

# THE OWLETTE DISPATCH

Fresno High School Class of 1958

Newsletter No. 10

Spring 2008

## *In Memoriam*

*Since the last issue, we discovered the following classmates are no longer with us. Raymond Graham, September 2007. In error, we reported Gary Bolin, August 2007, as Chris Bolin and we apologize for that.*

## **“GET READY..... FOR THE 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION!”**

*By Buddy Arakelian*

We are within months of our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. The date is set for September 20, 2008. Invitations will be mailed in May. There will be a brunch Saturday morning for classmates only, and the dinner Saturday evening will be open to both singles and couples. We will be offering a golf tournament on Friday, September 19.

The 50<sup>th</sup> reunion is such a big milestone. It's an event that all classmates should make every effort to attend. There will never be an opportunity quite like this again.

In my position of being involved in planning our reunions I have been contacted by telephone, cards, letters, and email on a regular basis. It's always a thrill to hear from classmates. We have offered this same opportunity to other classmates by having a class newsletter. We can thank JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward for the terrific job she's done with this project.

The newsletters have been received quite favorably, but remember, the big events are the reunions every five years. This reunion will be so much better than previous reunions, in part because we've had a newsletter ever since our last reunion, and also because it's a milestone event.

Don't be concerned that there will be a lot of people you don't know. We had a big class. These are not strangers, they are classmates. We are all part of a very special fellowship: the Fresno High Class of 1958.

While I was going through a very difficult treatment for head and neck cancer, I received so much support in the way of thoughts and prayers from friends, relatives and strangers. A significant

part of that support came from Fresno High Class of '58 classmates. My recovery, so far, has been going well. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in September.

**A fund is being set up to help classmates who may not have the means to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. If you feel you qualify for this, please contact Buddy at one of his contacts listed under the board member listing. All inquiries will be confidential.**

## TIME CAPSULE

On a Saturday morning in mid September, a group of classmates from 1957 and 1958 gathered in front of Royce Hall to find out what really lurked below ground in the time capsules buried so many years before. The occasion preceded the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for the Class of 1957 which was scheduled the following weekend. There were workers there at the ready to saw through concrete that had been laid around the plaques in 1970 when the driveway was removed and the plaques re-laid in their current resting place.

Much excitement came from the group as the saw whined and cut through concrete to the unknown. The unearthing brought forth remarks of "Do you remember what we buried?" "Do you think we will find anything?" And "Will what we put in there be nothing but dust?" It wasn't long before the 1957 plaque was ready to be lifted



out of its place. Excitement mounted as the end of a copper tube could be seen under the shovels and with much anticipation, Pete Mehas, Class of '57, was handed a dented and

scuffed capsule that had been welded shut. He commented, "It's just like us.....a little battered, but still here." The capsule was opened at their 50<sup>th</sup> celebration brunch.

With anticipation, the bronze plaque for 1958 was removed from the ground. The ground beneath looked undisturbed so the workers began digging. They dug further and further, beyond the level in which the 1957 capsule was found. They dug towards each corner of the tomb and could not hear a clink or clunk from the shovels piercing the soil. It is sad to report that the time capsule we've been so concerned about was never found. No one can remember if it was dug up at one of our previous reunions or if it was destroyed during the remodel of the school in the 70's. In either case, we will not have a time capsule to open at our golden celebration this September.

## REUNIONS, THEN AND NOW

By Catherine "Vernie" Morison Rehart

As we prepare to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion, it is interesting to turn our thoughts to other Fresno High School reunions and to reflect on past traditions.

In the earliest days of our school, when graduating classes were small, on the night after graduation a Senior Reception was given by the alumni and the junior class to honor the graduates. Because the reception attendees included most of the former graduates, it also served as a reunion. Let's go back to the evening of June 12, 1896--the sixth graduating class of Fresno High had received their diplomas the night before. Let's join their party.

