



South Salem High School

Class
of 1963

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

“See You In September ...”

Make Plans to Attend the 45th Reunion

Save September 13, 2008. The place is the Salem Heights Community Hall from 4 to 9 p.m. Please return the registration form you will find in this newsletter.

The reunion committee meets on the second Tuesday each month at the Starbuck’s on Liberty Street (Lipmans building) at 10:30 a.m. You are always welcome to attend. We will need lots of help to make this a memorable event. For those not living in the Salem area, we are looking for people who will call classmates in your area and encourage them to attend. The newsletter database is fairly accurate but we are still missing some classmates (see list below).

Hey all you golfers, want to go a round (nine holes) with your old classmates? Please join us on September 13, 2008 at Salem Golf Course for a 9-Hole, Best Person scramble. The cost will be \$25 per person which includes a cart. You can pick your own foursome, or just sign up. Tee-times will be between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you would like to play, please complete the registration form on the back page. If you have questions contact Dan Hughes at 503/566-7617 or Terri Hillpot Maness at 503/ 588-2041. Payment for the golf will be on the day of the tournament.

We’re Still Looking...

The names on this list are the result of newsletters being returned or no known address. Please check the list below and let us know if you have leads on any of these classmates.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| James Alexander | Karen Fortmiller Flint | Elaine Nelson | Judith Storkan Serlin |
| Michael Anderson | Cheryl Franklin Peck | Courtland Newhardt | Steve Strong |
| Linda Jo Anderson Watts | Robert (Flint) Garinger | David Nicholas | David Swenwold |
| Olivia Berg Mitchell | Linda Gilkison Myers | Nancy Noffsinger | Sharon Thompson |
| McKenzie (Ken) Birrell | Kathy Glenn | Nancy Owen Cherin | Gail Titus Redding Boatwright |
| Richard Boniface | Pam Gruel | James Pankratz | Jerry Tracy |
| Kathleen Glenn Callies | Chris Hashagen | Elaine Pecht | John Varah |
| Dennis Carlson | Carol Haynes | John Reid | Mary Walberg |
| Gerald Chapel | Wayne Jacox | Roger Reimer | Constance Wallace |
| Katy Clyde | Pamela James | Stevie Romander | David Wesley |
| Shirley Coon | Ruthann Jennison McGovern | S.Miles Schlesinger | Lorita Wiley |
| Ray Coopriider | Paul Johnson | Irene Schonek Krouse | Kathy Wilson |
| Kathleen Costa | Janet Jones | Patricia Standal | Russ Witbeck |
| Gladine Crow | Jane Louise Jones | | |
| Schelly Culver | Sharon Knepper | | |
| Joan Davidson | Craig Kuhn (Nofsinger) | | |
| Karlet Davis | Judith Lind Kanoff | | |
| Robert A. Day | Diane Meloy Sandsburn | | |
| Michael Delay | Kathy Merin Strickler | | |
| Marvin Dolezal | Connie Miller Du Priest | | |
| James Donaldson | Verna Miller Benson | | |
| Carol Duggan | Michael Mischke | | |
| Bud Elgin | Paul Mizell | | |
| Ricki Fergeson | Elmer Mortenson | | |
| Steven Ferry | Carol Murrin | | |
| Beverly Jane Fillis | Brian Neary | | |

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Career Paths Bring Classmates Together

On March 4, 2008, Glen H. Johnson wrote:

This photo just may be worthy of print in the next quarterly SSHS '63 newsletter. After only 45 years, Björn Söderfeldt (formerly Persson) and I met at my office at the University of Washington today. He and his wife Arja are in Seattle until Easter and Björn will serve as a Visiting Scholar with us during this time. Is this not an interesting happening? It has been only 45 years since we last saw each other, perhaps at our SSHS graduation. Good thing that we (the Class of '63) do not age, huh?



The coincidence is even more amazing since you had mentioned some time ago that he was on the faculty at the Dental School in Malmö, Sweden. When I checked the website there, I noted that Mats Kronström, the person we just recruited to

become our dental implant director, was Björn's former PhD student. I have known Mats for many years and in fact had the pleasure of hiring him while serving as Acting Chair of our Department. So with Mats in place, Björn had an interest in paying us a visit, and here he is!! Life does take some strange, but nice twists once in a while.

That's the report from Seattle. Maybe Susan and I could host a mini-gathering at our home of local '63 folks while Björn and Arja are here. Do you know who is in the area & who might have known Björn? Sue Palmason and Jack Price are here I know. Is Chauni Taggart still in the area? Chris Holm is at UPS in Tacoma I think. Susan and I will see what might be possible time-wise.

Aging Parents

by Barb Cross

As we were putting together the winter 2007 newsletter, we were very sad at the number of parents that had died recently. Actually, we had debated whether to list all those losses because over the last few years, we have missed many losses to classmates. Our intention is not to exclude anyone.

I'm one of the lucky classmates that still have both parents. When I started writing this article after the loss of Mrs. Stone, my parents were healthy, bright, and independent. I actually felt guilty when one of my friends lost their parent. What can I say to my friend? I haven't felt that loss. I can still call my Mom for support or my Dad for advice.

Last year I moved my parents three times. Several years ago I convinced them that they would be better off closer to me. In order to move into town, they had to give up 6 acres and a beautiful home on the Pudding River. For seven years, they lived two blocks from me off Candalaria Boulevard. When my Dad had trouble navigating the stairs and Mom's 50 roses required constant care, they decided it was time for assisted living. Dad had just turned 90 and Mom was 88. Mom had been baking cookies daily for 30 years. She would have to give up a kitchen. Dad loved to write and check e-mails. He was a creative handyman and mechanic. He would have to give up his garage. He still enjoyed driving Mom around.

