

# Alumni News

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

November 2018

## **PREZ'S PONDERINGS**

By Kristine Kouw Mann ('65)

Whew! We have just endured the Midterm elections, with the debates, the neighborhood coffee klatches, the seemingly endless TV ads, and the concerns about voters being eligible. But we need to get through one more round of elections: that of electing a slate of officers for the Alumni Board for the 2019/2020 term.

As I write this, nominations are coming in to fill the vacancies or possible vacancies for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. (I'm not running, for I have served two 2-year terms as your President.) There may also be opportunities to serve the North Highlands community, the Twin Rivers District, Highlands itself, or the Alumni membership as a whole. A lot of opportunities for all of us!

What interests you? How about the annual Highlands-Foothill Golf Tournament, when money is raised for scholarships. The North Highlands Memorial Day Parade, when we honor those who offered the supreme sacrifice. Next year's Holiday Party, for you can't start too early. Or how about something not even listed. Notify the next Board, and maybe they can find something for you.

As my time as President comes to a close, I can say that I'm proud of a few things, including the growth of the Alumni Museum. Because of the work of quite a few alumni, the doors are open every Wednesday when school is in session. I hope that those who graduated in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s participate in this exciting adventure. If there's any area that needs strengthening, it's the increase in participation of those who graduated after the 1960s. Their participation would be great for everyone, including Highlands' students.

Correction: In the last edition of “Prez’s Ponderings,” it was written that Kathy Cahall Cooper “wants to relinquish all that she has done for us.” Thankfully, that’s not the case. Unfortunately, Mary Anderson, who wrote that paragraph, mis-heard what was said at a recent Board meeting. She did not mean to cause any problems for Kathy or for the membership. Let me know if you have questions.

Finally, I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president.

Notify me at [mothermann@hotmail.com](mailto:mothermann@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

**Scots Forever!**

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

1. Tom Bastion ('65) talked about the upcoming Holiday Party, scheduled for Saturday evening, December 1, at the Carmichael’s Elks Lodge. (Flyer is attached, but e-mail to see if sign-ups are still being accepted.)
2. Kathy Cahall Cooper ('60) spoke about the election. If you are a member of the Alumni but didn’t get a chance to nominate anyone, then notify Kathy at [cahallb4@hotmail.com](mailto:cahallb4@hotmail.com).

### ***NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI MUSEUM***

When you were at Highlands, was the Principal’s Office your No. 1 hang-out? If so, you’ll be glad to know that that principal’s picture is on a special wall in the Alumni Museum. In fact, his/her picture is with the pictures of all of Highlands’ principals, including Mr. Kollenborn (first principal), Steve Liles (class of '73), and the current Darryl Hawthorne (class of '84). The pictures are on a special wall in the Museum. Isn’t that nifty?

So what else is in the Museum? There’s a trophy room where many trophies and certificates are showcased. If you participated in a music group any time during the '80s and '90s, especially, you can probably point to a trophy/certificate that your group earned. One group traveled all the

way to New York and had their picture taken near the Statue of Liberty; the picture is in the trophy room. In the main room are displays of old musical instruments, including a bagpipe. There are also pictures of the high-ranking football teams from the '70s and some of the jerseys that were worn. There's also a Block H sweater. Come and see!

Interested in history? If so, you can see the history of Highlands from the class of 1959 to the class of 2018. There are pictures and articles honoring the late coaches Don Gilbert and Bob Edwards. There are photos when Highlands was first built, before Allison and Hillsdale elementary schools were built, and while there was a hill between Highlands and the residential area it served. There are yearbooks to browse through. So much history and so little time to view it (probably).

Do you have any mementos to donate? If so, you are very welcome to bring them with you when you visit. If you don't live in the Sacramento area, you can send them to:

Highlands Alumni Museum  
c/o Highlands High School  
6601 Guthrie Street  
North Highlands, CA 95660-3998

Finally, you can purchase an Alumni T-shirt or a "hoodie" or both, so bring some money with you (check or cash).

When can you visit? Any Wednesday when school is in session, from about 10 a.m. until about 1 p.m. It is often open for special occasions, such as Open House. (Sacramento area alumni will be notified when the special occasions happen.)

