



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2018

Vol. 29

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.

CARING FOR STUDENTS AFTER THE FIRES

A Principal's Eye View

By Don Cambou

By 2:30 am on the morning of October 9, 2017 Principal Brad Coscarelli was already at Santa Rosa High. He didn't come that early out of sense of duty. He and his family were fleeing the fire. He recalls, "I had my own children sleeping under the desk here. Around 3 o'clock I started enacting our own emergency phone tree. But a lot of people started showing up out of the blue in our parking lot." Around 5:30, Coscarelli, with other teachers who had sought refuge in the school, went out with flashlights and opened the doors to the foyer of the South Gym so that over 100 people could use the restrooms.

School didn't open that day, or the next, or the day after that. Finally, the School District told SRHS that city schools wouldn't open for at least another week. Counselor Kris Bertsch-Rydell approached Coscarelli with her vision for organizing the school's preparedness for the return of the students. Coscarelli gave her his unequivocal support. "For kids who have lost everything, I wanted to be able to help them feel like they were returning to a form of normalcy," says Bertsch-Rydell.

She created SEAM – the Student Emergency Assistance Meeting. School was to reopen Monday, October 30. So Friday, October 27 became the SEAM day. Most of the 125 students who had lost their homes, along with many parents, came to the SEAM event at the North Gym. First, they filled out new contact information, and were served breakfast. Then they found stations where they were given backpacks, school supplies, toiletries, \$100 gift cards (provided by your Foundation), equipment and other resources for student athletes, City and County bus passes, car pool information, SRHS spirit gear, and a range of past and current SRHS Yearbooks. Rydell says, "We wanted to provide every service that a kid might possibly need." Then they went to the Library to get new library cards and check out text books. Finally, they were directed to the Panther Pantry to fill bags with food, clothes, and other family needs, including diapers. The SRHS Foundation, Student, Teacher, Parent organization (STP), Panther Athletic Club (PAC), and Friends of ArtQuest all played significant

Continued on page 3

THIS PANTHER HAS HEART

By Don Cambou

(Editor's note: I was on the SRHS swim team with Don Coover '62. He would sometimes entertain us in a slightly grotesque way – as boys are prone to do. He would stretch the skin on his elbow WAY further than normal skin could be stretched. That's because he lacked collagen. And that's what started his serious medical problems.)

For decades, the lack of collagen seemed just a skin problem. Others would scrape or bruise if they fell, Don's skin would rip open. Other than that, the SRHS grad and former SRHSF Board member lived a normal life. He sold real estate and then worked at Kresky Signs, where he eventually became president. He was married and had a child. Then, around age 45, Don collapsed behind the wheel of his car. His wife, Mary, screamed. She startled him awake, and he pulled over safely. He hadn't been feeling well anyway, so it was off to see the doctor. Tests showed that he had an enlarged heart and a leaky valve. He learned that he had Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, an inherited disease and the cause of

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of the SRHS Foundation would like to wish our Members, Alumni, School Staff and Friends a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

We are now approaching the 2nd half of our Fiscal year and have a lot of positive information to share. First and foremost the Fire Relief & Support Fund that launched in October exceeded our expectations by raising \$47,601.00 in cash and gift card donations through December 25th. These funds have been utilized to purchase backpacks, gift cards and school supplies for 130 students affected by the historic fires.

The Foundation and I would like to personally thank our generous donors, listed on page 7, for their support of the Fire Relief & Support Fund, we could not have done it without your compassionate support.

This year because of the fires the Homecoming dance was postponed until December 2nd. In talking with the staff and Asst. Principal at SRHS we realized that dresses



for the dance may have been destroyed in the Fire. I contacted my niece Michele Rackerby Beckman '95 to ask for assistance with donations of dresses. Michele then went to work contacting friends for donations. Through this process she contacted Jenny Kenney a soccer friend from Santa Rosa and the process began. With the assistance from Runway Boutique in El Dorado Hills who donated 15 new dresses, 60 dresses both new and slightly used were delivered to the school for the Homecoming dance. Special thanks go out to those involved in the process!