We spent months researching and visiting every retirement facility. We put down deposits and waited. When an apartment became available, we geared up mentally and started packing. The new apartment was very small. They grieved over possessions; now they were down to their most important things. They are gregarious and welcoming and fit in the new place immediately. But their independent life wasn't independent any more. They were regimented. Dad said he got up, ate, read the paper, ate,

took a nap, ate, and went to bed. They needed a more active environment.

After more research and the goal of a facility that might include continuing care, they landed at the Marion Estates in Sublimity. They liked the apartment, had a tiny kitchen, and had better meals at the restaurant in their building. BUT, for parents that never had debt, always had their own home and never had paid rent, the single homes being built next to the Marion Estates were too tempting.

Boxing up and unpacking grew easier. We were down to necessities. Emotionally, the move was again hard. They had to give up daily contact with new friends. The weather got icy; Dad's shaky legs couldn't navigate the walk from the parking lot to the restaurant. Mom started cooking again. I started my 30-mile round trip bi-weekly.

When I started this article, I was willing to loan my parents out for those of you needing a quality "parent fix." I could only offer you a fresh cookie, a warm smile, or maybe an extra bay to park your car. My parents rent out cheap and love the company. I warned you about the debates you would get in with my father about the closing of Fairview; hear stories of earlier years, or the value of money in this civilized world. I didn't want you to be surprised when you were given a new knitted scarf or an oil painting. My Mom would offer you a fresh home baked cookie. They like to share.

I've rewritten this article several times over the last month. Dad can no longer work his computer. He just got home from a month in the hospital and skilled nursing. Mom is still baking cookies but wearing thin emotionally and physically. Dad still remembers the old stories but can't remember today, yesterday, or why he feels ill. I'm on a journey. It's a bitter sweet journey of life and death. This article hopes to honor all parents, past and present. Dad died on April 5, 2008.

In Sadness...

The class of '63 lost another member on March 17, 2008 when Laura (Lee) Swearinger lost her battle to cancer. Laura will be missed by all who knew her.

Her good friend, Becky (Lorenz) Gough, wrote a loving tribute to Laura which sums up the kind of person she was. (See article below.)

Other classmates who have lost loved ones are:

Peter Maltby whose mother passed away; Chris Holms lost her father in February and Barb Cross' father passed away in April.

We also lost Jean Potts who taught English at South High.

Notes From Classmates...



Pauline Sisseck writes ...

I have enjoyed receiving the hard copy of the *SSHS Newsletter* for the Class of 1963. Please send future editions to my email address at psisseck@aracnet.com.

I was startled to open the recent issue and see a picture of Steve Sullivan. I didn't remember that he was a high school classmate. I haven't had a chance to mention it to him yet because of the holidays. I also work at Tektronix, Inc. as a legal assistant in intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights) and have had contact with Steve on many occasions in the past 10 years or so.

Pauline L. Sisseck, Aurora, OR

A Friend Remembered...

by Becky (Lorenz) Gough

There was a heartfelt article written about Laura in the *Statesman Journal* recently. It was a thoughtful acknowledgment of her life. Laura was my friend and keeper of my girlfriend secrets and many memories.

We met in the seventh grade in Mr. Lehan's classroom at Leslie Junior High School. I was sitting at a double desk in the front row and Laura sat down next to me. In one breath she said her name was Laura Lee and that she had no middle name and that you pronounced her name *Lara* not *Lora* and she lived in Candalaria and did I think she had too many freckles. I told her that her freckles were amazing and that I particularly liked her pony tail and we did not stop talking for the next 49 years.

When I moved away from Salem, we shared thousands of phone conversations ... we should have thought to buy stock in AT&T.



It was fun growing up in Salem during the sweet years and always nice to return to visit Laura. She kept us up to date with Salem news and old friends. In the last few years Laura was the catalyst that brought a few "best friends" together again for some travel to close and faraway places. In every picture Laura was laughing! She was such good fun! She had fantastic legs!

Laura was a bright spirit and profoundly giving and kind. Her home was always full of family, her boys, their friends, her friends, pets ... flowers from her garden. It was warm, chaotic and wonderful! I will always admire her, love her and celebrate who she was to so many people.

When those of us that knew Laura find time together we will share stories, laugh and reminisce and the joy of knowing her will help to outweigh the loss.



Editor's Note ...

It is spring, isn't it? It's hard to convince me since we are still experiencing snow in the most unlikely places in the Pacific Northwest. Oh, to be back in sunny Palm Springs where shorts are the dress of the day.

Spring is a time of renewal, a fresh beginning, daffodills, cherry blossoms, and that age-old ritual of spring cleaning. Who started that anyway? Out with the old "they" say. What are your springtime memories?

Unfortunately, we are beginning this season without some of our loved ones and some wonderful classmates.

Please take the opportunity to connect or re-connect with classmates. Don't let another year go by! Make plans NOW to be in Salem on September 13.

Bernadette Stone-Barrett
rlbbarrett@aol.com

Thank you ...

The newsletter staff would like to thank Glen Johnson for his recent generous contribution.



South Salem High Class of 1963 45th Class Reunion GOLF REGISTRATION FORM



Please return this form with your Reunion Registration

Sept. 13th • Salem Golf Club, River Road S. • Tee times between 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Format: 9-Hole - 4 person scramble (If you wish to form a team, list players below;
otherwise we will place you on a team.) Green fees are \$25 per person (to be paid at Salem Golf Club)

Cancellation is not needed and carts are included in the green fees

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ E-mail _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

4 person scramble team

Questions: Contact Dan Hughes at danh@johnlscott.com or call 503/566-7617

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sue (Gleckler) Palmason
8417 Main Street, Unit D
Edmonds, WA 98026

SHS Class of 1963 Newsletter

