an ocean water spray to give it an overwhelming

stench. He was not allowed in the classrooms and had to sit outside. But to his credit, he did receive The Most Unusual Costume Award.

The sea creature costume wasn't the worst decision made by participants for senior character day. Not by a long shot. In 1967 a bunch of guys dressed up as Ku Klux Klan members. One even came as the Imperial



Four Guys, One Uniform

Wizard. They all carried crosses and wore medallions. In poor decision making rivaling their own, school administrators didn't send them home. They were allowed to wear the costumes after they were told to cut away the



The Sea Creature

material to expose their faces. Also, they were ordered to apologize to any black member of the student body they may have offended. The 80s saw a rash of poor taste costumes including some involving seniors mocking disabled students. Senior Character Day was approaching the end of its run as what was once zaniness and satire slipped into ridicule and racism. What might have passed for "good fun" in an earlier time quickly withered in the politically correct 90s.

The Spring of 1990 saw the last Senior Character Day. The Student Activities Commissioner, Levi Jones, came up with a suitable alternative: The Toga Dance. All SRHS students, not just Seniors, could participate in the event. Everyone could dress up in togas like the members of the fraternity in "Animal House," the 1978 movie starring John Belushi. Levi Jones is today an English instructor and Golf coach at SRHS. But his Toga Dance still rules, although not many students wear togas to the dance. Almost all, however, wear togas to school that day.

No one who participated in Senior Character Day during its 35 year history will ever forget its exhilarating, borderline madness. Now, only one question remains: What was your costume?

# THE PANTHER PANTRY

By Don Cambou

Over 100 current SRHS students are homeless. Yes, that's over 100. They live in cars, R.V.s, and shelters. They couch surf. They are without permanent housing. And they need clothes, food, and toiletries – those things most of us take for granted. That's where the Panther Pantry comes in.

The volunteer program had humble beginnings. For some years, then SRHS Health Tech Leslie Pryor kept a few file cabinets full of clothes. When she recognized students who needed them, she'd retrieve items from her cabinets. In 2015, Student, Teacher, Parent (STP) president Lynn Valentine and three other volunteers learned of "pantries" at schools outside California and decided to expand on Leslie's work. They got permission to use part of a large pantry in the old SRHS kitchen. They cleaned it out, painted it, and started stocking it with the needed food, clothing, and toiletries. The Panther Pantry opened in January of 2016. Today, Annette Holland is the volunteer who runs the Pantry, although she doesn't see the student recipients.

Counselors and teachers discreetly refer needy students to the SRHS administrative staff. They will quietly take the kids to the Pantry, and let them pick clothes and toiletries, and fill bags of food.

Two STP members hold a holiday gift sale of handmade jewelry and knitwear with proceeds going to the Pantry. A third member held a party and asked guests for gift card donations to the Pantry.

The Pantry is working on some innovative ideas. One is to trade many pounds of surplus clothes to the Sutter Hospice Thrift Store in exchange for vouchers. The needy students can take the vouchers to the thrift store and exchange them for clothes in keeping with their own fashion tastes. The Pantry is also working to forge relationships with food banks.

This is a very worthy organization that's coming out from under the radar. The Pantry is in need of canned goods, pastas and sauces, new socks, gift cards, and direct cash or check donations. If you'd like to help the Panther Pantry help SRHS's homeless and needy students, please contact Lynn Valentine at [president@srhsstp.org](mailto:president@srhsstp.org).



Volunteers hold blankets donated by the Grace family

## SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SEAT PLAQUES

Now you can permanently "take a seat" in the SRHS Auditorium! To ensure your place in SRHS history, or to remember a friend or relative, an engraved brass plaque will be permanently and prominently affixed to a seat in the SRHS Auditorium. You will receive a beautiful certificate inscribed with the name and location of the seat. The name plate can be engraved using two lines; with a maximum of 25 characters per line (spaces & punctuation are considered characters).

The cost is \$150 and all proceeds go to the Santa Rosa High School Foundation permanent endowment fund for the exclusive benefit of the SRHS students. Auditorium seat plaques make a great gift for graduating seniors!

To order your plaque, call the Pandey Line at **707-571-SRHS (571-7747)** or email [donations@srhsf.org](mailto:donations@srhsf.org). You will be able to submit a check, made payable to the SRHS Foundation, or use your Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. Upon your request, a seat plaque request form will be sent to you for completion. Be sure to specify the exact wording as you want it to appear on the plaque.

All donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

**Santa Rosa High School Foundation, PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406 | 707-571-SRHS (571-7747)**

Visit us online at: [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org)

And remember...Once a Panther, Always a Panther!

# CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Susan Burch

September, October, November and December 2016

I am pleased to report that we have welcomed 18 new Foundation members and 193 renewals. Contributions and memorial gifts this period total \$6,881.00. The continued generosity of you members, new, current or just donors making contributions is amazing and I hope it inspires you to do the same. This is money that goes right back in to the students, one way or another, and opportunities they may not have otherwise.

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

John Aguilera '55	Bonnie Hindley '60	Virgina Pyke '49
Beverly Alexander '45	Jim and Shirley Ann Hurley '58	Thelma Wallace Ramsey '43
Damian Bello and Leigh Vall-Spinosa, Parents	Susan Lewek '75	Norma Rettinhouse '55
Donna Bianchi and Russ Childress, Parents	Martha Keegan '47	Candace Roney '66
William and Barbara Burke, Parents	Lou Knecht '44	Mary Linn Sadler '65
Victoria Carpenter, Staff	Bruce & Connie Kinnison, Parents	Betty Seacord, Friend
Don Coover '62	Martha Maxwell '57	James & Dana Simonds, Parents
Sylvia Cullivan '54	David McAuley '49	Sandra Spencer '54
Dorothy Curry '52	Charles Mertel '53	Merv Stithem '53
Jeff and Lisa Elliott, Parents	William Mitchell '63	James and Sharon Watson, Parents
Allen Garayalde '55	Lucille Moholt-Siebert '68	Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Jeffrey Hallock '66	Gwen Neary '65	Buck Yaeger '59
Ed Hansen '57	Jim Nelson '61	Denny Yaeger '61
	Jerrold Peterson '60	
	Charles Proses '50	

## WELCOME ABOARD BIG CAT CLUB MEMBERS!

Meet the new trendsetters:

Robert Bryan '52	Daniel J. Kelly '59	Jim Streeter '78
Don Cambou '64	Ron Laughlin '65	
David & Sara Joslyn, Parents	Robert Ratto '48	

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Karen Famini '67

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

## SEAT PLAQUE

Ruben and Judith Almeraz '65 and '66  
Arthur Chung '96  
Class of 1951, Reunion Committee  
Curtis Sather '96



# MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

## Art Quest

Judy Reilly '70  
Dave and Sue Sloat '61 & '65

## Art Quest Video In Honor of Jim Helmer's Family

Julie and Whitney Smith, Parents

## Lee Bertozzi

Art Valencia '59

## Rueben Beseda

Doug and Lynn Rackerby '71 & '72

## Harold Bolla

Mary Testorelli '47

## The Dan Bribiescas Memorial

John Bribiescas '66

## Bruce Camilli

Oren & Nadine Smedshammer '59  
Art Valencia '59

## Jessica/Marsha Carney Scholarship Fund

N.A. & A.L. Claeys, Friends

## John Caulfield

Sandy Harrison, Friend

## Wallace Dean Clustka

Richard & Angeline Colombini '49

## The Jack De Meo Memorial

Beverly Bennett '52  
Ann Garzoli '51  
John Guenza '52  
James Laier '58  
Eunice LaDell Escola, Friend  
Jim & Carol Underhill '51/'52

## The Spirito "Petie" Falco Memorial/Ting Guggiana

Ronald Falco '65

## Janice Burnett Hartzog/Diane

## Diekmann Orr

Sue Grave '67

## The Jim Helmer Family Scholarship

Dan Johnston '91

## Jane Sawyer Huntington

Martha Keegan '47

## Betty Estes Lyon

Joyce Williamsen, Friend

## Joanne Murphey Knight

Carol Carr-Colglazier '58

## Mary Martin

Gordon and Terri Martin '69

## Mary Mayhue

Carol Guanella '56  
Erin Koch-Goodman, Friend  
Jo Ann Mac Donald '56

## The Bruce Mecchi Scholarship

Rick and Paulette Gomes '68  
Brian Mecchi '77  
Paul and Cheryl Tennyson, Friends

