

Alumni News

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

December 2017

PREZ'S PONDERINGS

By Kristine Kouw Mann

I'm like all of you: Enjoying the glitter and the glow of the Holiday Season and awaiting to meet the challenges of the New Year.

For many of us, the final 5 weeks of the year is a time to celebrate. At Thanksgiving, we eat a piece of Cousin Nellie's pumpkin pie and savor a spoonful of sis's home-made cranberry sauce. Then the Christmas season starts the day after with "Black Friday," the day we fight the crowds with the younger family members. Regardless, we get to spend time with family and friends, for which we are grateful.

We are also grateful that we can experience the glitter and glow with friends and neighbors. The first thing we do is decorate our own house, and when we finish, we stop to admire the displays at the neighbors' houses. We exchange gifts of cookies and candies and (yes) fruitcake. Neighborly, indeed. We also celebrate the season with our co-workers. Either we go to a nice restaurant where the boss picks up the check, or we stay at work to enjoy a potluck. However we celebrate, we enjoy each other, no matter the group.

During the last week of 2017, a lot of us will ponder the challenges that await in 2018: a new job, new financial challenges, long-awaited retirement. What will we do? Only time will tell. We hope that the new job works out, that the financial challenges are few, and that retirement will prove to be just what we need.

The Alumni Association needs to meet challenges as well, including getting a new generation to participate. 2018 marks the Tenth Anniversary of our group, meaning that the founders (mostly from the early to mid-1960s) are 10 years older, with more aches and pains and trips to physical therapy. Many of these founders also have spouses and siblings to care for. They no longer have a lot of time nor a lot of the "umph" to plan a Holiday get-together and, maybe, the 60th anniversary of our Alma Mater. Can you help? Sure you can!

1. Those who have party-planning skills can help organize the Holiday get-together in 2018.
2. Those who want to publicize the history of our school may want to help organize a 60th anniversary gathering.
3. Those who have a background in interior decorating or who are skilled in current audio-visual technology can help with displaying historical material in the Alumni Museum.

Plenty of opportunities for everyone. If you can help us, then let us know. Contact us at <highlandshighalumni.com> or attend the Board meeting in January. You say, "But I want to spend time with the grandchildren and all my family." So does everyone else. We only ask an hour or two here and there. Volunteering is a great way to renew old friendships and make new friends. If alumni don't volunteer, then the Association can't meet its challenges. So how about helping us meet the challenges.

SCOTS FOREVER!

NOTES FROM RECENT ALUMNI BOARD MEETINGS

Saturday, September 9, 2017

1. Recently, inspectors from the Twin Rivers District came by and took notes about needed repairs.
2. A committee for the Holiday Party has been formed. Diana Lansdon will lead. Linda Eastburn is looking into booking the VFW Hall on U Street and is arranging for the Friday night meal preparers to also cater our party on a Saturday. Date and time to be announced later.

Saturday, November 18, 2017

1. The Membership Drive is continuing. E-mail Shirleen Lansdon at msl@directcon.net if you have questions about your membership.

2. The Alumni will help two financially challenged Highlands' students who want to play basketball. The Committee voted to offer at least \$100 to help pay for the cost of uniforms.
3. The Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Garnett Gilmore ('64) for her work on North Highlands' Memorial Day Parade. There will be a parade this year.
4. Homecoming was a success. Classes from the first 30 years (1959-1989) were in good attendance. Thank you to all who attended.

Membership Drive 2017

By Shirlene Lansdon ('63); Membership Chairperson

Thanks to the following people who renewed their membership and for the donations sent to the Scholarship Fund. Basically all money goes to the Scholarship Fund. Through the donations and renewing members, \$1,595 was donated to the scholarship fund in November. Your support enables us to continue giving those deserving Highlands seniors their scholarships. Here are the names:

Mary Anderson, Barbara Burton Davis, Mary Candela Galvez, Bill Carbaugh, Raymond Carlile, Kay Stothart Carlile, Kathy Cahall (Mary Cooper), Mary Davis Todd, Yvonne Durham Smith, Hank DeVasher, Kathy Freeland Knutson, Mary Glidden Ellis, Melanie Greco, Cindy Hammersley Sullivan, Daryl Sullivan, Marie Hansen Busch, Ginny Jenkins Shaw, Georgia Kessinger Bastion, Ken Knutson, Kristine Kouw Mann, Diana Lancia Brandon, Jim Lien Willy Nix, Michael Meixner, Roselavon Mercer Larson, Vera Meyer Allen, Rodney Motley Mitchell, Sharon Patterson Susnara, Jinny Pitts Taylor, Vicky Root Jones, and Samuel Smith.

