

# FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

*SHaverty1955@comcast.net*

*No. 5 Fall 2008*

*In memory of the following classmates*

**Michael Engelman ?**

**Tom (Jene) Jackson 1985**

**Barbara Jean Foley Jeffs -1995**

**Eliot Ross 6/7/07**

**Dee Hickman 6/16/07**

**Margaret Gardner Brockett 9/18/07**

**Sherran Ward Baley 5/16/08**

**Bonnie Mott Ruether 6/2/08**

**Welana Riley Jojola 7/4/08**

**Jan Hill Fanucchi 8/11/08**

## REUNION NOTES

Here we are again just full of information you cannot live without. I have joined **www.classmates.com** for the next two years as another avenue for classmates to contact me for general and reunion information. I found two classmates the first day. The site has a lot of old and outdated information but it will be a useful tool as we go down the stretch towards the reunion in 2010. Since they require actual dates, I could not leave general information for our upcoming reunion but I did put it on my bulletin board site. Any lost classmate that checks in can contact me. What a wonderful surprise that would be.

**Joanne Canfield Morgan** has volunteered to put together memorabilia for the reunion. She would like a display of grammar school pictures. She needs your help. If you have grammar school pictures to share and would entrust them to us, either copy or mail originals to Joanne at 4068 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Fresno CA 93726. You could also scan and email to Sharon Haverty at **shaverty1955@comcast.net**. Please make sure you identify the **grammar school, grade and year (if you can remember)**. We will mail originals back to you as soon as we can make a copy. Believe me, it is not too soon to get started on this project. I already have an enlarged copy of the senior class picture which I will have laminated. Another idea that goes along with school pictures is to get grammar school classmates together at the reunion classmate only event and take group pictures for each grammar school. We are still in the talking stage on this. Our fall newsletter in 2010 will be mainly pictorial, and mailed after the reunion so we

can incorporate as many reunion pictures as possible.

## FHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION [www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com)

It was my pleasure to attend the FHS Alumni dinner with over 300 other alumni on May 10, 2008. The alumni association donated over \$15,000 last year to FHS academic and athletic needs.

Bob Reyes, FHS Principal gave us an update on what is taking place at the school. The International Baccalaureate program is in its third year and is one of 400 schools in the U.S. authorized to offer this prestigious program. The FHS IB program is being recognized as one of the best in the U.S.. This program has allowed FHS to keep the best and brightest students in their area.

In four years, \$14 million dollars worth of improve-ments which includes resurfacing, landscaping, buildings, a new state of the art varsity baseball diamond considered the best in the district, in 1 ½ years a new 35-meter competition pool and a six lane all-weather track. Plans are in the works for a new varsity softball diamond.



When you drive on McKinley or Palm avenues, you can see FRESNO HIGH WARRIORS painted on the side of the gym in purple and gold. It's awesome. The "School of Champions" is coming back.

Go to the website above and click on the membership site, print out the form and join the alumni association for as little as \$25. The money is well spent.

## BAY AREA MINI REUNION

## WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?



Front: Jim Keeffe, Sharon Henryson Haverty, Arnold Joyal, Carol Bowman Underhill, Dixie Aaron Guzzo, Karen Olson Stern, Liz Whepley Bawden.

Rear: Floyd Yearout, Unidentified, Unidentified, Gail Giffen, Ken Petron, Stewart Sellers (53'), Diana Sheffield Sellers, Barnard Bever, Janice Brown Fry, Nancy Ferguson Ferda, Kay Gillis Farmer, Karen Jurgensen Nielsen, Deanna Amos Tarr.

This year we again broadened our definition of "Bay Area" to include class members from a little farther afield. Once more Gail Giffen provided her fabulous home and yard for the eighteen class members, plus significant others – a group of 23 in all. Liz Whepley Bawden traveled from Seattle and we had a couple of homies up from Fresno to join the fun. The high-light of the afternoon was watching each other try to get up from a kneeling position after the group photo.



### FOUND

**Ardell (Ann) Arrasmith Fleishman** in San Carlos CA, **Joyce Bollinger McMaster**, alive and well in Oakhurst CA; **Hazel McCombs Blanchard**, Clovis CA, **Jeri McElligott Egholm**, Denmark.

We have two classmates who live overseas. I was flipping through old reunion booklets and found that **Jeri McElliott Egholm** had written down an address but it had not copied well. I took a giant leap, wrote a letter and to the best of my ability typed out the address to Denmark hoping I had put everything in the correct order and mailed it.

About four weeks later I received an envelope from Jeri filled with information about the island she lives on off the mainland coast of Denmark – Samsø. She was just as thrilled to be found and is going to make an attempt to attend the 2010 reunion. To say I was excited can't cover it. She sent a postcard of the area called Kolby Kås that shows the open sea and a ferry boat coming into her island (it carries 70 cars at a time), a travel pamphlet showing what a tourist attraction this island is.

She stuck a pinpoint through the card to show her home. She has an unblocked view of the sea and she says her favorite times are looking out at the storms. The weather on Samsø is similar to S.F. The ø at the end of Samsø is a letter in Danish alphabet, but is also a word that means island, so she lives on Sam's Island.

