



# SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2023

Vol.36

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.*

## SRHS SHOPS GETTING LONG OVERDUE UPGRADES

By Don Cambou

Kevin Costello, Santa Rosa High's Wood shop instructor is a happy teacher. Why? Because he's now got a shop loaded with thousands of dollars' worth of brand new equipment and the electrical wiring to support it. He says, "It makes me feel great. I can take kids to the equipment and know it's going to work. We can do things we've never done before." For all that, he can thank Gary Rasche and the money he left in his Trust to support Santa Rosa High's Wood, Auto, and Metal shops.

Many remember Gary Rasche '61 as a somewhat larger than life figure, and attribute some of that stature to his time at Santa Rosa High School. He was a popular cheerleader at SRHS, and loved the time he spent in the school's Auto and Wood shops. Those shops helped form the adult Gary Rasche. Among other pursuits, he raced drag boats and became one of the top racers in the U.S. He created and owned Boatland for 33 years. The local store specialized in all things boating. He restored, owned, and loved hot rods and other antique cars. So many who knew him weren't

*Continued on page 3*

surprised that he would leave a gift in his trust to the Career Technical Education (CTE) shops at SRHS. The surprise was in the size of his gift – a cool million dollars.

After Gary died in August of 2018, the SRHS Foundation learned the size of Gary's gift, and that he chose the Foundation to manage the money. SRHS Foundation members Doug Pavese, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mary Beseda, Foundation President, SRHS Principal Kimberly



*Kevin Costello demonstrates Wood shop's new band saw. Behind him is the new lathe.*

## THE SRHS MUSEUM, A CAMPUS TREASURE CHEST

by Mike Daniels '59

The museum at Santa Rosa High School is a rarity among public high schools in Sonoma County and in the entire country. When the SRHS business office moved from the second floor to the first during main building remodeling in the early 2000s, its space became available.

Seizing that opportunity, teachers Art Horner and Mike Daniels presented the idea of a museum to principal Tony Negri, who lobbied the board of education. With board approval and Foundation money, labor and material, the museum became a reality in 2007.

Donations of artifacts, in addition to what the instructors had gathered, have since filled the space almost to overflowing. Vintage yearbooks (some from the 19th century), football and drama programs, diplomas, spirit buttons, uniforms, trophies, photographs, and teacher interviews are housed in display cases and tucked away in cabinets. There's also a couple of mannequins dressed in period uniforms.

Among the notable holdings is an 1897 trophy that SRHS earned in athletic competition with other

*Continued on page 4*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

Halfway through the school year and the SRHS Foundation has been busy! The Panther Project Committee has funded grants for the following items, indicating a return to normalcy at the school.

Cheer squad of 17 went to Las Vegas to compete, Band and Choir are heading to Disneyland on a field trip, new discus ring to be

Mary Orsborn Beseda  
President

constructed, new cheerleading uniforms, Maker's Club 3-D design material, ArtQuest 9 picnic tables to be constructed and painted and distributed throughout the campus, plus many more Grants were approved totaling \$45,924.74 through January 2023.

Several new scholarships have been added for the 2023 school year, the Charles "Chuck" Kracker Memorial Scholarship, and the Sandra Lee Husby Spencer Scholarship.

The Marketing/Website committee with the assistance of Budbreak our website developers are also in the process of replacing the existing website, as the infrastructure of the current site has aged out. Stand by for the launch!

Coming up on April 28th the SRHS Foundation will be hosting the 26th Annual Polenta Feed, always a fun event for Members, Alumni, and staff to celebrate together and raise funds for next year's Panther Project Fund. Sorry to say that this year will be Randy Apel's final year to prepare

the feast as he is moving out of state. We wish Randy prosperity and happiness in his endeavors.

The End of Year campaign administered by the Development Committee was also a success. By mid-November 500 letters had been mailed to past supporters of the Foundation. New this year was an email launch to over 1600 supporters, describing the end of year campaign.

The Foundation is looking to fill several openings on the Board. Our Board is comprised of all Volunteers who are committed to the Mission of the SRHS Foundation. Board members initially sign up for a three-year term; we still have several members who have been with us since inception in 1988. Interested parties should contact us via email at [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org) or call our Pandy line at 707-571-7747.