If you have any questions, you can e-mail Mary Anderson at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com).

***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.

Saturday, December 1      Alumni Holiday Party, Elks Lodge in Carmichael

Saturday, January 12      Alumni Board Meeting

Saturday, March 9      Alumni Board Meeting

Saturday, May 18      Alumni Board Meeting

Saturday, July 13      Alumni Board Meeting

Saturday, September 14      Alumni Board Meeting

Saturday, November 9      Alumni Board Meeting

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

***ALUMNI GATHERINGS***

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

Last Saturday – '60s and '70s graduates meet at Lou's from 11 a.m. until about 2 p.m. A few '80s alums also drop by.

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

***Let Us Remember***

These are the Scots who passed away between September 1 and October 31, or whose passing we have recently learned.

Year	Name
1961	Myron Prychun
1963	Jann Graham
1965	Thomas Graham, Patrick Hagans
1966	Peter Johanson
1967	Donna Spicer
1975	Ron Hodapp
1981	Jim Ernst

**Please Note:** 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) and Rita Woods at [rita.jens.2010@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS

### Hand-made Caring

By Jackie Tucker ('65)

I'm not a healthy person, have been on disability 25 years, but there are little things I can do from home that make a difference to others.

I make hand-made get well cards for Kaiser (Roseville) inpatients. With each admission, a patient is supposed to receive a hand-made card given to them personally by one of the hospital volunteers. I make these regularly, usually turning in 100 or so each month. We design each one individually, and it seems that my focus is cards for adult men and children. (So many cards are frilly and flowery; I just decided to take another direction.) Right now, I'm doing the generic fall season cards, but I'm gearing the cards for the upcoming holidays. I'll soon switch to Christmas and winter.

I also make the little comfort pillows that the patients use to help get more comfortable in those awful hospital beds. They use them to support tummies when coughing, propping behind sore necks, or supporting broken limbs. I probably make an average of 25 to 40 pillows each month. I know my own mom (now 93) really looks forward to getting these pillows each hospital admission; she claims they're her life savers sometimes.

Even though I'm not in great health, I enjoy doing something good for the sick and the hurting. I hope I've inspired someone to do the same.

### ***RECONNECTING***

By Tom Swanson ('60)

My family moved from Roseville to North Highlands in 1952. I wasn't too sure I would like the area, but we were moving into a brand new home on Layton Drive (just north of A Street). New homes were rare in post-World War II America.

The first friend I made was John Matthews. John lived just up the street from us on Georgia Drive. We attended a new school called Fruitvale Elementary (now F.C. Joyce). Classmates included Dick Murray, William Hamilton, Robert Arth, Jeanette Null (always the best student in class), Pam Smith, Brenda Whitlock, Dee Alexander, and Charlotte Holmes. They had also recently moved to this new post-war housing area. Our family structures were pretty much the same: one or two siblings and parents in their late 20's early 30's whose lives had been interrupted by the War, but whose lives were good.

For the seventh and eighth grades, we attended Rio Linda Junior High, where I met some new friends: Doug Bockus, Harold Carlile, Ted Banducci, Gary Vincent, Steve Shadko, Gay Reed, and Ed Bailey. We all played basketball and baseball for our school. For the ninth grade, those of us from North Highlands attended Don Julio, the new junior high in North Highlands. There we continued to play all sports and competed against our old friends who remained at Rio Linda Junior High. I loved those games.

When Highlands High was completed, most of these Rio Linda friends transferred to Highlands. We became teammates again and took great pride in being "Highlands Scots" and representing our school. We were "true to our school," before the Beach Boys made it popular. After graduation, we all went in different directions: college, careers, military, marriage. Over the next 30+ years, we concentrated on our careers and on raising our families. We reconnected only occasionally during those years.

When we all retired in the late 1990's and early 2000's, we found we still had things in common, including playing golf and fishing. Since retiring, we've had some great fishing trips to places like Montana, Idaho, British Columbia, the Yukon, and Mexico.