The 2nd half of the Fiscal year the Foundation will be focused on the upcoming Polenta Feed on April 27th, increasing Membership and continuing the effort to raise money for the Fire Relief and Support Fund.

The SRHS Foundation is in need of additional Board Members and Volunteers. I invite interested candidates to contact me either through e-mail:

info@srhsf.org

or through the Pandy Line at

707-571-7747

Once again I want to thank everyone for their generous support to the SRHS Foundation and the students and staff at SRHS.

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

SRHS FOUNDATION FIRE RELIEF & SUPPORT FUND Donation Form

Your Information:

Name _____ Maiden _____

Year Graduated _____ Friend _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Preferred Method to Receive Mail: Email US Mail

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Contribution: Please accept my gift of \$ _____

To contribute via credit card please go to our website, www.srhsf.org and select the DONATE button within the Fire Relief Letter. Special Requests, or Questions: Please call the Pandy Line at (707) 571-7747 or email info@srhsf.org. We will return your call or email promptly. Please Return this Form and Your Payment to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation PO Box 11006 Santa Rosa CA 95406

Thank you for supporting the SRHS Foundation, a non-profit 501c3 public benefit corporation. The Foundation's tax ID number is 68-0195375.

Once a Panther, Always a Panther! Visit us Online at www.srhsf.org

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

roles in acquiring all the goods provided at the SEAM event. Along with Coscarelli and Bertsch-Rydell, Lynn Valentine of the STP, and Mary Beseda of the SRHSF attended many of the planning meetings.



Brad Coscarelli, Principal

Coscarelli remembers, “The staff was really nervous about what the kids would be acting like and how they would be reacting themselves.” For them, Bertsch-Rydell and the counseling team had prepared a PowerPoint program, delivered the day before SEAM. It included telling signs to look for in students, and what teachers should talk

about and not talk about. If teachers felt overwhelmed, substitute teachers would be there to give them a break. If students were overwhelmed, the teachers could issue Care passes so that the students could immediately visit an on-site psychologist and support staff. The preparation was so successful that very few students would use Care passes on the first day of school.

On October 30, the first day of school, Coscarelli and Bertsch-Rydell wanted a shortened first period followed by a breakfast for two thousand students and staff on Nevers Field. Bertsch-Rydell believed the first thing kids would want to do is see that everybody else is o.k. They asked the STP if that organization could provide and serve the breakfast. The STP delivered. The breakfast was a huge success. Coscarelli says, “That morning will be one of the most special days in the history of Santa Rosa High. They all came together in an outpouring of love and caring.”

Of course, the trauma from the fires couldn't be erased by one breakfast. The whole first week, the school provided a daily Peanut Butter and Jelly Club lunch. Over 80 students would meet at lunch to make their favorite kinds of PBJ sandwiches, using many different breads, different peanut butters, different jellies. With your Foundation's support, the PBJ Club continues every Thursday with attendance of up to 90 students. Coscarelli says it's the most popular club on campus, and it's a bit of subtle therapy for the students.

The fires and their consequences came right in the middle of college application time for seniors. Instead of a the small yearly college application boot camp, SRHS decided to host a workshop for all Santa Rosa high schools. The citywide event quickly became a

countywide event. Representatives from 50 colleges across the nation showed up at SRHS to give over 300 students and parents information about their colleges as well as personal guidance on their application processes. It had never happened before in Sonoma County. Bertsch-Rydell recalls, “It was an absolutely fantastic event. It was awe inspiring to sit back and watch these kids get one on one attention from these college reps. And to see kids from all over the county dressed in their schools' respective sweatshirts standing shoulder to shoulder.”

Coscarelli and Bertsch Rydell watched the students make it through Halloween and Thanksgiving, but they worried about the Holiday Season. “It's not ending,” Bertsch-Rydell says. “The stories get more traumatic. I have a student who lost her house. And recently her pet mouse died. Suddenly that pet mouse became everything that had happened to her. She broke down and cried on the floor.” They organized more support. Round 2.