The remaining 6 months of the year our committees will be busy accepting more Panther Project grant requests, working the 26th Annual Polenta Feed, presenting Scholarships, administering a Membership Drive, launching the new website, and of course assisting with Graduation. Our work and support of the school is never done!

*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
- \* Mike Daniels '59
- \* Donna Dennes Doyle '67
- Kristine Erken, Friend
- 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*

### WE WANT YOU!

*To folks out there with secretarial skills*

The SRHS Foundation is in need of a Secretary to take minutes at our board meetings. It's a fulfilling job, and the various Committee Chairs submit their written reports after presenting them at the meetings, so that part is pretty much taken care of. We meet the second Tuesday of each month (except for the summer months), at the SRHS Library from 4:30 to around 6:00pm. We are an enthusiastic group (and we think we're fun, too.) You'd be an important part of all the exciting, extraordinary and wonderful things we do for Santa Rosa High School. If you or someone you know is interested, **please call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747 or email [info@srhsf.org](mailto:info@srhsf.org)**

Clissold, and Nancy Morrison, Gary's trustee and partner for 33 years met repeatedly to agree on the best way to implement Gary's huge gift. Working closely together, what they decided was this:

\$400,000 would be used for immediate capital improvements to the wood, auto, and metal shops. Tom Gutsch, department head of CTE, would submit a detailed list of how he thought the money should be spent. It would be called the Rasche Capital Improvement Fund.

\$240,000 would be endowed in perpetuity, with earnings going to fund six scholarships a year – two graduating senior recipients from each shop. It would be called the Rasche Student Scholarship Fund.

\$360,000 would be endowed in perpetuity, with earnings going to support the wood, auto, and metal shops. The department head, with the help of each shop instructor and the school principal, would select each year's needs. This would be called the Rasche Shop Fund.

At the end of the 2022 school year, the earnings on the \$240,000 perpetual scholarship fund provided six scholarships of \$1,940 each – two each for the Metal (Manufacturing), Auto, and Wood shops.

Spending all of the \$400,000 for capital improvements to the shops has been a bit more difficult. First, the Covid pandemic slowed down the process. The shops needed some TLC before new equipment could be installed. Next, the Wood shop and Auto shops needed a new roof (they share a building, divided by a wall) before installing some very expensive machinery. Tom Gutsch believes the Rasche gift may have inspired the school district to install the new roof. Then, the Wood shop alone needed \$60,000 of Rasche money to upgrade its electrical system. The shops, dating from the 1930s, were wired for 110 volts. Today's more precise and powerful machines need 220 volts.

Costello recalls that Gutsch told him, "Imagine your shop with nothing in it. Now chose what you need to fill it." Costello got everything on his wish list: a 24 inch Powermatic band saw, a Laguna band saw, a Powermatic lathe, a Powermatic sander, and a Jet disc and belt sander. Total price tag: over \$40,000.

The other shops are filling up more slowly, but Gutsch wants to finish the spending this year. The Metal shop already has a new \$30,000 CNC (computer numerical control) plasma cutter and

fume hood. It uses plasma gas to cut steel and is programmed to move in an exact pattern. Gutsch says, "It's a misconception that we're operating with tools of the 1930s and 40s. In reality, a tremendous amount of technology is in the CTE classes."



*In case you're wondering what a \$30,000 plasma cutter looks like*

The Auto shop is waiting to install a new tire mounting machine and a new tire balancer.

The shops also have an extra several thousand dollars for small tools and consumable supplies.

Gutsch says that the rest of the \$400,000 will go to purchasing "big ticket items." He adds, "This money allows us to make specific plans and follow through on them without a lot of bureaucracy and red tape. Shops are where students apply math, science, English, and economics in a practical way."

That practicality will soon benefit the school's ArtQuest program. Costello's Wood shop is currently working to build ArtQuest nine picnic tables. Costello adds these words of praise for the Rasche gift, "I'm thankful that someone cared enough to insure the future of the CTE program."





*Museum, continued from page 1*

Sonoma County high schools. It was found in a lettuce field in the Salinas area.

During one campus tour, a member of the class of 1958 asked about a statute of limitations. Informed he wouldn't be arrested, the class member left and returned with a leather helmet he had "liberated" from his time on the Panther football squad. It now sits in a case.

