

# Alumni News

Vol. 5, Issue 4

Quarterly Newsletter  
Highlands Alumni Association (HAA)  
The only certified non-profit HAA organization

October 2016

## ***PREZ'S PONDERINGS***

By Kristine Kouw Mann

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer. I took 3 weeks off and did nothing. I relaxed. Now I am back to work and very busy.

I am looking forward to fall and the upcoming holidays and the upcoming first concert in the new Golden 1 arena. Yes I am going to see Sir Paul McCartney. I loved the Beatles, and Paul was my favorite one. I can hardly wait. Cross that one off my "Bucket List."

The next 3 months are full of things to do and to celebrate. First up (besides the concert) is the Highlands High School Homecoming on Friday, October 7. I hope to see a lot of alumni out there. Next, of course, is Halloween. November brings the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 8 (deadline to register is Monday, October 24). Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, is Veterans' Day, a day to thank our veterans for their service. And finally for November is Thanksgiving Day, on Thursday, November 24. December is our Holiday Party on Friday, December 9 (more to follow). Then, of course, Christmas and New Year's Day.

I would encourage all of you who are not members of the Alumni Association to come join us. We do a lot of great things for the students and the school, such as awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, having a mural painted on the outside wall of the Buchanan Room, planting the Memorial Garden, opening the Legacy Room (museum) on campus, and helping less-fortunate students. These are just a few examples of what the Alumni Association does for Highlands. We can do a lot more if you join us.

**Go Scots!!!!**

**LEGACY ROOM NEWS**

The Legacy Room (Alumni Museum) is open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. It is also open on special occasions, including Homecoming and class reunions.

The Legacy Room is also looking for volunteers to help staff the museum. You say you don't have time because you have children and grandchildren and loved ones with health challenges? So do those who currently work in the Museum every week. Can you spare anywhere from 1 to 4 hours on an occasional Wednesday morning to help? Or how about special occasions, such as Homecoming, choir concerts, class reunions (Friday afternoons), and Back-to-School and Open House nights. If you would like to help out, then show up some Wednesday morning in the Museum, which is in the former Band Room, next door to the Little Theater. Be sure to sign in at the office before you go to the Museum.

**DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

Please note that all meetings of the Alumni Board are held at the SAFE Credit Union on Watt Avenue, south of Roseville Road. They start at 11 a.m.

Friday, October 7	Homecoming
Tuesday, October 11	Choir concert, featuring selections from several types of music. In the Little Theater or the Buchanan Room (cafeteria).
Thursday, October 20	Fundraising for Highlands Class of 2017 at Panda Express on Elverta Road. (See separate e-mail.)
Saturday, November 12	Alumni Board Meeting
Friday, November 18	Officer O'Bannon's plaque dedication in Buchanan Room at 1 p.m.

Friday, December 9                      Alumni Holiday Party at VFW Hall, Antelope

Tuesday, December 13                  Highlands' Choir Holiday concert, Little Theater, at 7 p.m.

By the way, if you want to attend any events at Highlands, go to <http://haad-trusd-ca.schoolloop.com> to learn what's happening any day or week. Maybe a game or a choir performance would interest you or your kids or your grandkids. Check it out!

**If there are any changes to the above events, alumni will be notified by e-mail and via Facebook.**

### ***ALUMNI GATHERINGS***

Do you want to meet with your fellow classmates throughout the year? Here are the times when you can do so:

First Saturday – The classes of '59 to '69 meet at Lou's Drive-In, on Watt Avenue, north of Don Julio Boulevard, from 11 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Third Friday – The classes of '59 to '69 meet for lunch at Mimi's on Alta-Arden, between Howe and Ethan, at 11:30 a.m.

Last Saturday – '70s folks meet at Lou's, from 11 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Are there any other groups meeting regularly? If so, then notify Mary Anderson at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com).

### ***NOTES FROM RECENT ALUMNI BOARD MEETINGS***

July 9, 2016

1. Scholarships were presented to Yoselin Ayala (\$250), Alexander D. Costa (\$250), Misel Gonzales (\$250), Chloe Lynn (\$1,500), and Mario Soto (\$750).

2. Highlands has an Activities Director, Howard (Lanard) German. His job is to develop spirit within the Highlands student body and to strengthen ties between the school and the community (including the Alumni Association). He also coordinates and facilitates all activities, including dances and rallies.
3. Shirlene Lansdon is working on membership. She is not only getting new members, but is also working with those whose membership has not been renewed. If you have questions about your membership, you can e-mail Shirlene at [maryshirlene15@gmail.com](mailto:maryshirlene15@gmail.com).

