



# South Salem High School

## Class of 1963 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

### *Dave Johnson Awarded National Honor*

*By Gary Allen*



**G**reetings fellow 1963 Saxons. I am writing to share news about a terrific award one of our classmates, Dave Johnson, was selected to receive and which was presented to him in Nashville, Tennessee in July of

this year.

Now, some background: As you remember, Dave was a star running back on the Saxon football team (and my special buddy since before we attended the first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class together at Judson Junior High School). From Judson on to South. After South, I headed to Oregon State on a 4-year basketball scholarship and Dave headed to OSU on a 4-year football scholarship. After graduation, Dave became the head football coach at Lebanon High for a number of years. Then, when Marv Heater (our football coach at South) retired, Dave became the head football coach at South for 10 or 12 years. Marv left during that time to take another position at another Salem high school. Dick Ballantyne (my basketball coach and the head basketball coach at South since it opened in 1954) took over as Athletic Director at South after Marv. When Dick retired, Dave retired as head South football coach and became South's Athletic Director, a position he held for 10 or 12 years until his retirement. Dave then joined Marv again, this time in running the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association in Salem. This organization is comprised of any high school coach in Oregon at any level who chooses to join. The membership is very large and it's a big job running the Oregon Coaches Association. Recently, Marv retired and Dave took over as the Executive Director of this organization. He just never stops!

Now, we are just about to where you discover what Dave has been awarded and why. Each of the 50 states has a Coaches Athletic Association. All 50 state associations belong to the National Federation of State High School

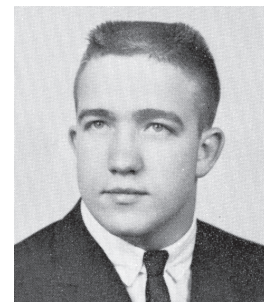
Associations, a very large outfit located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

As you can see, Dave has given to high school sports and activities for the bulk of his life. What Dave was selected to receive is the very prestigious National Federation Citation Award. Why Dave received it should be obvious, but to quote the National Federation, "The award is given to one individual who has made exemplary, significant and long-standing contributions to high school sports and activities." I would emphasize the words one, exemplary, significant and long standing. Those words are simply an exact description of Dave. I'm sure you join me in congratulating Dave in this most well-deserved award. I am thrilled and proud of him. I count myself lucky to have been his best buddy all these years.

Should anyone want to congratulate Dave personally, you can e-mail him at [oregoncoach@msn.com](mailto:oregoncoach@msn.com) or write him at Oregon Athletic Coaches Association, 3295 Triangle Drive, SE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97302.

GO SAXONS!! Looking forward to seeing all of you in August 2013!

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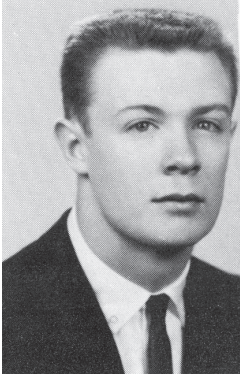


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# 2012 Winter Youth Olympics Volunteer

*By Jack Sparks*



The Olympic Games were an exciting introduction to me when I first heard of the 1956 summer games in Melbourne, Australia from my grade school teacher.

My wife, Cindy, and I traveled to Vancouver, B.C. as I retired in 2010 and had a great time watching many events at that Winter Olympics. At just about that time a former co-worker of mine mentioned that he was going to volunteer for the first Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria in 2012. My wife had vacationed in Austria, I had always wanted to visit that country and we decided to pursue the contact information and sign up as volunteers ourselves.

We were accepted in the fall of 2011, were told we'd be assigned management jobs in the Olympic Village, and then decided to make final travel plans.

We arrived in Innsbruck a few days earlier than was necessary and soon found out that our jobs were to be greeters, facilitators, and security support staffers at the village breakfast pavilion. We were fortunate to spend each morning greeting and getting to know some of the young athletes.

We had plenty of time to ourselves visiting the different venues and watching events such as the Opening Ceremonies, Super G skiing, Speed Skating finals, USA vs. Russia hockey match, Figure Skating, and Ski Jumping. It was fun to cheer for a few of the young world-class athletes we had just met a few days earlier.

We had a trip we'll never forget. As we flash back and recall this recent experience, we think of the actual events and the beauty of this city in winter surrounded by the Alps. Yet some of the people we met remain some of our happiest memories.

- I traded Olympic pins with a Norwegian skier traveling with a few buddies that couldn't stop singing his country's drinking songs.
- Cindy became fond of the Austrian woman security guard that she talked with each morning.