While corporal punishment was outlawed in 1952, male teachers in the 1950s still made use of slaps with straps on the posteriors of young male transgressors-never females. Other boys, like the Block S sergeant arms, did the swatting under teacher direction. The museum has a few straps, including one long-time Ag teacher Wes Jamison kept at the ready.



*1897 trophy found in a lettuce field*

And speaking of the 1950s, Pat Jewett in 2011 approached Principal Negri in his black sedan with orange flames to donate her 1953 cheerleader outfit. There'll

never be enough room for that sedan in the museum, but the hood from track and field coach Doug Cortemarche's truck is there. Its Panther motif was painted by Ben Grace, a '95 graduate.

There's a merit award given to the museum by the City of Santa Rosa in honor of efforts to preserve SRHS history. A wooden cabinet rescued from the 1921 fire that destroyed the Humboldt Street campus stands against one wall. An orange necktie worn by basketball coach George Vine, pins won in track and field competition by retired Superior Court Judge and '58 alum Bob Dale, student handbooks from the '50s, teacher gradebooks, bound copies of the Santa Rosan, memorabilia from the 1985 campus filming of Peggy Sue Got Married and so much more are all on display.

Alumni from the late 50s and early 60s certainly remember the lyrics to the fight song "We never stagger/ We never fall/We sober up on wood alcohol . . ." As their campus prank at the end of the year, some members of the class of 2002 posted a sign with those lyrics and an empty beer keg and beer bottles near the student parking lot. Those responsible were identified when at the end of the school day a prankster asked for the keg so he could get a return on his deposit. The sign is in the museum.

Every museum artifact has a story and sometimes that story is personally significant. At the beginning of the school year, the social science department cycles all sophomores through the museum. Yearbooks from the past are there for leafing through, and students delight at seeing hairstyles and clothes from the past.



*once "liberated" Panther football helmet*

Once, while viewing a story and photo of the winner of the Posture Trophy in a 1930s Echo, a student suddenly and excitedly exclaimed, "That's my grandmother!" That trophy was awarded each year in a contest sponsored by teacher Mildred Turner to decide which senior girl had the best posture.



*Vintage cheerleader outfits*

It's noteworthy that many generations of families have attended SRHS, and the time the current group spends in the museum often results in a deeper understanding and appreciation of their role in family heritage as well as life itself. And that's education.

Alumni, too, come to campus to wander through the museum and absorb a nostalgic view of their time as a Panther. During the annual Show and Shine Car Show, exhibitors and visitors alike spend a lot of time there. And at Back to School Night, parents have been known to miss going to a class, entranced as they are by the museum.

The Foundation is of course responsible for the actual construction of display cases and storage cabinets. In the beginning, board member Ernie Thompson, a '49 alum, drew upon his work experience and contacts to rustle up

material and labor. Then, when the district office okayed expansion into a side room, board member Chris Zeek '68 found the material and Bob Lombardi '63 built new cases and bins.

The museum is truly a one-of-a-kind for a public high school. It certainly enriches the SRHS experience for its students and its alumni. When the school celebrates its 150-year anniversary next year, the museum is sure to become a big part of that celebration.



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## LETTERS

*Editor's note: The SRHS Foundation, often joining with the Panther Athletic Club (PAC), helps purchase uniforms for nearly every SRHS sports team. The uniforms can be very expensive, but as you'll read in the letter below, they last a long time.*

My name is Ericka Richards and I have been Head Coach for the Santa Rosa High School swim team since the 2013-2014 season. A few years before I took over, the Foundation bought fifty parkas for the athletes. Parkas help keep them warm and dry between events so athletes can stay comfortable throughout the meets. Happily, these parkas are still used today and are in great shape because the swimmers take excellent care of them. In the off season, they are stored and organized in a small room above the gym where they are kept neat and safe for the next season. The swim team always turns out a large number of participants, which means every year all fifty of these parkas are being worn and utilized, that's over 500 athletes receiving the benefits of this purchase. It is very comforting to know that The Foundation is here to support the student-athletes, coaches, and teams in a significant and positive way. If you have not joined or attended a Foundation fundraising event, please consider doing so soon. They have accomplished so much for the SRHS community.

Sincerely,  
Ericka Richards  
Head Coach SRHS Swim Team

## OLDEST FOUNDATION MEMBER DIES

Panther Margaret "Peggy" Centanni died on December 5, 2022 at age 102. We don't know if she was the oldest living Panther, but our records show that she was the oldest living member of the SRHS Foundation. Warren Harding was president when Peggy was born. She graduated from Santa Rosa High in 1939, before the U.S. entered WWII. She met her husband Angelo at a USO dance in San Francisco during that war. They were married in 1945.