## Kristi Long Mendoza

Kirk and Rosa Moeller '68

## Peter Menth

Jack and Carole Rackerby, Staff  
Bob and Delores Zeni, Friends

## Worth Morton

Oren and Nadine Smedshammer '59

## Donald Nielson

Martha Keegan '47  
Jim & Carol Underhill '51/'52

## Emmett O'Neil

Patricia Engman, Staff

## Lillian Cohen Parker

Joel Parker '66

## Harry Pelletti

Carol Guanella '56

## In Memory of the Pisenti & Mazzetta Families

Bill Pisenti '66

## Santa Rosa High School Baseball Program

Doug Erker '69

## Waldie Scheffler

Marianne Wurnitsch '53

## Scholarships

George Cleek '58

## The Science Dept

Larry and Pat Hartley '62

## Jack Shea

Jean Osborn '48

## Ted Edward Smith

John & Allene Cornolo '55  
Bill Fairbanks '55  
David and Susan Stern, Friends  
Ann Tuohy '66  
Donald & Gail Willhelm, Friend

## The John A. "Jack" Swire Memorial

Marilyn Swire

## Ruth Ann Tremayne

William D. Mills and Joan F. Mills '49

## The Beverly Wallstrum Memorial

Michael and Nancy Frost '70

## The Berta Wiggins Scholarship

Tom and Delores Schieberl '53  
Wiggins Electric, Inc.

## Marilyn Wilson

Carol Guanella '56

## Robert Wilson

John & Allene Cornolo '55

## Science Department

Larry & Pat Hartley '62

## Video Program

Michael & Jennifer Toby, Parents

NOTE: If you wish to have your donation acknowledged to the family of the memorial honoree, please include an address for that purpose.

## In Memoriam

October, November, December 2016

Evelyn Ella Perry Palmberg 1938 (correction)	Jack DeMeo	1951	Randall Scott (Randy) Barron	1974
Elizabeth Louise Richardson 1939	Ruth Ann Tremayne (Mills)	1951	Barrett Clark	1999
Tom Tomasi 1941	Lynn Frank Dragoman	1953	Jackson Thomas Mathers	2011
Lauraine Lilly (Lori) Wallace 1941	John A. (Jack) Swire	1953	Peter Menth	Staff
Melvin (Mel) Alpheus Wood 1943	Robert (Ted) Smith	1954	Peter B. Sansom	Staff
Diane E. Comstock 1946	Ted Smith	1955	Raymond A. Capri	N/A
Viola Sara Tam Sedgwick 1947	Bruce Camilli	1959	Gene Crozat	N/A
Gloria Pennato 1949	Father Walter Rogina	1966	Martha Cunningham Farlander	N/A
Richard Russ 1950	Kristy Marie Mendoza (Long)	1969		



# LORDS OF THE RING

By Don Cambou

The Discus Throw may seem like an obscure sport. But consider. It's over 27 hundred years old. Over 150 throwers (discus and shot put) participated in last year's single Big Cat Meet at SRHS. And now, thanks to a true Panther family effort, SRHS has the finest high school discus ring in the North Bay.

Paul Troppy, a 1984 grad and current "throws coach" at SRHS, spearheaded the effort to build the new ring. Dick Colombini, a 1949 grad and all star athlete, contributed fifteen yards of concrete, and a truck to pump it. Former throwers David Earl (SRHS 1990), Cameron Bowles (Montgomery 1982), and Troppy all added money for materials. Lucca Mazzanti, SRHS 2017 and current cross country record setter, joined in with more materials. He also enlisted close to 15 classmates to work on building the form and on the day of the pour. Why so much concrete? Because the discus ring is set 1 ½ inches deep into the huge platform.

But even after all that effort from the group that spanned nearly 70 years of Panther athletics, the finished platform and ring were useless. One critical element remained: the 16 foot tall cage designed to encircle three quarters of the ring and catch errant throws. Imagine a 1.6 kg (over 3 ½ pounds) discus with a metal edge released at 90 mph heading your way. Yep. Got to have the cage. Josh Grace (1989) stepped forward with an offer to fund half the \$6,400 cage. He's part of four generations of Grace throwers. His daughter Caitlin – discus is for girls, too –

is a current SRHS throwing star. Your SRHS Foundation kicked in the other \$3,200 to complete the purchase of the cage.

The impressive new throwing ring joins two others Troppy has helped build at SRHS's Nevers Field. Troppy sums it up with, "I'd love to see Santa Rosa High become a throwing Mecca."

The new ring represents the best of SRHS. Tradition, pride, and loyalty to the school. Once a Panther, always a Panther.