- We met a fun young German couple at the top of an Innsbruck mountain (that had been an important ski location at the 1976 Winter Olympics Games) that introduced us to hot chocolate and rum.
  - We met a coach from India that was delighted to present us with hand-made caps from his country.
  - Cindy was very pleased when she was able to persuade the entire Russian hockey team to pose for a group picture. A few athletes even smiled!
- We're very glad we took this opportunity to spend two weeks with young athletes and volunteers from over 70 countries. The second winter Youth Olympics Games will be in Lillehammer, Norway in 2016. We'll likely not volunteer but recommend this unique travel idea to any classmates that seek a memorable adventure.



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## Leslie Pep Band!

*Photo provided by Jim Tilton*



*Back row: Jack McNeil, Jack Gilmore, Jack Sparks, Cary Buchanan*  
*Front Row: Judson Bressler, Tom Payne, Howard Phillips, Jim Tilton*

# SAVE THE DATE: 50 YEAR REUNION

AUGUST 23, 2013

FRIDAY NIGHT AT MAGOO'S

AUGUST 24, 2013

SATURDAY NIGHT AT ILLAHE

Setting the date has been the main goal of some Salem classmates. Our next goal is to locate missing classmates. If you have investigative skills and want to be a part of that team, let us know.

A 9-hole golf tournament is planned for Friday or Saturday as well as a tour of South Salem High School.

From classic cars to old gathering places, your ideas on making this a memorable weekend are welcomed and encouraged. More information will be posted in the next newsletter and on our website.

If you have questions, suggestions, have found a missing classmate or changed your contact information, send a note to: [contact@sshs63.com](mailto:contact@sshs63.com)

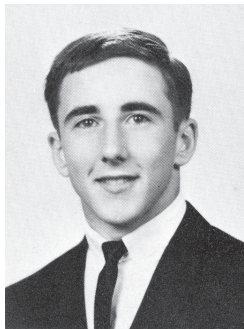
You can always help the Class of 1963 by sending in notes, short articles, old pictures, or updates for our next newsletter.

The Website: [sshs63.com](http://sshs63.com) will have lots of information on upcoming events.

Of special interest will be news about the 50th Class Reunion. Please check regularly on the progress!



# Notes From Classmates...



*Wally Ogdahl  
writes ...*

**W**hen I finished high school I went to Oregon State University to get a business degree and wrestle for the Beavers. I wrestled all four years. We were always one of the top 5th, 6th or 7th team in the nation. I graduated in June of 1967.

I had already been accepted at Willamette University of Law School and paid my deposit and rented an apartment when I got my Polk County draft notice June 1967. They told me I had no choice, that I was going into the military and after a few "but..." I decided that since I finished college, I might as well go to Officer Candidate School. I did that, then spent a year in Vietnam with 10 1/2 months outside the wire with the 1st Battalion 7th Marine Infantry about 25 miles west of Da Nang.

I had always figured that I would think about marriage or a serious girlfriend when I finished law school. Law school was now delayed four years. By the time my tour in Vietnam was coming to an end, I decided that life's too short and I would settle down some. My wife Janet was a good friend all through college. She was a buyer for Macy's in San Francisco by the time I got out of Vietnam so I was able to get myself stationed in San Francisco guarding the Naval Air Station at Alameda, CA in the San Francisco Bay. I got married six months after I got back from Vietnam. This August will be 42 years of marriage.

We had our first child, a son Toby, 9 months after I finished law school and our daughter, Katy, 14 months after that. My wife, Janet and I have the good fortune to have both our kids living in Salem, Oregon. My son Toby is a finance guy with Valley Motors and my daughter Katy is a teacher's coach in the Salem/Keizer School District. I have a 4-year-old grandson from Katy and her husband, Kelly Naff, and a 2-year-old grandson from my son Toby and his wife-to-be Elisha. They were married in Hawaii the end of April.

My schedule has slowed down a bit as I work out over lunch four days a week and golf Thursday afternoons with my golf buddies that used to include George Robb. Buzz Steelhammer golfs with us sometimes, too.

We care for the two grandboys normally three days a week and our kids and grandkids vacation with us. I work because I enjoy it and because I can and because I have spent the last 38 years building the experience and credibility with those darn insurance companies.

What's really rewarding at now 67 years of age is that every once in awhile someone will say "Aren't you Wally Ogdahl?" (They recognized me.)

Sincerely yours,  
W. Wallace Ogdahl  
[wogdahl@yahoo.com](mailto:wogdahl@yahoo.com)



*Paula Frederick  
Garlich writes ...*

**G**reetings from sunny, "warm" Arizona, where we desert dwellers don't consider it "hot" until the temperature is between 110-120... it is only 102 degrees today, it's a

"dry" heat too!