Peggy and Angelo lived in San Jose, where she taught Physical Education at Roosevelt Jr. High and later at Herbert Hoover Jr. High. After she retired from teaching, she was a volunteer at O'Connor Hospital for many years. Peggy had a lifetime membership in the SRHS Foundation and also made the Foundation a generous unrestricted gift of \$500 in 2014.

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## POLENTA FEED

The 26th Annual Polenta Feed will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023 at the Santa Rosa Veterans' Building. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets went on sale January 15th for Foundation Members only at \$40.00 each. Starting March 1st, tickets went on sale for Non Members at \$45.00 each. ADULTS ONLY. Only 450 tickets will be sold. We will stop selling tickets on April 19, 2023. You can order your tickets by calling the Pandy Line at 707 571-7747. Leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned by the following day. There will be a Live Auction, Silent Auction, and Raffle. Additionally, a 50/50 Raffle will support Athletic Programs at SRHS.

*"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"*





## FOUNDATION ADDS ANOTHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chuck Kracker '75 was an advocate and supporter of youth going into vocational and skilled labor careers through Career Technical Education. Thus, shortly after his sudden death on August 4, 2022 his family and friends created the Chuck Kracker Memorial Scholarship. They felt that a good way to honor his passion for helping others, especially those who might not get as many opportunities for recognition, would be a Memorial scholarship. It will be given yearly to a SRHS graduating senior, alternating between an Agriculture and Auto student. The scholarship fund, which now stands at \$20,000 will be managed in perpetuity by the SRHS Foundation. The family has also given the Foundation the 2023 scholarship of \$1,000. The fund's earnings will support the scholarship.

During his time at SRHS, Chuck was an active member of the FFA, showing Berkshire hogs and market steers. He had a lifelong love of the trucking and agriculture industry. He bought his first truck at age 18 and began

hauling hay, lumber, and grapes. In the years that would follow he had a successful soil company, Soils Plus, and started Kracker Transportation, a local freight hauling company. Chuck was a history lover, avid reader, movie lover, and BBQ enthusiast. He was known for his quick wit, patience, and intelligence. He was also described as kind, generous, and a mentor to many.



*Chuck Kracker*

The Chuck Kracker Memorial Scholarship brings to 46 the number of scholarships the Foundation manages in perpetuity.

If you would like to donate to one of the many scholarships, managed by the SRHS Foundation, please call or email the Pandy line at 707-571-7747, or email [donations@srhsf.org](mailto:donations@srhsf.org) for more information.

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## PANTHER ATHLETIC CLUB ON THE MOVE

The Panther Athletic Club (PAC) often works with your Foundation to provide financial support for SRHS athletic programs. Early this school year, PAC hosted its inaugural fundraising event. Called "Panthers and Pinot," the fundraiser took place at the AldenAlli's winery tasting room at the Bacchus Landing in Healdsburg. Dan Kosta '90, co-owner of AldenAlli winery, donated the wine and Joe Castro of The Bird restaurant donated the hors d'oeuvres. SRHS Principal Kimberly Clissold joined PAC board members, SRHS Athletic department personnel, and

other PAC supporters at the affair. PAC raised close to \$4,000 for its general fund.

Additionally, members of the SRHS girls softball team in attendance held a silent auction and a raffle to raise money for their needed scoreboard.

PAC looks forward to having future fund raising events, hopefully including Dan Kosta and the AldenAlli winery.

For more information about PAC, contact Bryan Price in the SRHS Athletic Department at [bprice@srcs.k12.ca.us](mailto:bprice@srcs.k12.ca.us).

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## SRHS CHEER TEAM HITS VEGAS

By Don Cambou

It probably comes as no surprise to many of our readers that cheerleading grows in stature every year. Simple chants of "Rah, Rah, Rah" have given way to very exciting, gymnastic performances that sometimes rival the action on the playing field. Many school districts are now including Cheer in their athletic programs – and that means access to funds. That hasn't happened yet in the Santa Rosa City Schools District. But that hasn't stopped SRHS's cheerleaders from fielding two outstanding teams – a sideline performance squad of 65, and a competition squad of 17.