John Matthews, Harold and Ray Carlile, Ed Bailey, Gay Reed, Dee Alexander, and I belong to a couple of golf clubs in the Sacramento area. We play every Wednesday and one Saturday a month. Ted Banducci comes out from Arizona to play in the Annual Highlands/Foothill golf tournament. I never get tired of being with these guys. There's never a lack of conversation, and there's always lots of laughs. Understand that this isn't just a "good ol' boys club." Our wives join us when we travel to play in locations like Carmel, Monterey, and Palm Desert.

A couple years ago, John Matthews, his wife Linda, and my wife Candi and I took a river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam but flew over on separate flights. As I was leaving the parking lot after our weekly golf outing, I said to John, "See you in Budapest." We had a good laugh. For two kids from North Highlands, we've come a long way and accomplished more than we ever imagined. Mr. Estep, our boys' academics counselor at Highlands, would be smiling.

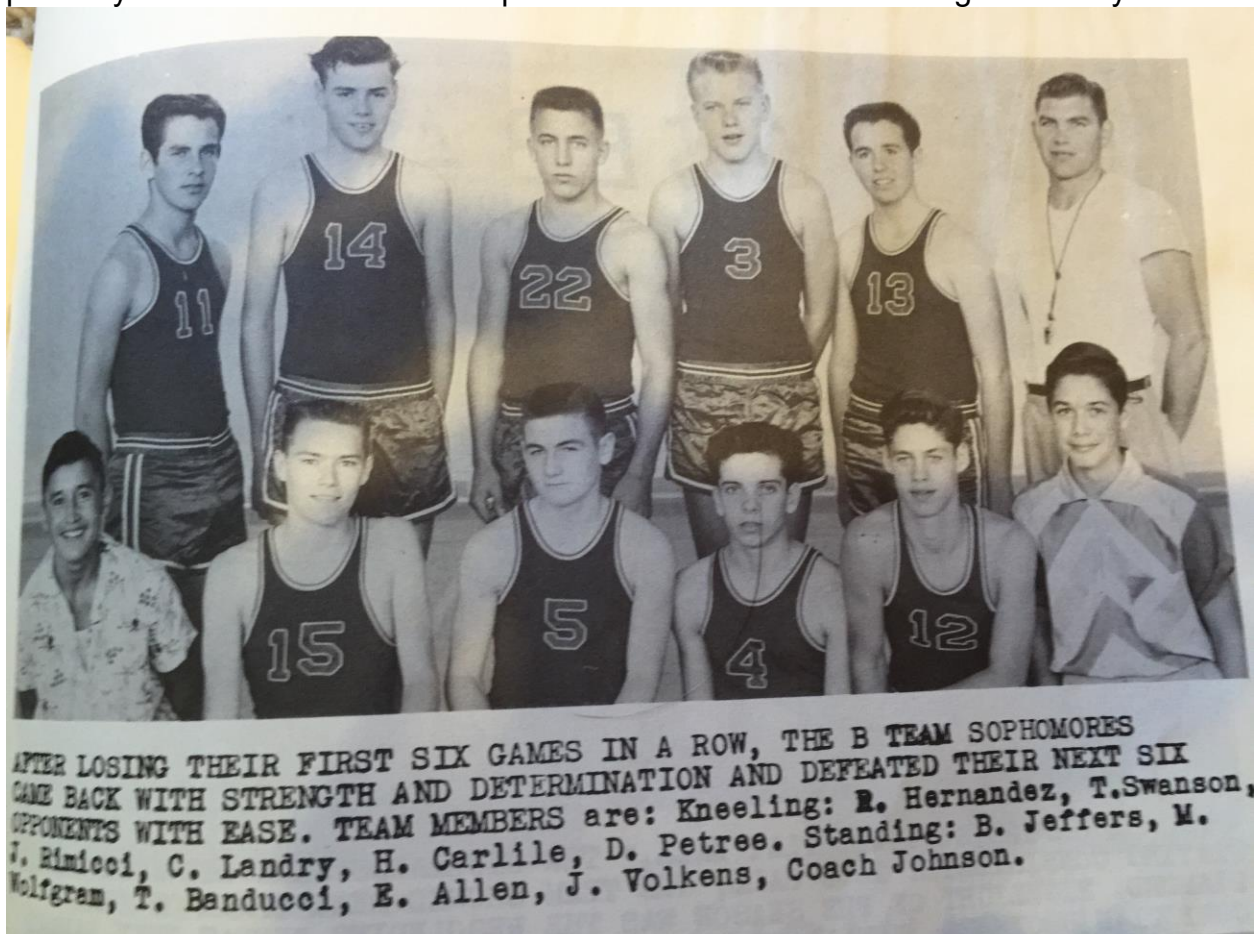
One last point: Highlands' alumni can be found everywhere. At one of the stops on our Rhine River cruise, we were joined by Dale Wilson, Highlands' class of '62, and his wife Karen. Dale stayed in Germany after his Army days to work for the American University system in Europe. For those of you who don't remember Dale, he was one of the first male cheerleaders at Highlands and also played football. He was very good at both. The



