



# South Salem High School

## Class of 1963 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

### Miss Amanda Anderson: A Remembrance

*The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains.  
The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.*

—WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD



*By Kathy Hall Highcove*

One cool fall day, several decades ago, I found a seat in Miss Amanda Anderson's public speaking class, very conscious that I sat amongst class leaders, practiced public speakers, and charismatic drama club members. Since I'd spent much of my earlier education in Salem's Catholic schools, my classmates were acquaintances, but none were close friends. I was a shy, stay-below-the-radar type teen who enjoyed English and language classes and had never willingly participated in public speaking events.

So ... why was I there? Well, Miss Anderson was a South Salem teacher who had earned my mother's approval. Mom, an English teacher herself, considered Miss Anderson to be a capable, knowledgeable instructor. My older sister had been a member of South's first speech and debate team, and my older brother had been in her sophomore English class. A year with Miss Anderson had become a family tradition.

"Just give her speech class a try," my mother urged. "I think she'll help you become more confident if you learn public speaking skills. You'll need those skills in college." So I took the plunge.

I remember that my new classmates were a disparate group. Some were natural extroverts looking for a new place to emote; some were experienced speakers and debaters from earlier teams. And some were like me - total newbies who were generally uncomfortable in the spotlight.

Thus, Miss Amada Anderson, like her coaching peers around the country, found a group of both untried and

experienced talents assembled for her speech and debate team. The new team members felt a bit awkward working together at first, but we quickly got down to business. Miss Anderson made it clear that she expected to bring a well-trained team to the first speech competition. She'd certainly do her job coaching us, and she certainly expected us to do our part - just like members of South's hard working athletic teams.

Yes, Miss Anderson wholeheartedly enjoyed coaching teams for speech competitions and she clearly relished her winning reputation in forensic circles. But back in the classroom, she wasn't one to sit back and admire her trophies. Every year, she efficiently did her homework on the topics up for that year's debates, made sure all reference materials were available, and found places on campus for her teams to practice their speeches. "Taking Care of Business" as Elvis used to warble.

Interestingly, I don't recall that Miss Anderson gushed over her best speakers. To the contrary, in my humble opinion, she seemed very democratic. Simply put, everyone, stars and lesser lights, were expected to work

*Continued on page 2*



### In This Issue ...

Miss Amanda Anderson: A Remembrance	
— by Kathy Hall Highcove.....	1
In Sadness - Max Huff.....	2
Notes From Classmates — Jim Pierce.....	3
Seattle Reunion .....	3
Fall Get-Together .....	3
Contributions .....	3
A Birthday Party.....	Back Cover

## *Miss Amanda Anderson: A Remembrance*

*Continued from Page 1*



hard and gawd help the show-boat team member who slacked off and gave her attitude. She quickly let them know who was boss. Her glare was like being strafed by a lighthouse beam.

As the semester wound on, I found a debate partner, Nancy Sullivan, another newbie. Together we researched our pro and con arguments, labored over note cards, and worked on the all-important summaries. In competitions we tried to present our arguments with self-assurance. But, getting real, we were nervous as two skittish cats, and won few debates in opening rounds.

At the end of that first semester, I visited Miss Anderson after school and timorously suggested that perhaps, gulp, I should drop out of speech and debate. I told her that I didn't really feel like a winner and doubted that I could help the team in up-coming competitions. Miss Anderson peered at me over her half-moon reading glasses, pursed her lips and said, "No, I think you should certainly stay in this class and keep trying. You'll be fine."

So, I stayed. And as the weeks and contests went by, I did indeed improve, and gained better scores in the competitions. I tried to project a poised persona and to perceive the audience as friendly on-lookers, not harsh critics. In other words, I gained confidence. I may have been a mediocre debater, but I eventually discovered that

I had a talent for reading humorous short stories. I started to have fun. Finally, I felt like I contributed to the team.

At the end of the year, Miss Anderson organized a very special evening – a dinner at a team member's home to honor the graduating team members. We seniors were asked to bring a parent or a guest to the little party. My mother, who'd never seen me compete, was my guest. After dinner, several seniors gave a short orations or light-weight extemporaneous speeches. I performed a humorous reading that had been well received in competitions.

My mother smiled and laughed as she proudly watched me do my thing. I felt very grateful to Miss Anderson, who sat next to Mom with a slightly smug smile on her face. Yes, that was a good evening, and memorable finish to my time on the South Salem speech and debate team.