My husband Phil and I have lived in Arizona 42 years this coming September. Our four sons were born and raised here in the "Valley of the Sun." We love to travel and as the boys were growing up took advantage of every opportunity we had, exploring the world around us. As a result, our oldest son and his family are the only ones still in Phoenix, giving us the good fortune of visiting the others and their families, wherever they might be!

This past March we headed for Buenos Aires, Argentina, where, on St. Patrick's Day, our third son, Matt married a beautiful, Argentinian woman, named Cecilia Andrea Eis. Matt has been living in Buenos Aires almost seven years now and works for an American company, Vostu, that makes games for cell phones. The wedding was held at an estancia (ranch) about an hour and a half outside the city of Buenos Aires, near a little town called, San Antonio de Areco.



This is our third trip to South America since Matt has lived there; and during our first two trips, we traveled extensively in the north and south of Argentina. Since many friends (including Mary Griffith) had traveled down from the states for the wedding, we thought it a perfect opportunity to expand our horizons and travel to Peru and Machu Picchu and knock it off our "bucket list." We flew to Lima and spent three days exploring the museums,

cathedrals, beaches, parks and eating the delicious Peruvian food...NO, we did not eat guinea pig, which Peruvians consider a delicacy!

Our next stop, Cusco and the "Sacred Valley of the Incas," where we drank cocoa tea to aid us in acclimating to the altitude before heading to Machu Picchu. The altitude in Cusco is 11,500 feet, higher than Machu Picchu, which is 7,790 feet above sea level. I absolutely fell in love with Cusco...the history, the culture and legacy of the Incas and indigenous people is fascinating, to say the least! Many of the indigenous living there today still live as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago, the colorful, vibrant clothing that they wear, the Colonial architecture in the plaza and surrounding areas, the Andes, the Pisac Market with the varieties of potatoes, corn and spices. However, what struck me the most about Cusco was the beautiful, strong, proud, magnificent faces of the Peruvian people...spectacular! I am definitely going back!!!

We did not walk the 8-day trek along the Inca Trail...a bus, a train and 3+ hours later we arrived! Machu Picchu was discovered by Hiram Bingham, a professor at Yale University, in 1911. Due to the elevation it was not found and destroyed by the Spanish Conquistadors when they invaded South America in the 1400's...it was the last stronghold of the Incas and one of the most important cultural sites in Latin America today! An engineering masterpiece and truly, a site of awe and wonder.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 50th reunion in August 2013.

*Paula (Frederick) Garlick*



of newsletter). We also need your "news" contributions. Please send a short article about yourself – a memorable trip you have taken, how you are spending your time in retirement (if you've taken that big step), second careers you may have started (or wonderful hobbies). In general, what are you doing now? It's helpful if news and any accompanying photos are submitted electronically to Barb Cross – [barb.cross@comcast.net](mailto:barb.cross@comcast.net).

If you are still receiving the newsletter in print form, and you do have a working email address, please consider providing that electronic address to Bernadette (Stone) Barrett ([rlbdbarrett@aol.com](mailto:rlbdbarrett@aol.com)) or Barb. Any time we can reduce the number of print issues for USPS mailing, our costs go down. Thank you.

Our special thanks to the following classmates who made financial contributions since the last newsletter:

Mary Griffith

Gary Allen

I must also add appreciation to my cohorts on the "news" team: Barb (Hoxsey) Cross, Bernadette (Stone) Barrett, Sharon (Johnson) Bradford, and Vicki (Andrews) Sanders. Without them, continuation of a published class newsletter since 2004 and development of a class website might have been impossible. Roses to you as well!

## Missing Classmates

Shirley Coon  
Ray Coopridier  
Schelly Culver  
Joan Davidson  
Karlet Davis  
Robert A. Day  
Marvin Dolezal  
James Donaldson  
Carol Duggan  
Mary Jean Eller  
Ricki Fergeson  
Steven Ferry  
Beverly Jane Fillis  
Larry Fisher  
Stephen Fletchall  
Karen Fortmiller Flint  
Linda Gilkison Myers  
Gary Fries  
Pam Gruel  
Carol Haynes  
Joan Johnson Hudson  
Max L. Huff  
Ruthann Jennison  
McGovern  
Paul Johnson  
Joan Johnson  
Janet Jones

Jane Louise Jones  
Joseph King  
Craig Kuhn  
(Nofsinger)  
Judith Lind Kanoff  
Diane Meloy  
Sandsburn  
Kathy Merin Strickler  
Verna Miller Benson  
Michael E. Mischke  
Elmer Mortenson  
Virginia Moudy  
Carol Murrin  
Elaine Nelson  
David Nicholas  
Nancy Owen Cherin  
Elaine Pecht  
John Reid  
Stevie Romander  
Rosemary Salchenberg  
Richard Sanders  
Patricia Standal  
David Swenwold  
Sharon Thompson  
Gail Titus Redding  
Boatwright  
Mary Walberg  
Kathy Wilson