I am challenging the rest of you to renew in December and to upstage the renewals we received in November.

Happy Holidays

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.

Dec 21 thru Jan 5	Winter Recess for Twin Rivers District
Saturday, January 13	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, March 10	Alumni Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 20	Highlands' Choir Concert in Little Theater
Saturday, May 19	Alumni Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 22	Highlands' Choir Concert in Little Theater
Saturday, July 14	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, September 8	Alumni Board Meeting
Saturday, November 10	Alumni Board Meeting

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

NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI MUSEUM

1. The volunteers are reviewing and posting old newspaper articles. The articles are about graduations, sports, and the like. If you have any articles that you would like to donate, then come visit the Museum on Wednesday mornings.
2. Museum volunteers sold close to \$500 in t-shirts and hoodies on Homecoming night. Special thanks to Rodney Carson ('80) for encouraging his classmates to purchase blue t-shirts. (Rodney is the alumnus who had his picture taken with Prince Harry.)
3. Current Highlands' students will help with copying yearbooks for the Museum's collection.

4. Can you volunteer at the Museum on **early Wednesday afternoons**? Hopefully, the Museum can be opened from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Wednesdays. More students can visit from about 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Ruth Beavers ('59) at ruthew@pacbell.net if you are interested.
5. Good news from Principal Hawthorne: Donations to the Museum can be sent directly to Highlands. Send donations to:

Highlands Alumni Museum
c/o Highlands High School
6601 Guthrie Street
North Highlands, CA 95660-3911

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.

Last Saturday – '70s graduates 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.

REUNION NEWS

Future Reunions

For members of the classes of **1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013** – 2018 is your reunion year. You can have your reunion news posted on the Alumni website at www.highlandshighalumni.com, or you can send the information to me at marya195821@gmail.com.

The Alumni Association wants you to know a successful reunion, and we can help you with the publicity.

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

Locating Classmates. A lot of those planning reunions have difficulty locating classmates, even in this day of social media. With name changes and many relocations, classmates can be difficult to locate. If that is so, then send us a list of those classmates several months before the reunion. We'll publish them in the Newsletter. There's a chance that a family friend or a distant relative can provide the information you need. Let me know if you have questions by e-mailing me at marya195821@gmail.com.

1978 Reunion. The class of 1978 will hold its 40th reunion on **Saturday, October 6, 2018, at the Lions Gate Hotel at McClellan.** More details in future newsletters.

1967 Reunion

by Loreene Sheppard and Mary Anderson

The Highlands and Foothill classes of 1967 held their reunion on Saturday, September 16.

The first stop was Lou's, where about 20 one-time Scots and Mustangs met for a hamburger lunch. About 12 from the class of '67 came and the rest were friends from other classes or family members.

Next came the grand celebration at the Holiday Inn. A lot of mixing, dinner, and dancing. Loraine Epperson (Highlands '67) and Lynne Mann (Highlands '68) led several of the line dances. Pat Frohney (Foothill '67) and Janice Craig (Highlands '67), best friends during their school years, met after not seeing each other for 40 years. About one-third of the attendees came from outside the Sacramento area.

All said, the evening was a success because of the work done by the Committee, including Highlands' own Kay Johnson.



Jim Ortiz (HHS '67) chatting with his one-time classmate Barbara Hicks (HHS '67).



Mike Ratliff (HHS '67) and his wife Kay Johnson (HHS '67).



Jance Craig (HHS) with her long-time school Pat Frohmey (FHS), re-united after 40 years.



Kathy Davis (HHS '67), one of the out-of-towners. She traveled from Hope, Arkansas. (Remember that town?)