Kris Bertsch-Rydell, Counselor

During finals, before the Holiday break, students who lost their homes as well as previously homeless students received Secret Santa gifts from the Ag Department as well as another round of \$100 gift cards, again from your SRHS Foundation. The Panther Pantry remained fully stocked and open for any who needed clothing, food, or toiletries.

Coscarelli and Bertsch-Rydell envision a Round 3 in the spring, before the end of the school year. They're not sure yet what Round 3 will entail, since they're dealing with an evolving situation; but it will likely include another batch of \$100 gift cards. Surely Round 3 will involve the need for more donations. I ask Coscarelli how SRHS supporters could help. Coscarelli answered quickly. “The easiest way is to give to the SRHS Foundation. Go to their website at SRHSF.org. There's a “Donate” button. You can even specify exactly where you want the money to go.” You can also mail checks to the Foundation, or call the Pandy Line. (See the Fire Relief and Support Fund Donation form on p. 2 for specifics)

Coscarelli emphasized how much he leaned on his counseling staff these last few months. “Not only the students rely on them, but so do the teachers and staff.”

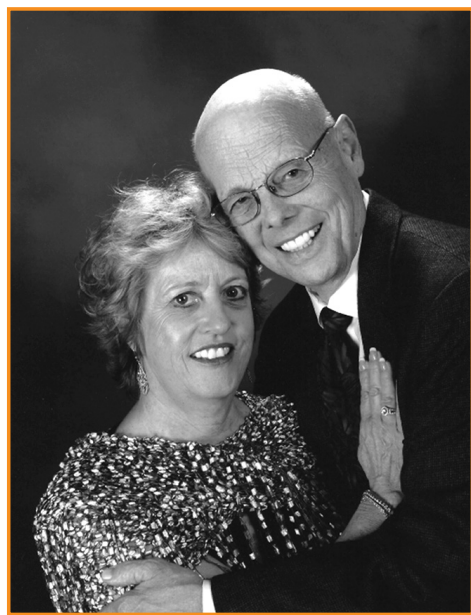
We have given great praise and thanks to the first responders, but Bertsch-Rydell remarked that the counselors as well as the teachers and staff are second responders, and their jobs are far from over. They have endured a lot of wear and tear, but they carry on because they're needed. For them, Bertsch-Rydell says, a bit of kindness or thanks goes a long way.

Coscarelli's closing statement comes with a good bit of Panther pride. "We're known as a safe, caring, loving, tolerant school. A lot of schools know what we've done with this difficult situation, and they're following our model."

This Panther Has Heart...continued from page 1

his lack of collagen. It affected not only his skin, but his internal organs as well. He also learned that he would someday need a heart transplant.

Don was a good patient, and with the counsel of his cardiologist and a strict no salt, no alcohol diet, he stayed healthy for another 16 years. But his heart was growing weaker. In 2003 he had a defibrillator implanted to



Don and Mary Coover

shock him alive if his heart stopped. Still, his condition continued to deteriorate. In 2006, he collapsed on the bathroom floor. His doctors sent him to the Stanford Heart Surgery Clinic – one of the best in the world. There, he started on dialysis, since his kidneys were also starting to fail because of the lack

of collagen. After a week of tests at Stanford, his doctors moved him to the top of the recipient list. The severity of his condition warranted it, and he had strong support system centered around Mary. The physicians feel strong support is essential in cases like Don's. Don says, "That was probably my lowest point, when everything started to go." In less than 24 hours, a donor's heart was available, and they wheeled Don into surgery. Mary whispered in his ear, "Think about sex." Her playful spirit warmed him and calmed him. But Mary was wide awake and on edge when the head surgeon told her Don had a 50/50 chance of survival. She accepted the news, but then another doctor told her his favorable odds were 10 percent. "I just lost it then. I yelled that I didn't want him on the surgical team and I never wanted to see him again."