## Newsletter Contributors:



**W**ow! Can you believe that the SSHS'63 class newsletter has been produced since 2004? That's a lot of published issues! We could not have done this (or begun developing a class website) without the ongoing financial support from others in our class. Our classmates always seem

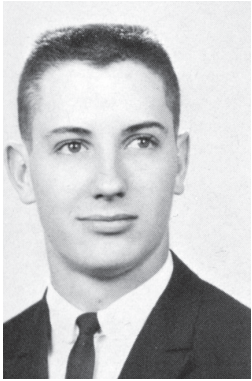
to step up to the plate, at just the right time, to contribute generously. Roses to you!

If you have not yet contributed to the SSHS'63 class news, and would like to do so, please send a check, in any amount, payable to Sue Palmason (see address on the front



## Some Thoughts...

*The following poem and comments were submitted by Gary Allen we felt they were more than appropriate due to the loss of several classmates and friends. Thank you, Gary for sharing this with all of us.*



**G**ary writes, "If you love someone, tell them. Remember always to say what you mean. Never be afraid to express yourself. Take this opportunity to tell someone what they meant to you. Seize the day and have no regrets. Most importantly, stay close to your friends and family, for they have helped make you the person that you are today and are what it's all about anyway. Pass this along to your friends. Let it make a difference in your day and theirs.

The difference between expressing love and having regrets is that regrets may stay around forever."

### ***AROUND THE CORNER***

*by Charles Hanson Towne*

Around the corner I have a friend,  
In this great city that has no end,  
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,

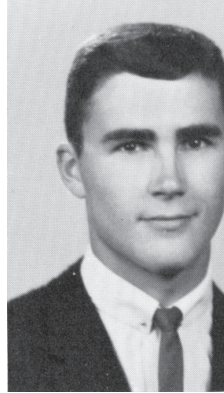
And before I know it, a year is gone.  
And I never see my old friends face,  
For life is a swift and terrible race,  
He knows I like him just as well,  
As in the days when I rang his bell.

And he rang mine but we were younger then,  
And now we are busy, tired men.  
Tired of playing a foolish game,  
Tired of trying to make a name.

"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim  
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."  
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,  
And distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner, yet miles away,  
"Here's a telegram sir," "Jim died today."  
And that's what we get and deserve in the end.  
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

## In Sadness...

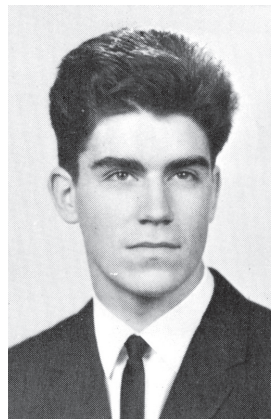


### ***SHAWN (JEFF) HOGENSEN***

Shawn Hogensen, AKA Norman Jeffrey Hogensen, was born June 24, 1945 in Salt Lake City, son of Norman and Martha Hogensen. He peacefully left this world surrounded by loving family in December 2011.

He is survived by his son, Chris Hogensen and granddaughter Piper Hogensen (of Salem OR), brother Greg Hogensen and sister-in-law Diana Hogensen (Lake Oswego OR), sister Jane Buck and brother-in-law Sam Buck (Friday Harbor, WA) and Life Care Family Cindy Gerkman, Brandon Gerkman, Tyler Gerkman and Della Parris (Salem, OR).

Graduated South Salem High School in 1963. Was a VISTA Volunteer in Alabama. Lived on the Ogala Lakota Reservation in 1973. Returned to Salem and for 30 years inspired people around him as a master wood and stone carver. His beautiful signs, doors and sculptures express a variety of themes: nature, Native American, Mediterranean, Spanish, Asian Mandalay, Alaska Native, Art Nouveau. Mostly at home in nature he hunted, fished and camped all around the beautiful Northwest.



### ***ROBERT DAVID GILLIAM***

1945 - 2010

SALEM - Robert David Gilliam passed away on the evening of Oct. 29, 2010, after bravely fighting a long illness. He went peacefully to be with the Lord surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife, Claudia; his daughters, Karli, Tracy, Kristi and Shelly; his son, Robby; as well as his grandchildren, Kaenan, Ashton, Samuel, Juniper and Allison. Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. He served in the Marine Corps and in the Marine Corps Reserve for over 10 years.