University of Oregon thought so much of his football ability, they gave him a 4-year scholarship.

I've made many friends in my life, but these old school teammates are extra special. People don't change that much. They're still fun to be around.

One picture from Tom's collection. Many of you from the early days of Highlands probably remember those who are pictured. The Memories of the "good ol' days."







A more recent picture of some of the guys playing golf. From left to right: Harold Carlile, John Matthews, Ray Carlile, Tom Swanson (author)

## ***Reunions***

### Class of 1963 - 55th Reunion

By Shirlene Lansdon

The Class of 1963 started our 55th reunion weekend at Sam's Hof Brau, a favorite gathering place back in the '60s. About 40 people showed up, and it was fun way to kick off the weekend.

Saturday was the big reunion day at the home of Ginny Jenkins in Citrus Heights. The barbecue started at 4 p.m., with 55 people attending. Back Forty catered a delicious meal, and Marie Hansen decorated our picnic tables in Ginny's back yard. We visited, looked at yearbooks and scrap books, and caught up on our lives today. While many of us are still in California, we did have Ray Gillespie from Nashville, Tennessee; Hank and Frances DeVasher from Alabama; and Ed and Delia Kirsch from Bend, Oregon. And Mr. Woody, our music teacher, came with his wife Nancy. We were all thankful we still can get together and enjoy each other's company, while remembering those who are gone and thinking of those who couldn't attend.

Sunday morning, about a dozen of us gathered for breakfast at Lion's Gate to start our day. Next we ventured to Old Sac and toured the Railroad Museum built by Shirlene Lansdon's brother, Bobby Lansdon, also class of '63. We finished the day with Dinner at Fat City.

Monday, we met and drove to Apple Hill for beautiful weather, apple pie, apple donuts, and lunch. The last of us said our goodbyes until next time. It was a beautiful heartwarming occasion.



Timmie Agostini and Hank DeVasher

The Apple Hill Gang: Hank DeVasher, Shirlene Lansdon, Jim Stephens, Dawna Cody, and Jim and Diane Hintz







The class of '63 at their barbecue on Saturday night.

## Class of 1978 – 40th Reunion

Via Michael Thayer



REUNION COMMITTEE - Margaret Shindle, Charlotte Brown, Shaunda Davis, Michael Thayer, Kelly Lynch, and Cathy Dodson



FRIDAY NIGHT MEET & GREET - Dave Harris, Bryan DeSoto, Michael Thayer, and Dave Schiro.



Saturday Night Group Photo

## ***REUNION NEWS***

**IMPORTANT:** 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 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 those names 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](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com).

Planning for 2019

Speaking of Reunions. Time to start planning for next year. For the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014: guess what? Next year is your reunion year. If you have a date or dates set for your reunion, then notify me Mary Anderson at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com) so that the publicity can get started. Remember that classmates need to work with co-workers to get the time off. Plus, family members and others may also be involved in someone's schedule, so the sooner the dates are known, the better. Also, if you have the site secured, let us know so that classmates can make hotel reservations.

**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 **Thursday, January 10**. You are welcome to submit photos with your articles. Send your items to me at [marya195821@gmail.com](mailto:marya195821@gmail.com) or via Facebook.