The surgery team didn't use the heart first intended for Don. It was a woman's heart, and they gave it to a

woman. They kept Don under because they knew a man's heart would arrive in about five hours. They implanted the man's heart, BUT IT DIDN'T PUMP. The surgeons had no choice but to put him on life support, induce a coma, and wait.

Five days later they implanted another heart. It worked. But the life support had taken a toll. They decided to keep Don in the induced coma for another five weeks. Even in the coma, he continued on dialysis. Mary took an apartment across the street from the hospital. She watched Don drop from 150 pounds to 106. "The nurses kept telling me, talk to him, talk to him. He may hear you."

When he came out of the coma, his new heart was pumping, but his body had atrophied. He couldn't swallow or speak. "I was a limp rag," he recalls. He began many months of physical therapy and speech therapy. He had many visits from SRHS alumni. And of course Mary. "Without the support of family, friends, Mary, and modern medicine, I wouldn't be here today."

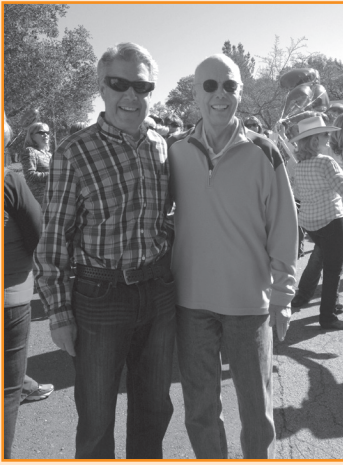
Finally, after six months at Stanford, Don went home. But he continued the grueling dialysis schedule, until he could receive a kidney. That kidney came from his wife, Mary. "I had no hesitation whatsoever. I knew I could function on one kidney. I knew I was a perfect match."

With Mary's kidney, Don could truly return to a normal life. "This definitely brought us closer together. We're literally attached at the hip. I have part of her body."

It's been ten years since Don received Mary's kidney. Eleven years since he received his donor heart. And 31 years since he and Mary were married. They even wrote a book together about Don's medical trials: "I Left My Heart at Stanford..." It's available through Amazon.

You'll find Don and Mary at events like the SRHSF Polenta Feed. He'll probably have a glass of wine in his hand. But he drinks very moderately. And as for salting his food – forget it!

(Editor's additional note: Like so many others, Don and Mary lost their home to the flames on October 9. They are rebuilding.)



Jim Keegan and Don Coover

JIM KEEGAN'S HEART

Don Coover isn't the only SRHS grad with a donor heart. Jim Keegan '66 has one too. They belong to a very exclusive club. Only two thousand Americans receive donor hearts every year. Jim received his at UCSF Med in San Francisco on January 4, 2015. He spent the next two months living just two blocks from the hospital. He had to be there every day for check-ups. When he returned home to Santa Rosa, he was greeted by signs, balloons, and 100 emotional but joyful friends and family members -- including Don Coover.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

Email submissions to doncambou1@gmail.com. Or mail hard copies to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006.

CORRECTIONS

In Mike Daniels' popular "SRHS Luminaries" series, Fred Pedersen and Bill Pedersen were identified as brothers. In fact, they are cousins. Thanks to Barbara Sloat '74 for spotting this error.



SRHS Foundation Directors

Monica Baldenegro '95	Stephen Olsen '61 Vice President
Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President	Dick Owens '72
Don Cambou '64	Carol Laabs Patterson '55
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In Memoriam

Marda Fitzsimmons- '36	Julie Anne Corriea Knobbloch- '56	Bill Gass- '68
Marion Corinne Mecham Rogers- '44	Norrie Bean- '58	Chris Arata- '69
Norma Jean Brady Woelbing- '45	Stanley Beretta- '60	Don McDowell- '70
Thelma Clementia Del Rosso Grossi- '46	Melvin Cavin- '62	Ian Van Tuy- '85
Dortha Simonini Sonnikson- '48	Homer Harris- '65	Ken Goetzel- Coach/ Faculty
Barbara Doyle- '54	David Downard- '66	Julia Carlson Figuera- Staff
Judith Quakenbush Loyd- '54	Michaela Brackenbrough Elliot- '68	

CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Chris Zeek

October, November, and December 2017

The Foundation welcomes 6 new members and appreciates 115 renewals, to bring Our Current membership count to 1,081. Contributions and Memorial gifts for this period are over \$7,965 and growing. The continued generosity of you members, new, current, or non-member donors making contributions is, as usual, very impressive. This is money that goes right back to student needs, one way or another and provides opportunities they may not have otherwise.