"Scarlet incandescent lights cast a rosy glow over the dining room of the Hughes Hotel on the night of June 12, 1896. The floor of the spacious room had been well waxed in expectation of dancing by the scores of couples that would soon arrive. The parlors on the second floor were in readiness—tables scattered throughout the rooms awaited those who preferred games.



The occasion was the Senior Reception, hosted by the alumni and the junior class of Fresno High School, in honor of the seniors who had graduated the night before. This yearly event was fast becoming a tradition. Since it was attended by all the alumni of Fresno High School it also served as a yearly class reunion.

The evening opened with dancing to the music of Professor Myer and Theodore Rietz. The gentlemen hurried about signing their names to the dance cards of the young women with whom they wished to share a waltz, a polka, or a quadrille. After the second dance, a program began with an address of welcome by Sterling Patterson. This was followed by a host of musical selections including a piano duet played by Misses Eva Glenn and Edna Warner, members of the sophomore class. After Principal T.L. Heaton's short address, the dancing and games resumed and went on well into the night. The Class of 1896 had been duly feted at one of most brilliant affairs of the social season."



As Fresno grew, so did the student enrollment at Fresno High. By the beginning of the 20th Century, senior receptions were replaced by reunions held by the individual classes.

In 1901, the twenty-five members of the Class of 1896 held a five-year reunion—a dinner in a local restaurant where they shared high school memories.

Whether it is the 5<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of 1896 or the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of 1958, one thing about reunions remains the same--they always include reminiscing and the joy of once again being in the company of friends who were such an important part of our teenage years.

Please join us at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion—it will be an occasion none of us should miss.

Since our last newsletter, we have made contact with these classmates who were previously listed as lost.

**John Angelos, Justin Corbo, Ted Johnson, Edward Newton, Carolee Petersen Stirling, Marsha Porter Magnotti, Don Reynolds, Eddy Richardson, Ken Ruth, Roger Stewart, and Virginia Toepfer.**

### NEW TO OUR LOST LIST.....

**Wayne Cloyd**, approximately 1989

**Charlyn Mitchell Brown**

### SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF

The Fresno High Alumni Association held their first annual induction dinner into the Athletic Wall of Champions on October 10, 2007 at Pardini's Restaurant. Of the nine individuals inducted, two were from our class: **Dick Ellsworth** and **Jim Maloney**.

Not to be outdone, the 1958 varsity baseball team was also inducted. The team included Jim and Dick plus six other 1958 graduates: **Jim Albracht, Blair Pollard, Jack Reinhold, Lynn Rube, Glenn Schmidt** and **Chuck Smith**. Wow! If that is not something to be proud of, I don't know what is. What a grand way to start off this first year of inductees.

Current athletes from FHS helped hand out the beautiful bronze trophies and I'm sure they were unaware of what talent filled the hallways of their Alma Mater. Other inductees were: Frank Chance, 1892, Walter Marty, '29, Ruth Nurmi Huffman, '33, Les Richter, '48, Tom Seaver, '62, Pat Howell, '75, and Janet Whitney, '82.

### JAMES' JABBER

By James Palmer

Have you been in a situation and wondered; "Will I be here tomorrow?" It's a strange feeling which makes you realize that life is actually short and you sense, I had better do all I can while I can. You're correct..... I'm referring to our Golden 50th Reunion this year. We will be making history for our Class of 1958. Let's do our best to make it and not be sorry when it's too late.



If you don't care to attend the dinner try the breakfast. Both will be a chance of a lifetime. There are many reasons people don't attend reunions. To some it's simply no interest, maybe financial conditions, obligations, etc. I have decided I will not miss this opportunity. It will provide fulfillment to everyone. I have a suggestion; let's each try to persuade one person to attend. **Louis Lopez** is on my "hit list" and is about to get buried in friendly persuasion. Buddy and The Committee deserve thanks from each of us when possible. These are dedicated people. The countdown has begun. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

**NO LONGER LOST....**

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

By Richard Wardlaw

### WORDS FROM OUR CLASSMATES....

**Dick Baskin**-Looking forward to our 50th reunion. I appreciate the work you have done to make our reunions so great.

**Judy Headlee Livingston**-Thank you for the newsletter.

**Cecil Newbrough**-Thank you for the newsletters. I enjoy them very much.

**Arlene Mazgedian Cartozian**-We're just one year away from our eventful 50th. Thank you to the committee for all your efforts.