*SRHS Competition Cheer Squad at Nationals*

The competition squad competed in Roseville to earn an invitation to the February 2023 Nationals in Las Vegas. Coached by Sammie Sharp, SRHS Vice Principal's Secretary, and Charli Kirtley, SRHS Attendance Tech, the squad "hit zero" in Las Vegas. That means they made no errors in their performance. They didn't place, but wait 'til next year. Charli Kirtley reminds us that

this kind of precision cheerleading is still new at SRHS.

The Foundation paid \$2,638 for outfits in December, and granted the competition squad \$3,000 for their trip to Las Vegas.

# CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2023

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68 and Chris Zeek '68

For the period November 2022 through January 2023, the Foundation welcomed 4 new members, 35 renewing members, and 1 lifetime member. Membership dues total \$2,045.00 for this period. Total active membership in the Foundation now stands at 816. We continue to actively contact members regarding up coming renewals.

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

Gloria Chung, Parent  
Jeff/Lisa Elliott, Parents  
Dennis Escola '58  
Mike/Kendace Fallentine, Friends  
Jim Grace '61  
Gerald (Jerry) Grey '58

Ruth Taylor Hauschildt '58  
Clarke '70/Celia W. Lee Holland  
Dorothy Cameron Mercer '57  
William/Joan Francis Mills '49  
Lucille Elliott Moholt-Siebert '68  
Owen Nicholson Neary '65

Craig Pearson '62  
Thelma Wallace Ramsey '43  
Beverly Stumbaugh, Friend  
Virginia Grossi Templeton '63  
Janice Yates, Friend

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Janice Formway Morrissey '72

## ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Amazon Smile

Benevity

## 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.

### LAWRENCE ANDERSON, RETIRED FACULTY

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59

### JIM DUNWOODY, RETIRED FACULTY

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59

### CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND KAWAMURA '61

Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

### WILLIAM F. BARCLAY DIRECTED: MUSIC DEPT.

Jim Nelson '61

### JOHN WILLIAM "BILL" FISHER '49 DIRECTED: ATHLETIC DEPT.

David '59/Janice Gervais  
James Laier, Jr. '58

### CHARLES "CHUCK" KRACKER '75 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kracker Company, Inc.  
Annette Lawson OKelley '75

### BASEBALL PROGRAM

Scott Beseda '72

### GERALD HAVNER '55

Shirley Capri Havner '55

### RON LARSEN, FORMER VICE PRINCIPAL HERBERT SLATER DIRECTED: AGRICULTURE DEPT.

Stephen '60/Elaine Olson

### RONALD BRIDGEMAN '56

Allan/Yvonne Post Garayalde '55

### BETTE JOHNSON HULEN '58

Sara Stratton Boulware '62

### CHEERLEADING

Paul Huntzinger '63

### IN HONOR OF CLASS OF 1970

Jann Sampson Longman '70

### PEGGY LEISER '40

Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59  
Chris/Carol Cacianti '68 Mazzia

### DON W. COOVER III '62

Mike/Sharon Garrison, Friend  
Monica Thompson, Friend

### IN HONOR OF WES/CAROL LANGFORD DANIELS '85 FOR A GREAT POLENTA FEED

Michael '85/Jennifer Richardson '86  
Brumbaugh

### NEIL LOVELL

Rena Mecchi, Parent

### CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

Ballo Family

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



**PETER MAGRINI '60**

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda  
Mike Daniels '59/Penny Hastings '59  
Ward '58/Pat Townsend '59 Thompson

**BRUCE MECCHI '68  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

John '68/Erika Ammirati  
Jan Eric/Sue Ellen Bolt, Parents  
Don Cambou '64  
Mike Ferro, Friend  
Forestry Crab Feed, Friends  
Tim '70/Michelle Nelson '72 Cambra  
Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65  
Art Horner, Faculty  
Dorothy Lovell, Friend  
Dennis '68/Kathryn McCarty  
Lex McCorvey '68  
Brian Mecchi '77  
Rena Mecchi, Parent  
Yvonne Papeman, Friend  
Rodney Pedersen, Friend  
Gary Ronconi, Friend  
Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59  
Smedshammer  
Mark Tennyson, Friend