The Pour

## ANNUAL POLENTA FEED – FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

It's almost time again for the Annual SRHS Foundation Polenta Feed, to be held on Friday, April 21, 2017 at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. The social hour begins at 5:30pm with dinner at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$35.00 per person, adults only.

Tickets go on sale beginning February 1st and are available **for Foundation members only until March 1st**. After March 1st tickets will be available to all supporters of SRHS. Tickets are ordered by calling the Pandy Line at 571-7747. Leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned by the following day. Tickets sell quickly so mark your calendar now to make that call after February 1st.

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



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!

2016 - 17 Donations to date

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>SCOTT M. BESEDA 1972 IN MEMORY OF RUBEN BESEDA, SRHS<br/>TEACHER AND BASEBALL COACH<br/>DAVID K. 1980 &amp; JANET BROWN<br/>ARTHUR 1996 &amp; MINDY CHUNG<br/>WES 1985 &amp; CAROL LANGFORD 1985 DANIELS<br/>SHARON L. WAITE FERNANDEZ 1962<br/>JUDY KELLER FOX 1965 *<br/>BILL &amp; SUSIE FRIEDMAN 1966 *<br/>MICHAEL 1971 &amp; KIM ROBERTS GUTZMAN **<br/>SAMUEL L. &amp; CANDACE PINTANE 1970 JONES<br/>LU BUTCHER KISTNER 1957<br/>ROY KUNZ 1956<br/>CALEB LOGUE</p> <p>PAMELA ALVES LORENZ 1967 IN MEMORY OF BARBARA DUNCAN 1941<br/>STEPHANIE MADISON 1972<br/>THE MAYHUE FAMILY IN LOVING MEMORY OF<br/>MARY MAYHUE 1956 AND DAN BRIBIESCAS 1977<br/>J. ALEC MCCORQUODALE 1958<br/>GARY RASCHE 1961 *****<br/>CURTIS SATHER 1996<br/>'TOM' SCHMIDT 1964<br/>ROBERT 'SKIP' SCINTO 1964</p> | <p>MARK A. &amp; SHERYL L. SIMPSON, PARENTS OF 2015 &amp; 2017 GRADS<br/>DAVE 1961 &amp; SUE 1965 SLOAT IN MEMORY OF ALBERT &amp; LILLIAN<br/>SLOAT<br/>DARELL 1961 &amp; ANN STEELE IN HONOR OF MY LIFETIME BUDDY,<br/>BARRY BLACK &amp; HIS FAITHFUL WIFE, SUZANNE, FOR HER<br/>REMARKABLE, UNDYING LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO BARRY<br/>MARK STOKES 1977<br/>TIM STRATTON, PH.D. 1975<br/>WARD 1958 &amp; PAT TOWNSEND 1959 THOMPSON* 'KEEP UP<br/>THE GOOD WORK SRHSF!'<br/>VICTOR 1965 &amp; KAREN TRIONE<br/>LARRY WEESE 1964 *****<br/>SUSAN WIESNER IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND EDWARD 'TED'<br/>SMITH 1955<br/>PANDY FUND #1: VERONICA POPVICH CHARVAT 1961, ANASTASIA<br/>DUARTE, EARL KIMMEL 1946, THOMAS K. RACKERBY 1976<br/>PANDY FUND #2: EUGENE 1959 &amp; CATHERINE SATO<br/>Reunion Committee of 1966: Bruce Ballard, Betty Bigelow Bourdens, Charlie<br/>Campbell, Dave Hamilton, Julie Avila Hanson, Dave Hunt, Leigh Hutchinson<br/>Heyer, Dona Marcucci Godwin,<br/>Paddy Robotham Carelis, Rich Silverek<br/>* indicates multiple donations. Wow!</p> |
|---|--|

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 205 donors (many with multiple donations) totaling nearly \$265,000

**JOIN US! We are making a difference.**

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

### CLASS OF 1967 READY TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

The SRHS Class of 1967 has a fun week-end planned for August 18-20, 2017, in celebration of its 50th Class Reunion!! Friday night will be Grad Night, beginning at 6:00pm at the Villa in Santa Rosa. Then Saturday night will be the Reunion at Legends at the Bennett Valley Golf Course in Santa Rosa for an evening of fun & renewing old acquaintances. Festivities and a buffet dinner will begin at 6:00pm. Then on Sunday there will be a gathering at Trione Winery in Geyserville, for a box lunch, bocce ball, wine tasting & winery tour by classmate & vintner, Mark Trione.