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

Lynda Angell- '59	Ruth Hauschildt- '58	Mario Pirondini- '57
Ted/ Tracy Appel- Parents	Madeline Irish- '81	Sandra Spencer- '54
Richard Decroff- '65	Steve Irish- '69	Merv Stithem- '76
Peter/ Anastasia Duarte- Friends	Alana Kelly- '78	Ted Thronson- '56
Candace Duckett Rush- '65	Cynthia Norman- '57	Truist- Friend
Mary Fricker- Friend	Dave Parks- '66	Denny Yaeger- '61
Brian/ Kimberly Nielsen- Friends	Jerrold Peterson- '60	

LIFETIME MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a Lifetime Member, please see the form available in this newsletter or go on-line to www.srhsf.org to join or make contributions. Or contact me, Chris Zeek at 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 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).

David Brown- '80

SEAT PLAQUES

Jay Berger- '62 (2)	Leslie Curry- Parent	Robert Jensen- '53
Laurie Button- Cantu- '66	Sandra Harrison- '64	Kathy Smith- '67

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may send the Foundation a Contribution in the name of a deceased Panther, or in the name of a specific living person or specific department, athletic, or group need, or scholarship.

ArtQuest (Dance)

George Clerk- '58

Baseball

Scott Beseda- '72
Bob Brown- '64
Doug Erker- '69

Music

Anthony Martin- '64

Panther Pantry

Class of '56

Peanut Butter & Jelly Club

Vera Jordan Zeek- '68
Class of '56

SRHS Scholarship Fund

Norbert/ Avis Claeys- Friends

Holly Arrowood

Thelma Ramsey- '43

Eleanor Barry Jones

Chris Zeek- '68

Jerry Bell

Candace Bell Roney- '66

Nayeri Calles Gonzales

Robin Cook- Friend

Eugene Canevari

Carm Canevari- '52

Barbara Doyle

Don/ Ann Walli- Friends

Pam Ellsworth Noonan

Chris Zeek- '68

Ida Faccini

Charles Faccini '56

Bill Gass

Sam/ Rita McMillan '63

Virginia Gowans

Fred/ Dorothy Mercer- '57

John Grandy

Eleanor Griffin- Friend

Jim Greenamyre (Football)

Lawrence/ Susan Anderson- Retired Faculty/ Coach
Laurie Beard- Friend
Todd/ Mary Beseda- '73/'74
Lynne Camp- Friend
Edna Gaddis- Friend
Patrick Gallagher- Retired Faculty
Arlene Greenamyre & Family- Friends
Doris Guyon- Friend
Don/ Lea Hartley- Friends
Greg/Mark/Todd Johnson- '87/'90/'91
David Lightfoot- '69
Bill/ Jean Meddaugh- Friends
Margaret Pagliari- Retired faculty
Pam Rankin- Friend
Olive Robinson- Friend
Robert/ Marjorie Schultz- Friends

Marian Singer- Friend
Eugene/ Leslie Traverso- Friends
Truepoint & CHL- Friends
Jim/Carol/Steve/Cheryl Underhill- '52

Jim MacDonald

Toni MacDonald- '64

Jerry Machen

Chris Zeek- '68

Bruce Mecchi Scholarship

Dennis McCarty- '68

Donna Papera

Charles Faccini '56

Bob Patterson

Don/Peg Laabs- '56
Chris Zeek- '68

William Rogers

Dan Kelly- '59

Vicki Saitone

Charles Faccini '56

Bob Shor (Track)