**MUSIC DEPT.**

William "Bill" Firestone '64

**STEVEN CHARLES ORSBORN  
'68**

Todd '73/Mary Orsborn '74 Beseda  
Jay/Jody Deike, Friends  
Bob/Donna Dennes '67 Doyle  
Nora Gibbs, Friend  
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68  
Paul Saccomano, Friend  
Marilyn Michetti Walker '66

**MARTIN POWELL, RETIRED  
FACULTY DIRECTED: MUSIC  
DEPT.**

Anthony Martin '64

**HUNTER QUISTGARD '55**

Merlynn Sue Gross Carr '55

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

Travis/Carmel Brown, Friends  
David/Joyce Fanucchi, Friends  
David Faris '69  
Steve/Barbara Rasmussen Farrier,  
Friends  
Stephen '60/Elaine Olson  
Don Rasmussen/Diane Rasmussen,  
Friends  
Elaine Rasmussen Thompson '58  
Harold/Maxine Rasmussen, Friends

**RAYMOND CHARLES  
RASMUSSEN '61 DIRECTED:  
FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

Don Rasmussen/Diane Rasmussen,  
Friends

**ROBERT RATTO '48  
DIRECTED: BASEBALL  
PROGRAM**

Julie Ratto, Friend

**SCIENCE DEPT.**

Larry '62/Pat Hartley

**LILLIAN QUINBY SLOAT '29**

David Sloat '61

**PETER SLUSSER  
AGRICULTURE MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP/PETER  
SLUSSER DEBATE MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Redwood Foundation

**BERTA WIGGINS  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Oren/Nadine Wiggins '59  
Smedshammer

**In Memoriam**

Ken Koppleman	Faculty	Charlotte Townsend Colombini	
Charles Thompson	1942	Kawamura	1961
Walter Frey	1944	Barry Black	1961
William Chambers	1948	John Farmer	1962
John Fisher	1949	Lawrence Wright	1964
Robert Jensen	1953	Elizabeth Delaney Jordan	1966
David Cardwell	1954	Steven Orsborn	1968
Coy Gore	1955	Linda Pfannenstien	1968
Ronald Bridgeman	1956	John D. Riley	1968
Gail Pickrell Scott Francke	1956	Robert Case	1969
Peggy Bealer Browne	1957	Robert Jordan	1970
Donald Chandler	1957	Jeffrey Jahn	1974
Patricia Clary Juric	1958	Cynthia Brazier Salisbury	1976
Robert Davis	1959	Larry Coombes	1977
David Gross	1959	Deborah Proctor	1977
Peter Magrini	1960		



# COACH GEORGE VINE: A REMEMBRANCE

By Bill Zollner

*Editor's note: Bill Zollner was a First Team, All North Bay League basketball player in 1963 and 1964.*

Anyone who played for him, couldn't forget him. Including me. George Vine was the colorful coach who ranted on the basketball court, but kept on winning. He coached at SRHS from 1958 until 1970. He was the best coach I ever played for. Several players on the 1964 team remembered coach Vine's trademark sayings, like "Jeezus Peezus" and "That really fries my tush." When it came to "must do," Vine would burn the ears of players who allowed the opposing players to "beat you to the baseline" or "beat you to the spot" against teams that ran pattered offenses.

Vine's emotional outbursts on the court became legendary on the Northern California basketball circuit. He screamed, stomped, and waved his arms wildly. People went to the games just to watch his antics, which included baiting referees and chewing gym towels. It wasn't just his colorful personality that made him stand out as the basketball coach at SRHS: He wore his trademark orange blazer, orange socks, orange necktie and black slacks to the games and pep rallies. He was the only coach or teacher that I remember wearing school colors on game day.

Despite his abrasive manner, attributed to the rough and tumble of his Brooklyn upbringing, Vine was the beloved coach and father figure to hundreds of young men. He was unique, a dash of hot sauce in a milquetoast world. "He was a dynamic person who had an immediate impact on people. No matter if you liked him or didn't like him, you couldn't forget him," said Russ Peterich, a coach at Montgomery High who worked with Vine at the Sonoma County Fair racetrack each summer. There, George spent his summers stuffing 1,500 horses into 1,000 stables.

During the school year, when George Vine wasn't coaching, he brought his enthusiasm to the classroom. He brought the subjects of civics and government to life.