**Barbara Nalbandian Gower**- I so enjoy my newsletters. I have been living in Scottsdale for 40 years, but still miss Fresno and my wonderful memories of FHS. I plan on coming to the 50th reunion and seeing old friends once again. Thanks for your hard work.

**Sharon Tranberg Kelley** -As always, I loved getting caught up on the Fresno part of my life. We really had it good in the fifties -- so carefree and innocent. Thanks for all your work in keeping us connected.

**Phil Maytorena**-I'm looking forward to the 50th at Grand Occasions. I enjoyed "jabber" going down memory lane of our era.

**Bill Raddatz** -Thanks for taking on the reunion job.

**Ron Tatum**-Great job! See you at the 50<sup>th</sup>

**Virginia Collins Rouse**-I enjoy getting the newsletters and reading what is going on with FHS and classmates since the "old days." My FHS friends and I are really looking forward to next year's reunion. I, too, can't believe it's been 50 years! We didn't even consider thinking about that way back then. Keep up the good work.

**Judy Martin Dake** -I'm excited about our 50th class reunion. Thanks for all of your work in making it special for all of us. I've been in contact with **Mary Ruggieri Hanson** and **Connie Spencer Klaudt**. We are all hoping to attend the reunion. Thank you for

the great newsletter.

**Bob Maule**-Thanks so much for the newsletter. It makes my day. Although I'm here in paradise (Hawaii), there will never be anything as wonderful as going through school in Fresno -- Hamilton Jr. High and FHS Class of "58. Thanks for bringing back the memories.

**Connie Spencer Klaudt**-Thanks for the newsletter, and I hope to see you at our 50th.

**Bob Knott**-Australia-Say hello to everyone for me. Cheers.

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"When people consciously choose to think back on the past, over 80% tend to focus on very positive memories."

Hogstel and Curry, 1995

Greetings fellow Warriors. My wife Phyllis (Roosevelt Class of '59) and I thoroughly enjoy receiving "The Owlette Dispatch." It is good to read the enthusiastic articles and notes submitted by members of our class.

I guess it is because I am now truly what the younger set calls a senior citizen that I reflect more upon my early years. Why? Because I now realize how important those years were in helping form the foundation for my life as a whole and specifically in the direction my career would take. So, what makes Fresno High School unique above the other local high schools? I also asked myself this rather selfish question: what did Fresno High School do for me?

As I thought about these questions I came to realize why the school was unique. It was friends. The friends we had (and still have) made our school special for us. Some of those friends may have journeyed with us through elementary and junior high school as well. In some unique way, FHS provided a gathering of a wonderful mixture of ethnic diversity, interests and abilities; friends bonded with a common purpose to learn and graduate as young adults who could begin to function in the adult world with reasonable ability.

Even the teachers made Fresno High School special for us. Surely, staff struggled and worked hard to edge us toward graduation. Teachers, like English instructor Mr. Jack Warren (with whom I still remain in contact), were very important as they pushed, encouraged and assisted us along the way.

What about my second question? What did the school do for me? Because of a neurological problem, at an early age I was encouraged to place my effort in the arts like drawing, painting and photography. Fresno High offered what I needed in my area of interest.

Drafting and architecture classes with Mr. George Frei, courses in commercial art with Kay Keim and Mr. Eric Mitchell's photography class played important roles during my trek toward graduation and have remained significant since that spring evening in 1958 when the diploma was placed in my hand. Importantly, these courses helped me earn my way through college, graduate school and seminary. However, one social science course brought to the forefront of my mind an interest that was ultimately instrumental in my professional development and career. Sadly, I no longer remember the teacher's name.