Andy Chan- Friend
Greg Baird- Friend
Haldene Robert Mayer- Friend
Rod/ Vicki Walling- Friends
Chris Zeek- '68

Barbara Jean Tedford Hall

Doralyn Wicklund- Friend

Carolyn Tushi Perry

Jack Guenza- '52

FIRE RELIEF FUND DONATIONS

Beverly Alexander
Brandee Ambrosia
Sharon Antonelli
Tim Baker
Celestine Bertoli
Todd & Mary Beseda
Robert Borges
Laurie Button-Cantu
Peggy Call
Karin Camilli
Todd Caven
Cec P S Corrie
Dale Crawford
Dorothy Curry
Mike Daniels & Penny Hastings
Fine Arts Winter Fair
Lisa Fitzpatrick
Walt Frey
Friends of ArtQuest Inc
Rick & Paulette Gomes
Mike Grace
Meri Gyves
Harold and Clair Hill
Glenna Holaday
MaryJo Holden
Mary Ingham



Jim & Diane Keegan
Dan Kelly
Kathy Koenig
Dennis Kurlander
Donald R. Laabs
Craig & Mary Lawson & Farrell
Patrick & Rosie London
Ted Luthin
JoAnn MacDonald
Martha Maxwell
Dennis McGill
Brian Mecchi
Rena Mecchi
Bill Mills
Roberta Murai
Natl. Art Honor Society
Jim Nelson
Charlie and Jackie Niles
Michael O'Leary
Carol Patterson
Kent & Beverly Pearson
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Karen Petersen
Ann Quinn
Kerry Rego
Craig & Susan Robbins

Fernando and Corene Rodriguez
Lorna Romano
Mary Linn Sadler
Jeanne Pardini Sanders
Robert & Patricia Shepherd
Oren & Nadine Smedshammer
Roger Smith
Jim Streeter
Beverly Stumbaugh
Ward & Pat Thompson
Diane Toso
Eileen Wise

Gift Card Donations

Maryann CiaVonne
Leslie Curry
Teve Fulton
Susan Clasen Jeide
Peggy Leiser
William Montes-Pack
Donna Peterson
Judy Sale
Rianna Uppal
Monica Vedolla
Tracy Rosemark Warren

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIRE RELIEF FUND, SEE PAGE 2

A STRONGER ALLIANCE

The SRHS Foundation and the Panther Athletic Club (PAC) have long enjoyed a friendly relationship. After all, their goals often overlap. For example, both give grants to purchase sports uniforms and equipment for SRHS sports programs in need. But the October fires truly cemented their alliance. They worked hand in hand to see that

student athletes quickly got the equipment they needed. After all, a football or soccer jersey can be lost to a fire just as easily as other garments. The bond between the two organizations is now stronger than ever. Now, this newsletter will be providing space for short PAC sports stories. Please see the first story below.

A PAC HISTORY LESSON

By Mike Daniels

Santa Rosa High School's first football team trotted onto the gridiron in 1892. That team lost to long-time rival Petaluma High, 24-0. The loss aside, interest and involvement in SRHS athletic competition grew to include major sports like baseball, basketball and track and field. Badminton, tennis, golf, tumbling, gymnastics, even boxing, wrestling and ping-pong enjoyed participants.

The North Bay League emerged in 1926 to provide regulation and control over student athletics. SRHS remains a charter member of the league.

High School athletic competition also grew as a spectator sport. In the 1950s and early 60s SRHS's Bailey Field regularly filled to overflowing to watch the annual football game between the Panthers and the Vikings.

The passage of Title IX in the early 1970s--to equalize athletic funding for both genders--greatly increased athletic

opportunities. Girls now competed interscholastically in basketball, softball, track and field and other sports.

Funding also reached a high point during the period. It then began to dwindle for a variety of reasons—competing activities, cost increases in other educational needs, lessening of local, state and federal budgets, etc. Funding today covers only coaches' salaries, no longer paying for uniforms, transportation and other necessities.

