

FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

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No. 11 Fall 2011

In memory of the following classmates

Gene Bandoni 6/22/2011

Jere Swanson 7/19/11

REUNION NOTES

Gosh, it's that time again. Can you believe a year has passed since our reunion? I still have classmates tell me what a great time they had. I was at the Four Points for my granddaughter's wedding brunch in June and the restaurant manager remembered me and said what a great group we have. I told him we will be back in four years.

Your committee continues to pass new ideas back and forth and we are working off the survey sheets that classmates turned in to us. We aim to please and will carefully plan our activities around your suggestions. Remember, you can pass on your ideas at any time. This is your reunion.

On another note, I have dropped my subscription to **Classmates.com**. If you are trying to reach me that way I will not get your information. Remember our 60th reunion motto: **7 + 8 =15**

FISH THE SEA OF CORTEZ

I received an email from our classmate **Larry Walters** who lives in Cabo San Lucas, MX. He runs a fishing charter in the Sea of Cortez. I told him I would pass his information on to classmates. He told me if classmates book with him he would donate 5% of the cost to the Class of 1955. **Book those fishing trips now!!!**

His email is: donlorenzo1937@yahoo.com

His blog is: <http://fishtheseaofcortez.blogspot.com/>



CLASSMATES AT CRATER LAKE By Carol Bowman Underhill

A great time was had this past August at **Arlene Johns Smith's** beautiful home in Shady Cove OR. **Donna Stewart Kelton** and I drove to Shady Cove, sat on her deck for a whole week watching the beautiful Rogue River which passes by her back yard. Deer and geese we prancing all over while the salmon were running. River rafters were trying their luck with fishing. The sounds of summer were unbelievably peaceful. We drove to Crater Lake one day to view the amazing Crater.



MINI REUNION, MAY 2011

Those of you who are missing our Bay Area Mini-Reunions are missing a good thing. Contact Arnold for details of next May's potluck barbeque.



FRESNO HIGH NEWS

Big-Little Game: The game is on. For the first time in a number of years, FHS is hosting Roosevelt in what we considered the most important football game of our high school life, **at Ratcliff Stadium on Wednesday, November 9th at 7:30 p.m.** There will be a walkover from Fresno High (if your legs can make it). You can also drive to the stadium and park. Check the alumni website fresnohighalumni.com for more information. We hope to see a good number of you there. The original pig was stolen a few years ago and legend has it that it is at the bottom of Millerton Lake.

New Construction: Good things keep happening at FHS. They will begin a construction project sometime in the 2011-2012 school year, which will add two two-story building to the campus. The top floors will have ten new classrooms each. They will be on the Echo side of the campus at both ends of the street. Alumni will be pleased to know what we call "*the bunkers*" will be removed at a later date. I will have a picture in the spring 2012 newsletter.

GET TOGETHER IN HEMET

Who lives in Hemet? **Geri Lundquist McManis** and her husband Charlie. Another classmate **Patty Kent Smayda** and husband Bob were on their way home from a conference and drove to San Jacinto which is on the east side of Hemet to visit Bob's brother. Patty got in touch with Geri and they all got together. Geri lives in a retirement village so they had lunch at the bistro in The Lodge.



PROUD DAD

Our classmate **Bob Brandt** retired from the military as a Major General. At the time of his retirement he was the Assistant Adjutant General of the California National Guard and Commander of the California Army National Guard. Along the way he acquired an undergraduate

degree and two master degrees. Bob has two daughters, Kelli Buttram who has been a school teacher for 25 years and Laura Yeager who has followed her father as an Army aviator.

Laura graduated from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA on July 22, 2011. At that time Bob was able to promote her to Colonel (O-6). The next day Laura returned to Iraq to finish her year tour as Deputy Commander of the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, California Army National Guard. On returning from Iraq, she will take command of the Brigade which was Bob's old command. Bob is a very proud dad.



Bob was a member of the "Original 300" army aviators who manned the first helicopter companies that entered combat in Vietnam. He has written a book about his first tour titled "*Thunderbird Lounge*".

REUNION IN DENMARK



Judith Strong Alberts and her husband, Frants Albert, met **Jeri McElligot Egholm** in Denmark this summer. Here's what they had to say about their time together.

Judith: The time with Jeralyn was terrific. She straddles countries and cultures, with a California background matched by decades in Denmark with her husband, Arne. Her grasp of people, ideas, feelings, and living reflects both worlds. We did simple things. Once she'd settled in after the ferry from Samsö to our mainland, we drove to Hundested for fish, all several meals' worth, followed by a rainy visit to the icecreamery where the owner makes fresh waffle cones stuffed with very good ice cream.