Class of 1997 - 20-Year Reunion By Monique (Blue) Langer

The Highlands High School Class of 1997 gathered for its 20-Year Reunion July 22, 2017, at Fat's Banquet Facility in Old Sacramento. Nearly 80 people attended.

Our honored guest for the evening was Stephen Liles, a former HHS student who was the principal at the time of our graduation. This was his first time to EVER attend a reunion, so we were very excited that he decided to join us!

Aside from the delicious food provided by Fat's, virtually every aspect of the reunion was designed and/or provided by a classmate: the decorations, souvenirs, the amazing cake, the photo booth, the program books, and more. In addition to the laughter and reminiscing, classmates were treated to DJ dancing, a door prize, raffle prizes, a complimentary photo booth with props, and fun "awards" throughout the night.

The Reunion Committee worked hard for months to prepare for an amazing event, and the evening did not disappoint. Many laughs and inside jokes were shared, and even 20 years later, friendships were rekindled and created anew.

We'd like to thank everyone for attending, and thank those who couldn't attend for their support! Special thanks go to classmates Josh Wade for sponsoring the reunion, and Trish Ward for donating the amazing cake.

Class of 1997 Reunion Planning Committee included Aimie Barandas, Monique Blue, Missy Disque, Tiahna Jordan, and Heather Maggard.

We'll see you at the next reunion!





Class of 1997 at their 20th reunion.

LIAISON NEWS

By Kathy Cahall Cooper

Tri-Communities Lunch Bunch

1. Jill LaVine, the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters, was the speaker for September. Via the California Voters Choice Act, Sacramento County is one of several select counties whose Board of Supervisors approved a new voting system. Ms. LaVine walked us through the changes to the voting process that will begin in Sacramento County in June 2018.

All voters will be mailed ballots 29 days before each election. Once they get their ballot, voters may return the ballot by mail on or before election day or drop it off at any of the over 50 drop-off locations starting 28 days before election day or visit a Vote Center from 10 days before and on election day to drop it off or to vote in person. The drop-off boxes will be located at various selected businesses throughout the County and will be available during the hours the business is open. The Vote Centers are full-service voting venues open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters are welcome to choose when, how, and where to vote. They can also register to vote or update their registration at the Vote Center on the day they choose to vote.

2. In October, several POP (Problem Oriented Policing) officers from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department introduced themselves and answered questions concerning abandoned cars and RV's, squatters in vacant houses, and the homeless. They also talked about the Marijuana Abatement Team that is working with the County to get some codes in place and the need for businesses and community groups to communicate with the Sheriff's Department.

POP officers meet with citizen groups six times a year to talk about neighborhood concerns. At the October meeting, they reported what steps were taken to handle situations. The highlight of the meeting was when outgoing Captain Chris Palmer introduced Captain Drew Wyant, the new Commander of the Northern Patrol Division. He talked about the Homeless Outreach Team, whose members will address issues and provide services to those in need. He stated that his focus will be customer service to be sure that the Sheriff's Department is serving people as well as getting the bad people off the street.

3. California state senator Jim Nielson was the speaker in November. During his service, he has represented 19 different counties. His main focus is protecting property rights. He is also working on fixing the Oroville Dam and spillway and addressing the recent fires.
4. Charlea Moore announced the Second Annual Rio Linda/Elverta Christmas Light Parade along M Street from West Second Street to Curved Bridge Road in Rio Linda on Saturday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. Donations of non-perishable foods or unwrapped toys and clothing will be gladly accepted for Ruby's Baskets, benefitting needy or underprivileged families in Rio Linda/Elverta. For more information and a parade application, e-mail the Parade Committee at <rlchristmasparade1@gmail.com>.

Highlands High School

1. Highlands High School varsity team won its Homecoming game with a score of 48-20. Highlands' alumni from the first three decades were well represented. The alumni t-shirt and sweatshirt sale was a great success. There were sales going on throughout the game.
2. The 2017-2018 Highlands Alumni Association scholarship applications were delivered to the Highlands counseling office on Tuesday, November 14, and

to the Legacy Room at the November meeting. Winners of the scholarships will be announced at the Highlands High School Awards Night in May 2018, and checks will be distributed at the July 14, 2018, alumni meeting.