In an attempt to compensate, SRHS alumni and supporters created the Panther Athletic Club to ensure SRHS students continue to enjoy the opportunity to compete athletically in a safe and healthy way. Want to help? PAC would love your involvement. Donations can be directed to a specific sport or for general use. For more information email Michael Burch at pacboostersrhs@gmail.com or call Marlene Callen at (707) 338-1486.



ANNUAL POLENTA FEED FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

It's almost time again for the Annual SRHS Foundation Polenta Feed.

To be held on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building.

The social hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are still \$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. Order your tickets 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 Feb. 1st.

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

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther!"

THE LEGENDARY PANTHERETTES

By Mike Daniels

Precision drill marching teams, once popular throughout the country, first appeared in public schools in the southern states in the 1930s and remain strong there.

The first drill team in Santa Rosa emerged in the Boys Club, an organization created in 1944 by Tom Campion, who worked in the Sheriff's Department. Ralph Wareham stepped up in 1948 and lent the expertise he gained during his years drilling marchers at the Mare Island Naval Base. The team became the Champions in 1956, and Wareham as drill master guided it to a number of national championships during that decade.

At SRHS in the fall of 1958 a girls' drill team known as the Pantherettes marched onto the scene. The 16 girls were led throughout most of that first year by Wareham, who, according to Carole Jamison Fitzgerald '61, instilled "discipline, taste and accountability" in his charges. The girls readily accepted their responsibilities, practicing for a couple of hours at least twice a week, often in the Bailey Field parking lot at next door SRJC.

It's worth noting that in those pre-Title IX (the federal law passed in 1973 equalizing funding for sports and other programs) days little physical activity existed for girls. They took dance or participated in the Girls' Athletic



The first Pantherettes step out in the 1959 Rose Parade

Association (GAA) but did not enjoy the funding or the interscholastic athletic competition the boys did. So, marching attracted girls interested in physical activity and in building school spirit

Because it was a school activity, a faculty sponsor for the Pantherettes was needed. Jack O'Sullivan, who would later become principal, volunteered and the marchers were on their way to impress audiences at football games and in parades with their coordinated drills.



1964 Pantherettes

Some time in that first year, Wareham stepped aside and Sue Lukasko Agnew '60, who had served as flag girl with the Champions, became drill master. From then on a team member led the marchers.

In the second year Rochelle Bowman '60 was selected as drill master. She said in the Santa Rosan the Pantherettes' purpose was "to support the teams, help morale and represent the school."

While never entering competition, the girls performed at all home football games and in a number of other occasions, often including the Rose Parade. Fitzgerald remembered feeling "very proud and important" marching in that parade. She also remembers the team bought their uniforms—no school funding.

Thirty eight girls were selected to the team in 1960. The high point of membership was reached in 1964 when 42 marchers stepped together. From then on changes in student priorities caused a decline in membership and finally doomed the organization in 1974.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIRE RELIEF FUND, SEE PAGE 2



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

Santa Rosa High School Foundation

“Once A Panther, Always A Panther”

ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

*Thank you for your generous support!
2017-18 Donations to date*

<p>Karen Lynn Basso 1964 Fiona 2012, Casey 2014, Griffin 2017 Becker Robert ‘Bob’ 1978 & Amy Borges Arnold & Dale Martin Bussard 1961* Frane & Janae Franicevich Parents of Zora 2014 & Sunce 2015 Bill & Suzie Friedman 1966 * * Michael 1971 & Kim Roberts 1971 Gutzman * * * Richard Heidebrink 1944 * * Alana Kelly 1978 * * * * * Bruce & Connie Kinnison Parents of Grads 2000 & 2004 Karen Giovannini & Louis Lovell Parents of 2021 Grad Gary Mann 1963 Tim & Janice March William R. Mitchell MD 1963 Gary Rasche 1961 * * * * * Oren & Nadine Smedshammer 1959</p>	<p>Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955 * * Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955 Trust * * * * * In memory of Edward Robert ‘Ted’ Smith 1955 Susan Wiesner Smith Edward M. & Anne Fuermann Smith * * * * Kirsten Towne Smith * * * * Don 1961 & Prisca 1970 Waltenspiel Larry Weese 1964 * * * * * Pandy Fund #2: (a pooled fund of supporters) Sally Kaufmann Havner Cowan MD 1952 John Grace 1964 Jim & Janice Pedroni Jordan 1966 Eugene 1959 & Catherine Sato Janet Mosure Tompkins 1949 * in Memory of Douglas Campbell - Journalism teacher * indicates multiple donations. Wow!</p>
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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 225 donors (many with multiple donations) totaling over \$322,500