The next day we went to a beautiful museum, Louisiana, and looked at visions of architecture – cities of the future with very interesting housing envisioned for too many people – which we ruminated over driving back for supper, because too many people is something the world faces, like it or not. (Louisiana Museum is where the photo of the two of us was taken.)

The last day with Jeri we drove out in tandem so she'd get on the right road back to her ferry to Samsö, via a 12th century church we've driven past by car for ten years and never been into. High time! Then off she went toward the return ferry and we home to our nest, missing a very special FHS classmate, indeed! It was lovely finding a chum from long ago and getting a new friend! Her Danish is just right – when she talks with Frants it goes smoothly in one language and to me – in Frezneze!

Jeralyn: Home again on my island, Samsö, in Denmark, after a delightful visit with Judith Strong and her husband, Frants Albert. They welcomed me at their lovely summer home in a birch forest at the northern tip of Zealand, the largest island (about an hour's drive from Copenhagen). We had several days of talk, a wonderful look at Louisiana -- a modern art museum -- Judith's music (flute), time in a 12th century church and a glimpse of the 900 A.D. cloister ruin in their neighborhood. We enjoyed delicious fish from Frants' kitchen, where he served us salmon --fresh and smoked -- and a real Danish treat, fried filet of little red spotted flounders. So good to meet Judith and Frants over here! Next time on Samsö?

LOST

It has been awhile since I was unable to find a classmate whose newsletter was returned undeliverable. I had two for the last newsletter. **Barbara Quinonez Lopez** of Hercules CA and **Paul Werstein** of McMinville OR. If anyone knows of a new mailing address, please forward to Sharon.

MY GREEK ODYSSEY

By Ann LeonardoThaxter

I was so fortunate to visit Greece during the month of June with my daughter, her husband (whose parents were born in Greece), their four children and my son-in-law's mother, who was our marvelous translator and guide. How nice was THAT to have our children invite us mothers-in-law along!

We spent time in Athens and did the tourist things and yes, there were some nasty demonstrations in the City Center. We had an amazing Greek feast in a relative's home where were given the scoop as to why the people are protesting and rioting. It seems to boil down to the fact that they don't like paying taxes and don't want their retirement and other entitlement "perks" diminished. Sound familiar?

We also spent time visiting Mykonos (stayed at a fabulous resort owned by a family friend), toured Santorini, where we slept in the "cave apartments" on the *Caldera*.



The best part of our trip was the weeks we spent on the Ionian Island of Kefalonia (Cephallonia). It is a beautiful and peaceful island just across the sea from Italy and it looks and feels a lot like Tuscany. My son-in-law has many cousins that live and work there at the port of Fiskardo. They are fishermen, shopkeepers, olive tree growers, olive oil makers, and one family owns a fabulous restaurant where we ate most of the time. Kefalonia is NOT over run by tourists...yet...

We boated, swam, snorkeled, fished in the Ionian Sea and played on the beaches...many "topless" beaches. We ate fabulous Greek food, drank *ouzo* and partied late into the night. People there don't eat dinner until 9 p.m. or later. We even danced like the Greeks do....yes, like Zorba! It was truly hard to say goodbye to such hospitable folks and leave such a beautiful spot on this Earth!!!

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Forwarding Address Requested

BOOK LIST

We have three classmates we know of who have written books. **These three can be found on Amazon.com.** There may be other classmates who have published fiction and non-fiction books. Give us the titles and we can list them.

***Thunderbird Lounge* by Bob Brandt
(His first tour in Vietnam)
\$7.99 on Kindle
\$23.18 Paperback**

***101 Road Patrol Tales: A Memoir of a Chippie of the California Highway Patrol*
By E.W. Tompkins Jr.
\$13.22 Paperback**

***Minerva's Circle- Margaret Fuller's Women* by Judith Strong Albert
\$16.38 Paperback
(I have read this and thoroughly enjoyed it.)**

DEFINITIONS

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

NEWSLETTER

Sometimes I have a wealth of information for the newsletter and most of the time not. Arnold and I would like classmates to send us at least some of the following:

1. current pictures, 2. a paragraph or two about where you are, 3. what you are currently doing, 4. where did the workplace take you, 5. a memory of high school days, 6. hobbies, etc. It can be brief, but we can always deal with too much rather than too little. Another point is we will always need your financial support so if you feel inclined to help with the cost of putting out this newsletter please send a check to:

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