"Vine's boys" threw a belated retirement party for him in 1984, three years after his retirement from teaching, to reminisce about those glory days with the "fiery Irishman." Vine laughed himself silly as his former basketball players told tales about what really happened at those games when he was coach. There were 250 of his biggest fans at the banquet.

"It was the greatest night of my life. I couldn't believe it," Vine said in an interview after the banquet.

"Deep down, George really cared about his kids and was passionate long after we were out of school," said Mike Grace who played for Vine from 1963 to 1965.

He recalls the days when Vine's teams beat better teams "only because we were better coached." He remembers the famed "flea circus" team of 1964 when Vine didn't have a starter over 6 feet 1 inch tall but still whipped all those towering giants from Vallejo and Napa.

Chuck Garvey, one of my 1964 teammates, recalls our first game at the Gridley tournament. "We were matched in the opening game against Gilroy, and we were given little chance to beat the much taller and high scoring team. Gilroy was an undefeated 20-0 and were the favorites to win the Tournament."

But George had a plan for his "flea circus." He gathered information about the plays and players of Gilroy, and we drilled on ways to defend against them. Then we went out and beat them, 57 to 53. Mt Diablo HS was next, and they were a scoring machine. Again, our defense was fired up, and we defeated Mount Diablo by 2 points. We finally lost to La Sierra, a very tall, very talented team that was simply superior to us.

Once, when asked about SRHS players who were memorable, Vine cited Bobby Yates '61 for his outstanding offensive play, and me for my defensive play against Bob Butler, a sharpshooter in our 1964 games against Montgomery. Coach Vine's shoutout was the biggest honor that I had ever received.

Playing for SRHS and George Vine was unforgettable. I only wish that George was still here along with my dear friend, Bobby Brown, the best teammate with the best coach.



*l. to r. Bill Zollner, George Vine, Bobby Brown, 1964*



# ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

*Donations fiscal year 2022/2023*

Carolyn C. Anderson, PhD.\*

Richard M. Bastoni 1957\*\*

Todd 1973 & Mary Orsborn 1974 Beseda #\*\*  
In memory of three Albany Drive BFFs : Alma De Maria 1943, Aileen Michetti Branchini 1943, Norma Rochetti Malone 1941

The Bolt Family \*

Bruce & Debra Agee Burton

Arnold & Dale Martin 1961 Bussard \*\*\*\*

Rick & Rocky Call 1967

Gail Rocco 1962 Dutton In memory of Warren Dutton Jr. 1962 \*\*\*\*\*

William “Bill” Frey 1967 \* In memory of Walter “Walt” Frey 1944 and Ann Brown Frey 1946

Bill & Suzie Simas Friedman 1966 \*\*\*\*

Art & Andi Gambini \*\*\*\*Art Gambini 1968, Andi and Kevin Gambini 2001, In memory of Rae Gambini 1937

Jim Grace 1961 \* Remembering Bob Yates

Jerry Grey 1958 \*\*\*\*

Alana Kelly 1978\*\*\*\*\*

Donor #581, Anonymous \*\*\*\*

Mike & Louise Liewald 1970

Daniel McMahon In memory of Pam Griffin McMahon 1967\*\*

Lewis Myers Jr. 1950

Stephanie Nacouzi 1977 \*

Steve Olson 1960 & Elaine Olson

Karen Skelgaard Petersen 1972

Ann Patzer Poulson 1950

Jim Streeter 1976

Marilyn Michetti Walker 1966

Marianne Wurnitsch Scheffler 1953 \*

Ward 1958 & Pat Townsend 1959 Thompson In Memory of Pete Magrini 1960, In memory of Charlotte Townsend Kawamura 1961 # \*\*\*\*

Mark & Kathy Trione 1967 \*\*\*\*\*

Larry Weese 1964 \*\*\*\*\*

\* indicates multiple donations

# indicates plaque donation

One Thousand Panthers is a campaign to enrich the SRHSF Endowment Fund by utilizing \$1,000 donations by 1,000 Panthers 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 301 DONORS**