### September 10, 2016

1. Talked about Homecoming, including the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to the 1976 football team.
2. Those alumni who are veterans are welcome to meet with students on **Thursday, November 10, from about 11:50 to 12:25**, in the cafeteria. All veterans, regardless of when and where they served, are welcome to share their experience with today's students and, possibly, tomorrow's veterans. Contact me by **Monday, October 31**, if interested; my e-mail is [<marya195821@gmail.com>](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com).
3. The nominations for the 2017-2018 Alumni Association Board are now open and will continue through **Monday, October 31, 2016**. To nominate or to be nominated, one must be a current member of the Alumni Association. Anyone nominated must have agreed to be nominated. Contact information for both the nominator and the nominee(s) must be included and sent to Kathy Cooper at [<cahallb4@hotmail.com>](mailto:cahallb4@hotmail.com) or to:

Elections Committee  
Highlands High Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 794  
North Highlands, CA 95660-0794

## ***Reunion News***

**Class of 1981** – They plan to gather at Homecoming on **Friday, October 7**, then celebrate on **Saturday, October 15**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Gibson Ranch, Area 2A. Potluck. This is a family event. See the Facebook page.

**Class of 1986** - Plan to gather at Homecoming on **Friday, October 7**, then celebrate at the Lions Gate Hotel on **Saturday, October 8**.

### **50th Reunion - Highlands/Foothill Class of '66**

Some of us oldies tried to prove wrong the saying about “the old gray mare” at the 50th reunion, held on Saturday, September 10, at the Sacramento Double Tree Hotel.

With over 130 attending, the '66ers started out at R.J.'s (the hotel's tavern) at 5 p.m. Then at 6:30 p.m., the group moved to a downstairs ballroom (have you ever tried to herd cats?) for dinner and socializing. At 8:30 p.m., the entertainment began with Rick Zausch (Foothill '67), a professional entertainer, and later with our favorite DJ Phil Olson (Highlands '65) spinning tunes.

It was a good night for many, with requests to have a 55<sup>th</sup> . . . yikes!

#### The Committee for the '66 Reunion



Front: Linda Meredith Siverling, Charlotte Barber Strand, Back: Linda/Darrene Porter, Linda Moon Black Bedient, Sandra Lansdon Cooper, Sally Smith Hagans, Kathy Scott Hahn

### 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion – Class of 1976

To: Fellow Alumni

From: Joe Jones

I am happy to report that the 40th Reunion for Highlands Class of 1976 was a huge success! The Reunion was held at VFW Post 4647 on Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17. The Reunion Committee wishes to thank all those who participated to make this event a wonderful and memorable celebration. We had classmates who traveled from across the nation and the surrounding areas to reunite with their classmates. Look forward to seeing everyone again in 5 years! So stay healthy and stay in touch!

Much Respect

Class of '76 Reunion Committee



Pam Fisher, Shrlley Lopez, Mariie Jimenez, Sarah Billmeyer, and Barbara Foote sharing the good times at the '76 reunion.

### Class of '71 Reunion

The class of 1971 reunited for their 45<sup>th</sup> on Saturday, September 17, at the Lions Gate Hotel (formerly the Officers' Club) at McClellan. Hope they all can attend the big 50<sup>th</sup> in 5 years.



Susie Davis, Ivalynn Pike, Lorna Erickson, and Alicia Enos talking about their school days at the '71 reunion.

### Future Reunions

Hey, members, of the class 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007 – then 2017 is your reunion year. You can have your reunion news posted on the Alumni website at [www.highlandshighalumni.com](http://www.highlandshighalumni.com) or you can send the information to me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com). The Alumni Association wants for you to know a successful reunion, and we can help you with the publicity. You can send me the dates of planning meetings for classmates who want to take part.

Plan a visit to the Legacy Room as part of your reunion plans. Notify me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com) if interested. We can probably arrange for a tour the Friday afternoon of your reunion weekend. Let us know if you have questions.

### ***HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE***

1. Highlands' students will take part in Channel 3's "Kids Kan" from about October 8 through November 11. This food drive benefits the less fortunate in the Sacramento area during the Holiday Season. Sacramento area alumni can drop off donations either at the office on any weekday or at the Legacy Room on Wednesday mornings. Hope you can participate.
2. Speaking of the Holiday Season. Some of you Sacramento area alumni will shop at Arden Fair. While there, you can participate in the "School Cents" program. Schools can earn points when shoppers bring their original receipts to the Guest Services desk near Penney's. All the schools earn cash. The Twin Rivers' school partaking in this program is Babcock Elementary, located north of Arden Fair, just south of El Camino Avenue. (Babcock students eventually attend Grant.) For more information about School Cents, go to [www.ardenfair.com/Events](http://www.ardenfair.com/Events).