Jeri's last name at the 40<sup>th</sup> was Pedersen. A movement took place awhile back in Denmark and people were asked to change names ending in sen and use a middle name or mother's maiden name. They used her husband's middle name of Egholm (the Eg used to mean Egg Island). See, I am still able to learn new things. Now we have to find Valerie Gurley, who returned to Australia.

### COMMENT FROM 1955

*"Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress." (I wonder what that commentator would say about the economic conditions of today.)*

### WHEN INSULTS HAD CLASS

*"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (re: Ernest Hemingway.)*  
*"Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" - Ernest Hemingway (re: William Faulkner.)*

## **OOPS!!!! EMERGENCY.....**



Here is one of our Friday coffee buddies, **Dave Meyer**, being pampered by the coffee girls and guy. He was washing windows at his son's home in Oakhurst CA. This was a really high window and Dave had a really long ladder he placed against the side of the house. You guessed it, the ladder moved off the wall with Dave on it and he fell on his knee, which shattered. He was rushed to St. Agnes Hospital and the next morning was operated on by Dr. Steven Thaxter, Ann Leonardo Thaxter's son. The prognosis was not good for the knee but after surgery the doctor said it was healing very well. Dave is wheelchair bound for eight weeks and then he can put weight on his right leg. Dr. Thaxter does really good stitches. Dave's wife Ann ('57) took him to DMV to renew his drivers license, wheelchair and all. He passed! You can't keep a good man down.

### **MORE SENIOR WILLS**

**Donna Bordson** will my job on the Owlet to anyone who craves to run all over school, and my membership in HWH and BBTSC to any junior girl who wants to have lots of fun.

**Patty Markarian** will my shower partner, along with a bottle of the strongest perfume to B.K., B Waldo, Toni Kiemele; to Joyce Nielson "Rubber Lips" to B.K; Stan to B.W.

**Jim Truitner** refraining from insidious and vile language, do will to Mr. Edward Reid a new lift pump, and to Mr. Leon Mahsdorf, a book of clever quotations and smart remarks written in French, Latin, and Lithuanian.

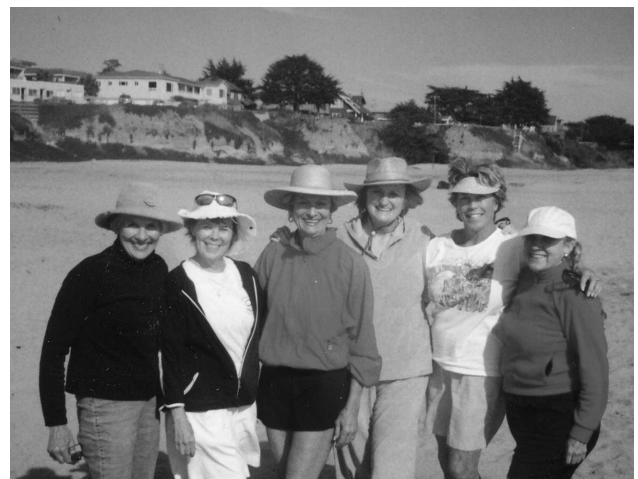
### **MESSAGE FROM SANTA CRUZ**

Driving down Soquel Drive after exercise/dance class, I turn as I hear a horn next to me. It is Nancy McLaughlin Rideout and she's passing me! Nancy is a semi-retired real estate saleswoman and I am the "Sunshine Lady" (coordinator of congregational care) for St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Soon we will meet Deanna Amos Tarr and Karen Olson Stern for lunch "over the hill" (the San Jose side of Highway 17. Deanna fits our lunch in between her real estate appointments because she is an active broker in Palo Alto where she shares her office with her daughter. Karen arrived after her volunteer job, having retired as a dental hygienist and nutritionist.

During lunch we will plan our get-together at the beach. Missing from the planning session is Janice Brown Fry, who is busy managing her summer rental business. Our beach get-together happens some time during the summer and has traveled from Seabright Beach to the Harbor Beach and back to Seabright. We've had various guests, such as Liz Whepley Bawden, Susan Giffen Bertken, and Nancy's cousin, Kay, from New York.

I'm detailing all this because it demonstrates the importance of enduring friendships. We've all know each other at least since Hamilton Junior High School. Who could have dreamed that we'd still be getting together on Seabright Beach 58 years later?!

*Marsha Mortland Gonzales*



L to R: Karen Olson Stern, Nancy McLaughlin Rideout, Deanna Amos Tarr, Marsha Mortland Gonzales, Janice Brown Fry, and Kathleen Eaton (Nancy's cousin)

## TRIVIA



Do you remember these faces? They are **Judi Strong**, flute; **Vivian Ward**, bassoon; and **Lavonne Schiller**, cello. An article in the March 31, 1955, Owllet stated they would be participating in the all-conference honor band and orchestra in Berkeley. Not pictured but also participating were **Gary Heisinger**, clarinet; **Nathan Workmon**, viola, and **Stanley Griffin**, violin.

## CONTACTS:

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