For more information, please contact Donna Dennes Peterson at [ddennes@hotmail.com](mailto:ddennes@hotmail.com) or Eloise Jamison White at [el538@sbcglobal.net](mailto:el538@sbcglobal.net).

Looking forward to a great celebration!



By: Pandy  
WINTER 2017

At this year's SRHS Homecoming, two 1967 grads were on hand to crown the new King, Dawa Sherpa, and Queen, Brooke Reitenbach. Donna Dennes Peterson was 1966's Queen, and Rick Call was the '66 quarterback of

(Bertacco) Brooks, Pat (Greuner) Tilly, and Gretchen (Gray) Heth. Some of the women travelled from Vermont, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Santa Barbara, CA to attend. Once a Panther, always a Panther... SRHS Rio Olympian Molly Hannis 2010 recently visited Ag instructor Lisa Piehl and her classes... The Class of '96 just celebrated their 20th reunion. Class of '76 went for their 40th. Class of '71 rolled into their 45th. And the Class of '66 hit the big 5-0.

the Panther football Team. Donna wore her crown from '66 and Rick wore his white Block S sweater. In 1988, both Donna and Rick became founding SRHS Board members... 18 students from Montebelluna, Italy recently stayed with SRHS families for two weeks. SRHS English teacher Monica Garcia and Italian teacher Carla Forchini hosted the accompanying Italian teachers. When



Donna Dennes Peterson and Rick Call

the time came to return to Italy, Forchini reports "nearly all the parents and students were in tears." But the beat will go on. In spring of this year, 19 SRHS students plan to go to Montebelluna and stay in the homes of the students who came to visit. Forchini says, "I could not have put this exchange together



Lisa Piehl and Molly Hannis

without the generous funding of the SRHS Foundation..." Arthur Chong '96, received a SRHS Foundation Scholarship. He went on to U.C. Davis where he received a degree in Marketing Economics. After working for Charles Schwab, he received his Masters from the University of Virginia. He's now an Executive Consultant for Google... In October, women of the class of 1958 had a biannual reunion at the Sonoma home of Carol (Rouse) Carr-Colglazier. They included Shirley Ann (Sherrill) Hurley, Suzanne (Brine) Vernon, Maureen (Collins) Mindell, Suellen (Plover) Hamby, Marilyn (Macy) Massa, Shirley (Hendrickson) Spina, Frances



Classmates rock in their 50th reunion

Barrett Clark '99, a SRHS multimedia ArtQuest student, has died far too soon. He was one of three dozen victims of the recent Oakland Ghost Ship warehouse fire. He worked there as a sound engineer. And he was working there the night of the deadly blaze.

"He was one-of-a-kind. Extremely intelligent, generous, warm, funny. He was a top notch sound technician," said close friend Michael Buchanan.

Popular and in-demand, many bands would request him. "To the very minute he passed he was doing the thing he did. Barrett was an amazing sound engineer," said business associate Ramona Downey. "Bands loved him so much because he was so competent."



Santa Rosa High School Foundation  
Dine & Donate for the

Bruce Mecchi Memorial Fund  
5 - 8 p.m. February 7, 2017

Must bring a flyer & present to server  
Applebee's 2250 Santa Rosa Av SR

To request a flyer - call the Pandey Line at 707.571-7747 or info@SRHSF.org

The Bruce Mecchi Memorial Fund was established in honor of a 1968 Santa Rosa High School Grad whose tragic death occurred while working for the State Forestry Department in 1968.

The fund provides monetary support to a deserving senior from SRHS seeking an academic pursuit in forestry at the Santa Rosa Junior College.



**SRHS FOUNDATION**

*"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"*

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<b>Membership Fee:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 ~ 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 ~ 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 ~ 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 ~ Lifetime
<b>Big Cat Club Memberships:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 One Year Big Cat Donor (includes canvas bag) <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 One Year Big Cat Donor (includes baseball cap)
<b>Annual Fund Campaign Contribution:</b> Please accept my gift of \$_____ for: <input type="checkbox"/> General unrestricted gift <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: _____

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Please return to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation, PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. If you prefer, complete your transaction online through our website: [www.srhsf.org](http://www.srhsf.org). For more information, call the Pandy Line at (707) 571-SRHS (7747) OR email us: [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org). Tax ID #68-0195375 (for a gift of Marketable Securities, contact us for more information.) **Remember... Once a Panther, Always a Panther**