### ***NEWS FROM THE NORTH HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY***

#### ***Tri-Communities Lunch Bunch***

1. Walgreens has launched a safe medication disposal program. To find a program location near you, refer to the [Don't Rush to Flush Bin Map](http://www.dontrush2flush.org/dontrush2flush/map) at [www.dontrush2flush.org/dontrush2flush/map](http://www.dontrush2flush.org/dontrush2flush/map). The closest ones to Highlands are at the Refuse Disposal Station on Roseville Road, about 1/2 mile west of Watt Avenue, and the Sheriff's Office on Garfield, about a block south of Auburn Boulevard.
2. The Alumni Association staffed a booth at the August 2 "National Night Out." Ruth Beavers Welsh ('59) and Kathy Cahall Cooper ('60) talked with visitors to the booth and distributed membership applications.
3. Highlands' Junior ROTC Color Guard presented the colors to open the August 13 Twin Rivers Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting.



4. The Twin Rivers District Nutrition Services staff were recognized for their eighth year of the Summer Feeding Program. This year they served over 76,000 meals at 23 school sites.

### ***Let Us Remember***

These are the Scots who passed away between July 1 and September 30, or whose passings we have recently learned:

1960	Boe Nottingham
1961	David Coy, David Doyle
1962	Dana Ruth Welliver
1966	Dan Cordova, Robert Irvin
1972	Michael Paul Delgado
1974	Mike Eaded, Vivianne Valberg
1976	Nathan Trujillo
1979	Greg Scott Byrd
1980	Eugene "Bernie" Cooke Jr,
1981	Melinda Brannam, David Shields
1982	Brian Schjei
1983	Bill Watson
2001	Travis Johnson

If you hear of the passing of any Highlands alumni, any Highlands teacher or administrator, or any Highlands support staff (e.g., custodians, cooks, clerical support), then notify me (Mary Anderson) at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com). We ask that you identify the source of your information, such as a newspaper death notice, a family notice, or a notice posted by the funeral home.

You are welcome to honor someone who meant something to you with a paragraph or two. That will mean a lot to the person's family, friends, and classmates.

## The Highlands High School Marching Band

By Michael Thayer ('78)

We dedicate this article to the men and women of the Highlands High Marching Band, the classes of 1980, 1979 and 1978, who defied the odds by overcoming a devastating event.

On February 15, 1978, in the early morning, the Highlands High Band Room was the scene of a horrific arson-caused fire. The Band Room was at a total loss. *The Sacramento Bee* reported that 3 fire companies and over 30 firefighters fought the blaze.

Not only was the building lost, but also lost were the building's contents: instruments, uniforms, sheets of music, trophies, and mementos from years of band camps and competitions. Students, Teachers, Parents, and the Community were also at a loss.

Imagine coming to school as a student and seeing a part of your school destroyed, then imagine being in the Marching Band and coming to school and seeing or hearing that your place of refuge, where you came to learn, practice, gather, and even teach, was gone. "Not a good feeling" for a teenager or an adult.

"Emotions ran high," said Captain of the Bandettes Debra Jenner. "So to whomever you are, you're bound by your actions of 38 years ago. How sad a human being you must be. Have always wondered how a person/persons could HATE so much! If the old Karma Ranger hasn't been by to see you, be patient!"

"The story does get better, if you can believe," says Margaret Shindle (a Bandette). "We were lucky to have the support to start over and not let it bring us down. We came back stronger than ever. Can't keep a Mighty Scot down!!"

Mary Lucas, a band member from the class of 1980, said, "I was feeling devastated for a short while but very proud of the way we overcame the obstacles very quickly. We came back strong." You can also read the emotional letter she wrote *The Bee* on February 28, 1978.

As you can see from the photo of the destroyed Cymbal and its caption, "A Cymbal' of our past did not define our future." That Cymbal was destroyed in the fire and serves as an example of what a community can do to come back. It's back home where it belongs, in the same place where it was last played, in the

Band Room. The Band Room is now the Legacy Room (aka the Highlands Alumni Museum).



What came next for the Marching Band was short of a small miracle. They were met with so much support from the North Highlands community. Parents, students, and businesses staged fundraisers (bake sales, etc.), and outside communities lent support by providing instruments. There were other donations as well.