*Continued on page 7*

## *In Sadness ... continued from page 6*

He was a self-made business man for over 30 years owning three grocery stores. He enjoyed golfing, flying airplanes, fishing and traveling. He was married to the love of his life for 34 years and was very proud of his family. He was the cornerstone of the family and will be greatly missed and never forgotten.



### **NAOMI FAST POPPE**

March 4, 1945 - May 1, 2012

Naomi Ruth was born on March 4th, 1945 in Dallas, Oregon to Abraham and Irma Fast; was educated in Salem, Oregon and Wheaton College; followed by marriage to Roger on August 19th, 1967 in Salem. God blessed their union with

two children, Alisa and Matthew. Naomi was a loving mother, faithful pastor's wife and ministry partner, as they served churches in Oregon, Washington and California. Secondary to her family and church roles was her career as an administrative assistant at Whitworth College, Woodland Medical Clinic, Freymiller Trucking and California State University in Bakersfield. She and Roger enjoyed traveling together, particularly to Europe and Africa to visit their children, and to Israel, that most unique land where our Lord walked, taught, died and rose.

Naomi passed away on May 1st in her Bakersfield home and will forever be loved by her husband, Roger; children, Alisa and Matt; daughter-in-law, Lisa; grandchildren, Sam and Annie; brother Tim Fast and wife Anita; sister, Marion Holmstrom; 8 nieces and nephews.



### **ARTHUR RUSSELL CHRISTIENSEN**

Social Studies Teacher

July 23, 1935 - March 19, 2012

SALEM -Arthur Russell "Art" Christiansen passed away suddenly on March 19, 2012, surrounded by

family and friends. Art was born on July 23, 1935 to Dr. Russell and Agnes Christiansen in Bend, OR. He grew up in Redmond and graduated from Redmond High School in 1953; he graduated from Willamette University in 1957 and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Art went to work for the Salem Keizer School District, starting as a social studies teacher at South Salem High School. He then went to Oregon State University to complete his masters in education with an emphasis in counseling and then worked at the Central Office. Art married Annette Bjorkman on March 18, 1960. They were married 52 years. Art also served in the Oregon National Guard for 23 years and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was the assistant principal at Sprague High School from 1972 until 1981 and later worked at McNary High School in the same capacity until his retirement in 1992. From 1992 to 1999, he was a conference coordinator for the Confederation of School Administrators (COSA).

He had a deep appreciation and love of nature and wildlife. On his daily walks, the crows knew exactly where he was on his route by seeing his green Ducks hat and they knew he had peanuts as treats.



### **DICK BALLANTYNE**

South Salem High School teacher and coach, Dick Ballantyne, passed away recently after struggling with some health issues. He was the first boy's basketball coach at South High when it opened in 1954-55. Most of our class would remember Dick fondly as he was an

outstanding coach that led many state tournaments. He resigned his basketball position and became the Athletic Director in the early 70's. He retired from South in the last 80's. His wife, Pat, also taught at South High for many years and their son, Jon, continues to teach science for the Saxons. Dick was a good man who influenced many of our class such as players, Gary Allen, Marv Dolezal, Glen Johnson and others. He will be missed by all.

## *Our Sympathies...*

*We extend our thoughts and sympathies to the following classmates who have lost loved ones.*

Both Dave Johnson and Gary Sander's lost their mothers in May, 2012.

Jack Gilmore's father passed away in June, 2012

## Editor's Note ...



Another "congratulations" to Dave Johnson for his contribution to high school sports. This is a well-deserved national honor! So many of our classmates have contributed to our communities and beyond through our careers and volunteer activities. It makes me proud to be part of a class that gives back through our everyday efforts in meaningful ways.

It was so good to hear from so many of you since the last newsletter. We want to hear from more of you! As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, please look through the list of missing classmates. We want to make sure that all of our classmates know about this memorable event. Let me know if you are in touch with anyone or have a clue about how we might find them. Once again, thanks for your help!

*Bernadette Barrett - rlbdbarrett@aol.com*

## Dave Johnson ... continued from page 1

NOTE: In a news article about Johnson's award, the Statesman Journal reported that part of his position as Executive Director of the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association is about making connections, and he has made many during his 45 years spent working in high school sports. "I'm a lucky guy, I know that," Johnson said. "I've worked hard and one of the things in this profession, we have a lot of avenues for people to get recognized. We don't do that in most professions. There are a lot of great other people doing great things. Coaches do that for each other."

### **Blog: [sshs63.blogspot.com](http://sshs63.blogspot.com)**

Currently the blog has the most up-to-date information about our events and happenings.

All past newsletters are posted also.