**WITH \$551,773.08 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).

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

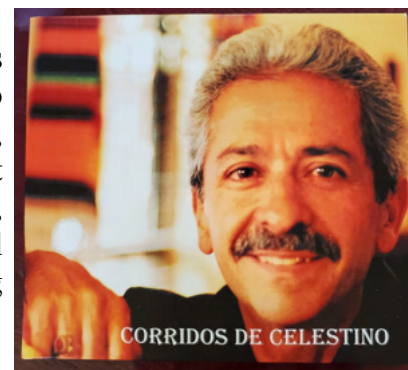


By Pandy  
Winter 2023

At their first planning meeting for the SRHS Sesquicentennial, **Principal Kimberly Clissold, Mike Daniels '59**, a founding member of the Foundation board, and **Art Horner**, school liaison to the Foundation, decided to try to “go big.” Yep. SRHS will soon be 150 years old. Tentatively, events will fill the weekend of next season’s Montgomery/Santa Rosa High football game. Event ideas are welcome. Contact Art Horner at [ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us](mailto:ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us)

The SRHS Foundation recently granted “Throws” coach **Paul Troppy '84** his request of \$6,500 to complete two new shot put rings, a discus ring, and a concrete “drills pad” to the north of Nevers Field and its track. Troppy had already raised \$6,500 in matching funds and promised a lot of sweat equity as well. Troppy also was deeply involved in the effort to design and build a discus ring and cage in 2016, and a shot put ring in 2014. The addition of the new installations will guarantee that SRHS has the best throwing facility of any high school in northern California.

Since receiving his MA and PhD at Stanford, **Celestino Fernandez '68**, has worked for 40 years as a sociologist at the University of Arizona. But he also composes corridos (Mexican ballads) that document real life events, people, towns, and anything that moves common feeling. He recently completed a two CD project of 22 corridos including one on the massacre of 19 kids and two teachers in Ulvalde, Texas. He composes the lyrics and friends record them. He received several small grants to produce the CDs. Celestino is giving away the CDs and accompanying booklets as educational materials. Contact him at [celestino@arizona.edu](mailto:celestino@arizona.edu)



*Celestino Fernandez*

Most SRHS classes celebrate with a reunion every five years. The **class of 1964** does that as well. But additionally, for about the last 33 years the '64ers, communicating via phone tree, have gathered for dinner three times each and every year (with the exception of the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021). Their thrice yearly gatherings average about 25 members.

Gone but Not Forgotten: In what is becoming a holiday tradition, the SRHS Student Body sells trees to clubs and organizations that are decorated and displayed on the front lawn to delight passersbys. This year the Class of 1985, through the sponsorship of classmate **Wes Daniels**, dedicated their tree to their favorite teachers—**Helen Griesmer, Pat Gallagher, Roger Stone, Mike Daniels, Aubrey Gray, Dan Earl, Beth Craven, Emmitt O'Neil** and **Tony Negri**. Decorations included photos of these instructors. Nice touch!



*Robert Phouthawong  
in front of his restaurant*

**Robert Phouthawong** graduated from SRHS in 2022 and already has his own restaurant. It’s a sushi restaurant named Makizushi on Marlow Road in Santa Rosa. Starting at age 14, Robert worked for years with his father at Sushi Hana in Sebastopol. His father has been the Manager there for 40 years. When Makizushi became available a few months ago, Robert took it over. His father advised him on what he needed to do, and provided him with all his sushi supplier contacts. Now, the young entrepreneur has a crew of six working for him, including his girlfriend of five years, SRHS '22 grad **Rosalinda Gonzalez**. Congrats and best of luck Robert!

*If you are or were a mover and a shaker OR if you know a classmate who is, let us hear about it. If you’ve done or are doing something really cool, OR if you know a classmate who is, let us hear about it. Our readers want to know. Contact Don Cambou at [doncambou1@gmail.com](mailto:doncambou1@gmail.com).*





**SRHS FOUNDATION**

*"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"*

P.O. Box 11006

Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006

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**Time to renew?**

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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<input type="checkbox"/> SRHS Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Grandparent (circle one): Grad Year of Student(s) _____	

<p><b>Membership Fee:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 ~ 1 year    <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 ~ 2 years    <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 ~ 3 years    <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 ~ Lifetime</p>
<p><b>Annual Fund Campaign Contribution:</b></p> <p>Please accept my gift of \$ _____ for: <input type="checkbox"/> General unrestricted gift</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directed gift for _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gift in honor/memory of _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Department or Program) <span style="margin-left: 150px;">(circle one)</span></p>
<p><b>Join One Thousand Panthers:</b></p> <p><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</p> <p>Please acknowledge this donation in name of: _____</p>

**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!**