Now following employment in public health, social work and a thirty year career in the ordained ministry I am retired and again enjoying photography, drawing and painting up here on the Redwood Coast. Fresno High School provided me with many friends and a foundational education. Truly it was my instruction at Fresno High that fostered not only my career, but also the pleasurable interest in art that has remained with me all my life.

It only seems like yesterday when we were students at Fresno High School; an institution for learning that remains uniquely special to each of us. Now fast approaching is our fiftieth anniversary of graduation. I will see you at the celebration.

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As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.



## SOME CLOSE CALLS

Two of our classmates had close calls during this past summer. Fires and hurricanes visited the neighborhoods of **Grace Masuda** and **Roger Thompson**. The October 2007, Southern California fire came within a half mile of Grace and her husband Ray's home in Mission Viejo during the fire storms of this past summer. This photo, although fascinatingly beautiful shows the lake just behind their home. They were some of the lucky people and came away with no damage to their home. It was terrifying for them as they were in South Carolina at the time.



**Roger** and his wife, Deema Kay, live in Belize just steps from the Gulf of Mexico. They have often opened their home to friends and family, but when Hurricane Dean visited them in August, they had to prepare differently for their visitor. Besides moving everything to the second floor, they had to be prepared for days without utilities. Lucky them, this is a photo of a mango tree which was blown into their house. Other than that, they fared well.



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*I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.*  
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# FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 1958

### 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

*The date has been set, the place has been booked, the menu has been chosen and we are counting on you being there.*

**When:** Saturday, September 20, 2008

**Where:** Grand Occasions Ballroom

4584 W. Jacquelyn

Fresno, CA 93722

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM brunch

2:00 PM tour of our Alma Mater

6:00 PM no-host cocktails

7:00 PM dinner

**Cost:** Brunch \$20 per person

Dinner \$50 per person

**Golf:** Friday, September 19, 2008

Cost: \$58 per person

This is just a hint of what is in store for us in September 2008. There will be a very special invitation coming in the mail the first week of May, so keep looking for it. The reunion committee is planning on making this very special milestone in our lives one heck of an event. Contact Buddy Arakelian at [Mrcentralv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Mrcentralv@sbcglobal.net) or at 559-229-0850 if you need financial help to attend this fantastic celebration.

Please notify someone on the reunion board of any changes to your personal information. Updates on changes for street address, email address, phone number or name will keep the FHS Class of '58 database in tip-top shape.

**Editor's note:** When contacting any classmate by email, use **FHS, Class of '58** or something similar in the subject line so the email will not be deleted.

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**CONTINUING THIS NEWSLETTER:** Without your support, this newsletter cannot continue to be published. Each issue costs nearly 90 cents and consumes money that can be used towards future reunions or helping others who cannot afford to attend our reunions. Send your tax-deductible check payable to **FHS Class of '58, c/o Buddy Arakelian, 529 W. Scott Ave., Fresno, CA 93704.** Any amount will be greatly appreciated.



    \$5    \$10    \$15    \$25    Other    

**CONTRIBUTORS**

The following classmates have recently made contributions to our newsletter: Dick Baskin, Virginia Collins Rouse, Brent Graham, Judy Headlee Livingston, Marcia Kirkwood Goatley, Bob Knott, Frank Markarian, Judy Martin Dake, Bob Maule, Phil Maytorena, Arlene Mazgedian Cartozian, Barbara Nalbandian Gower, Cecil Newbrough, Bill Raddatz, Larry Schiller, Joyce Shepard Markarian, Connie Spencer Klautdt, Ron Tatum, Sharon Tranberg Kelley, Tom Whitling and Jack Fowler, Chairman, FHS Alumni Association.

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*"Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved." Will Rogers*

**REMEMBER THESE. . . . .**



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