JOIN US! We are making a difference.

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

Donation options are available.

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LUMINARIES INSERT

(Editor’s note: Even after newsletter publication, Mike Daniels’ research leads him to more worthy SRHS Luminaries. Here’s one from very long ago.)

Howard Gilkey ’11 (that’s 1911) enjoyed a career in landscaping design, including Santa Rosa’s Juilliard Park, Doyle Park and Fremont Park. He also assisted Luther Burbank while a SRHS student, worked in horticulture on

the 1914 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island, was City Park Engineer for Oakland, and taught at Mills College.

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By: Pandy
WINTER '18

Morgan Bertsch '14 is averaging 22 points per game this season on the U.C. Davis women's basketball team. That's way better than the 15.8 points a game the current junior averaged last year, when she was named

to the All-Big-West Conference first team. If that's not enough, the 6'4" phenom also broke the Davis women's high jump record last spring with a leap of 5'10". And to top it all off, she's a biomedical engineering major. Big Panther Congrats to Morgan!...

Dr. Roland Toyos '84 has thrown his hat in the ring. He has joined other Republicans seeking the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the retirement of Republican Bob Corker.



Morgan Bertsch
Photo Courtesy of
Mark Honbo, UC Davis

Toyos, an ophthalmologist, is the founder and CEO of Toyos Clinics. The successful clinics also reach out to help the less privileged. Toyos was the NBA Memphis Grizzlies official ophthalmologist for a decade...

Doug Pavese '58 recently received a North Bay Business Journal's Nonprofit Leadership Award for his achievements. Doug was one of seventeen selected from the Marin, Napa and Sonoma County area. He is one of eight Founders of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation back in 1988 and is still an active Board member. Doug has also been involved over the years with the nonprofit educational community by assisting in the creation of several other foundations. As a volunteer, he still mentors a number of foundations in their governance, financial and fundraising issues...



Doug Pavese

Over 20 years ago, **Bob Yates '61** and **Mike Bogue '61** organized the first Men of '61 Christmas party. It grew to welcome men from any SRHS class. This Christmas, 44 attended. 38 were SRHS grads. The others came from Montgomery and Analy. As usual, the ever young Jim Underhill '52 was in attendance...

And speaking of Christmas Parties, **Evelyn Baker Townsend '41**, **Peggy King Leiser '40**, and **Peggy Irish Call '41** recently got together for theirs. It's a remarkable 60 plus year tradition. The three women are the last celebrants of over a dozen who attended their first party. For the last seven years, the longtime supporters of the SRHS Foundation have celebrated with a donated bottle of Panther Chardonnay...



From left: Evelyn Baker Townsend '41, Peggy King Leiser '40, and Peggy Irish Call '41

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

Kristin Tice Studeman '87 has contributed articles to publications like Vogue, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Elle, New York Magazine, and Bon Appetite. She's interviewed Mick Jagger, Madonna, Yoko One and other entertainers and was a panelist at a recent Wine Writing Symposium in Napa...

Bruce Wright '67 recently received the honor of being named Tucson, Arizona's Man of the Year. The awards program honors a man and a woman who have distinguished themselves for active support of community projects, demonstrated excellence in leadership, and who are a source of positive influence and inspiration for others. Bruce provides us with another dose of Panther pride!



SRHS FOUNDATION

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