South High's debate squad took third place honors at the state debate tournament in Corvallis. Bob Jones, Cathy Stone, Bjorn Persson, and Mike Harrell represented the Saxon debaters, coached by Miss Amanda Anderson. The debaters have entered approximately a dozen contests and have received more than twelve trophies and awards. They have gained recognition as the outstanding speech team in the state. Members of National Forensics League (speech honorary) are President, Bob Jones; Vice-President, Mike Harrell; Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Chisme; Kathy Hall, Nancy Sullivan, Bjorn Persson, Anne Holwegner, Mary Anne Axford, Sally Clinker, Marty Steinbock, Ken Sherman, Mary Jane Freeburn, Cathy Stone, John Chu, Marilyn Dyer, Steven Guidinger, and Bob Cummins.



## *In Sadness...*

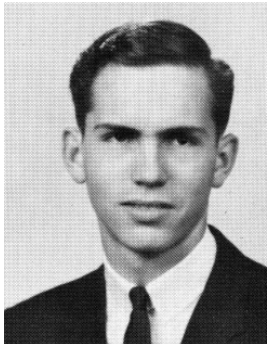


*We just learned of the passing of Max Huff, our classmate passed away on October 19, 2014. We extend our sympathies to his family.*



## Notes From Classmates...

## Seattle Reunion



*Jim Pierce writes ...*

**J**ust viewed the Viet Nam travelling memorial wall last night.

It was in Madera for four days. It had been in Fresno a few years ago.

It is going to Temecula then to Michigan. Charles Franklin Burrell is on 17w, row 60.

There is positively no way to find the name you are looking for among the 58,000 names, without going to a docent and looking in this 1 1/2 inch book. A moving and sad experience. You think but for the grace of God..... And what great things and family Chuck could have fostered. But, Air Force Lt. Charles Franklin Burrell is one name among 58,000 on a wall.

*Jim*



*Chris Holm Kline hosted a tour of the Seattle Art Museum. Glen & Susan Johnson, Dan and Roxanne Withers, Ron and Barb Cross, Steve Schendel '62 and Debby Kemper attended.*

## September Get-together at Strangeland Winery!

*September 10, 2014, a group of Saxons met at the Stangeland Winery in West Salem.*

*Gail Miller Jones and her brother Larry Miller hosted the potluck. Attending were*

*Roger Appelgate, Dan and Mary*

*Ellis Hughes, Cobe Grabenhorst, Connie*

*Wallace, Mike and Janey Parker, Dennis*

*Ward Duncan, Mary Howser and John*

*McLurg, Ty and Jan Auld Sermon, Ole and*

*Corinne Klinger Olson, Roger Monette,*

*Anne Byerley and Hal Wineland, Judy*

*Wright Greiner, Frieda Flint (Karen Fort-*

*miller) and Tim Greiner, Dave Rowe, Mike*

*Mischke, Buzz Steelhammer, Jim and Tish Forbes Shinn, Jeanne Cannon, Melissa Duniway Holland, Miles Schlesinger, Howard and Randi Phillips, Ron and Barb Cross, Mike Delay, and Cheryl Henry.*



## Thank You from Sue Gleckler Palmason

**I**sn't it great, after all these years and when we are so scattered geographically, that we can continue to read about classmate activities via the newsletter and/or on our website ([www.sshs63.com](http://www.sshs63.com))? It is also great that classmates find these connections useful enough to make financial contributions to support ongoing newsletter production and to maintain our website. Sharon (Johnson) Bradford continues to be graphic designer extraor-

dinaire for the newsletter and Barb (Hoxsey) Cross does such a wonderful job as our web guru.

We appreciate Roger Appelgate's and Paula Frederick Garlick's contribution, received since the last newsletter was sent. If you would like to contribute, please send a check (payable to Sue Palmason) and it will be put to excellent "news" use. Please note that my mailing address has changed, as printed on the back page of the newsletter.

# Happy 70th Birthday South Salem High Class of 1963

June 20, 2015 - 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Best Little Roadhouse

1145 Commercial Street, SE - Salem

No Host Party but there will be meals,  
appetizers and drinks available.

Also there will be Birthday Cake!

Please RSVP to  
Karen "Frieda" Fortmiller Flint at  
[friedaflint@gmail.com](mailto:friedaflint@gmail.com)

or  
Barb Cross at [barb.cross@comcast.net](mailto:barb.cross@comcast.net)