The band is like any other group that competes: the musicians just don't show up and expect to be good. They have to practice hard to accomplish their goals. Band was no different. The band practiced to get ready for the next event. They were Number One for a reason: the direction of Mr. Hill grinding away on the field in the rain, the mud, and the other elements to accomplish an award-winning marching band. We're very proud of our community for coming together to make this a success story. Scots 4 life.

## 1962 HOMECOMING QUEEN - SHIRLENE LANSDON

By Michael Thayer

I would like to introduce to all of you the 1962 Homecoming Queen, Shirlene Lansdon.

Shirlene is a home-grown girl who arrived in North Highlands with her family in 1955. She attended Aero Haven Elementary School, and both Campos Verdes Junior` High and Don Julio Junior High. She attended two junior highs because of a boundary change that forced her to change schools. She attended Highlands High and graduated along with her twin brother Robert "Bobby" Lansdon in 1963. (In 1982, Bobby passed away overseas while traveling.)

Shirlene was a busy girl her senior year. She worked on the yearbook as a Business Manager, was a member of the Twirling Team, and had the honor of being voted the Homecoming Queen by the football team.

Homecoming Queen Shirlene was also busy dating the Varsity Quarterback, William "Bill" Hooker. Bill and Shirlene are seen in photos together with his Letterman Sweater and at the Homecoming Dance. In the photo showing Shirlene being crowned, there was another gentleman escorting Shirlene on the football field because Bill was playing in the game. I mention this because, after graduation (in 1963), Shirlene and Bill got married, as you can read from articles published in *The Sacramento Bee*. Sadly, Shirlene and Bill eventually divorced. (Bill passed away in 1993.)

After high school, Shirlene enrolled in American River College, and then went onto Sacramento State College (as it was known then), where she graduated with her teaching credentials. Soon after school, Shirlene worked for the State of California for 11 years. During those years, in 1971, Shirlene and her co-workers made it into *The Sacramento Bee*. According to *The Bee*, Shirlene and her co-workers were being selfless because they decided not to exchange gifts during the holidays; instead, they decided to give back to the community by making a care package for a needy family.

After 11 years of working for the State, Shirlene started her 28-year career as a middle school teacher; 26 of these years were spent working at the same school in the Mother Lode School District in Placerville.

Shirlene is now retired and keeps busy with her two children and three grandchildren. She travels, stays in touch with friends from Highlands, and has been in a relationship for 9 years with fellow Highlands alumnus, Jim Stephens ('65).

Another way she keeps busy is with Highlands High Alumni Association; she is the secretary, and more importantly, she is a founding board member of the Alumni Association. (The Association was founded in 2009.) I had the pleasure of speaking with Shirlene, and she is very enthusiastic and funny. She was quick to tell me that my alumni dues are overdue! (LOL) From our conversation, I can tell you her heart never left North Highlands and our school as she continues to give back and volunteer for the Alumni Association.

So thank you, Shirlene, for representing Highlands High as the 1962 Homecoming Queen, for being an educator, and for your continued hard work with the Highlands High Alumni Association. **Scots 4 life!**



## NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

By Mary Anderson

As Kathy Cahall Cooper points out earlier, nominations are taking place to fill positions on the Alumni Board for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years. Think about serving on the Board.

“But I don’t like meetings on Saturdays,” you might say. Maybe another day is better.

“You guys meet at 11 a.m.” Maybe there is a better time.

“Can’t you meet at Highlands”? Maybe something can be worked out.

“The Board is made up of ‘old folks’ from the ‘60s.” Maybe you can make it different. Graduates from the ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, and ‘00s are most welcome to serve on the Board.

And “different” is the key word. Up to a half dozen of the current Board members will not serve next term. Reasons include moving out of the Sacramento area and health challenges. You can fill one of these positions. If not enough people step forward to serve, then there may be a loss of the Alumni Association. We don’t want that.

Serving on the Board is not a 40-hour-a-week commitment. Some weeks will take a few hours, while some weeks require no time at all. It’s whatever needs to be done. Your job, your family, and your health always come first.

If you want your old high school to continue to improve academically and socially, in the arts and on the field, then consider joining the Board. If you want to build camaraderie among alumni, then serve on the Board. And if you have any questions, just ask a current Board member.

### ***ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER***

If you want to submit an item for *Alumni News*, you are welcome to do so. Opening a new business? Let us know so that we can check it out. Overseeing important charity work? Maybe some of your fellow Scots can contribute. Named “Employee of the Year”? A recent graduate may be inspired by your accomplishment. Whatever it is, notify your fellow alumni so that we may partake in your joy. News articles needed by **Saturday, December 31**. (Spend your New Year’s Eve writing a newsletter article.) You are welcome to submit photos with your articles.