ASK THE SCHOOL OFFICIAL

Q. Several students visit the Museum, and while there, they look at the yearbooks. They notice different extra-curricular activities, including a debate club and a junior statesmen club. The kids want to know why those activities aren't around today. Can the Alumni Association help in possibly bringing them back?

A. Those students should speak with their counselors to discuss any extracurricular programs. The counselors can determine the students' interest and move forward.

The Alumni Association can set up a clipboard to gather students' names and the programs that they want to bring back. Give that list to the counselors to follow up.

DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS

Wreaths Across America

My name is Rodney Mitchell, class of '65. My name at Highlands was Rodney Motley.

I am involved in the "Wreaths Across America" project, whereby Christmas wreaths are placed on the headstones at every National Cemetery across the country. Come **Saturday, December 16, at 9 a.m., at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon**. Activities start with a ceremony, then everyone helps place the wreaths on the headstones. The general public is invited to attend, but to get a good parking space, one should arrive by 8 a.m.

13th Annual Wahoo

By Shirlene Lansdon ('63)

We were girls when we first met; when we reunite, we become those girls again. The women of the Class of 1963 just spent their 13th annual 4-day weekend at Bodega Bay, September 21-24, 2017.

Again, our leader Dawna Cody reunited us. "Hollywood Glamour" was our theme this year. We had our stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and photos on the "Red Carpet. Each of us won an Oscar. Of course all of this was make believe, just like when we were young. The props were real and all of our life stories could easily be an Academy Award winning movie.

We are comforted by those who have walked through our history with us. Some of these gals have known each other since first grade. Sharing memories, catching up on this past year, cooking together, laughing, scrapbooking cards and books, puzzles, walks along the ocean, eating and shopping fill the days we spend together. Time speeds by and hugs hold us until we meet again.

The Wahoo gals generously donated \$325 to the Highlands High Alumni Scholarship Fund this weekend.

Our group consists of about 24 women, and 17 attended this year. We always welcome all Class of 63 gals who went to school with us at any time: elementary, junior high, or high school. We would love to see you. Contact me at maryshirlene15@gmail.com, or anyone you know in our class, and we will give you the information regarding our trip.

Finally, we are planning a 55-year reunion next September. The planning has started, so mark your calendars.



Left side of red carpet: Front row: Maria Winkler, Patti Brace, Sherry Romelsbacher, Sharon Ausmus;
Middle row: Shirlene Lansdon, Timi Agostini, Marie Hansen;
Back Row: Sharon Patterson, Linda Giles, Rita Adams, Deanna Johnson;
Right side of red carpet: Dianne Johnson, Dawna Cody, Barbara Peters, Andi Coy, Ginny Jenkins.

By the way, if you're involved with a charity, let us know about the fundraisers you're involved with. We can publicize them here in the newsletter.

Let Us Remember

These are the Scots who passed away between September 1 and November 30, 2017, or whose passing we have recently learned.

Instructor	Michael Bays (1959-2017), Government and Economics
Instructor	Col. Fortner, ROTC instructor
1959	Linda Barnes
1960	Bert Inman
1963	Owen Watson
1968	Carol Stout
1971	Ray Avery
1973	Betty Lopez, Richard Tomolillo
1976	Mariann Wolf
1979	Casey Brucklacher
1982	Teri Stanley, Ra Shel Floriece Swope
2016	Daulton Kilpatrick

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 and Rita Woods at rita.jens.2010@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 family, friends, and classmates of the deceased.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

If you want to submit an item for *Alumni News*, you are welcome to do so. Remember that this is your newsletter. This newsletter is by, for, and about you and your classmates.

So I hope to hear from you by **Saturday, March 10, 2018**. You are welcome to submit photos with your articles. Send your items to me at marya195821@gmail.com or via Facebook.

By the way, this edition of the newsletter is a month late because I was ill with bronchitis, too sick to really do anything. (Plus I got sick on the antibiotics.) No fun. Hope to get back to the regularly scheduled publication of every 2 months in 2018.