



# South Salem High School

## Class of 1963 NEWSLETTER

2023 Reunion Newsletter

## CLASS OF 1963 TOURS SOUTH!

Our celebration began Saturday morning with a wonderful tour of our Alma mater to see all the changes that were made when Leslie Junior High was incorporated as part of South.

It certainly brought back memories for those attending. From the entry way that looked so big when we first arrived to the hall lockers that brought back the fear of forgetting your locker combination and being late! Seems all of us had the same fears and anxiety, who knew?

We were joined by Tara Romine, South High Principal and led by Tim Gregory, Head Custodian at South who was a wealth of knowledge in all the changes.



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# Tour Photos...

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*Gary, Doug and Mike all smiles as we enjoy the first stop on our tour.*



*Mackenzie and Bill with Tara Romine, South High Principal*



*Lee, Larry, Mackenzie, JoAnn and Gary.*



*Above: In the Lobby of the Rose Theater anxiously waiting to get in to see the remodeled venue and we were not disappointed! Below is a photo of this beautiful, state-of-the art theater. It was made large enough to be used for community functions as well as South High Drama productions.*



*Doug, Mike, Bill, Dwayne and Bernie taking in the beautiful kitchen facilities. South High students even do catering.*



*Inner courtyard. Note: There are two courtyards. A person can purchase a brick with their name and year they graduated or in memory of someone.*



*Continued on page 3*



# Tour Photos...

Continued from page 2



Bernie and Richard  
outside the new gym



Left: Tennis courts



New turf on the football field



Below: Stadium sky box



Left: New gym  
interior

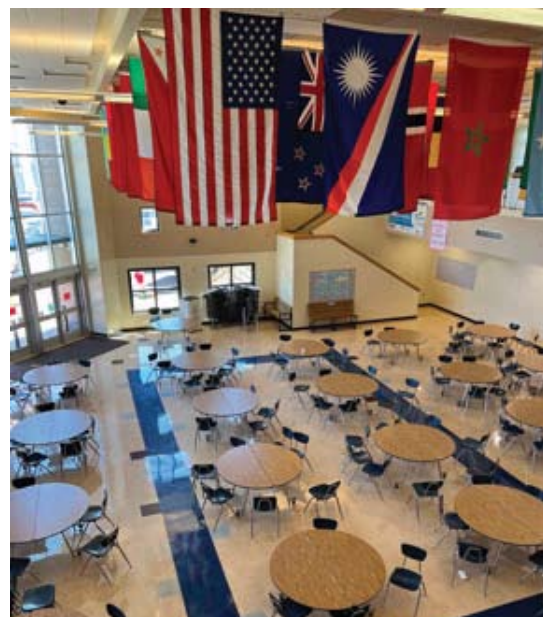


Below:  
Main gym

Two views of the beautiful commons area, above is a view looking at all the flags on display. Below is the view looking down on the area.



As we ended the  
tour Lee Clark  
seems to be  
remembering his  
days at South!





# CLASS OF 1963 PARTIES AT ILLAHE!

Our celebration ended Saturday evening with a wonderful gathering at the beautiful Illahe Country Club in South Salem. A wonderful array of food was presented as well as the memorabilia distributed around the room, all put together by a group of Classmates that worked tirelessly to make this a success!

A chance to visit, to share a laugh and to shed a tear when we visited the area dedicated to those classmates that have passed on. Enjoy the photos!



*Toby and Vicki*



*Bernie and Bob chat while Zack looks over the Memorial Boards*



*Kathy*

*Clark, Lark, Mackenzie, Phyllis, Carol and JoAnn.*



*Continued on page 5*



# Party Photos...

*Continued from page 4*



*Cobe*

*Connie  
and Dan*



*Dave, Kris, Dan and Toby*



*MC for the evening  
Dave*



*Dan, Roxanne  
and Kathy*

*David Zeit*



*Janet, Barb, Mary and Linda*



*Gary, Denny and Gary O*



*Jim and  
Miles*

*Kirk Gresham*



*Didi, Lark, Ty and Cathy*

*Continued on page 6*



# Party Photos...

*Continued from page 5*



*Janet and Joyce*



*John and Kelly*



*Pauline*

*Below: John, Roger and Corinne*



*Karl,  
Miles  
and  
Janet*



*Kirk, Sally and Buzz*



*Kris, Ty, Wayne, Pauline, Lark, Sue, Barb and Mike*



*Len and Zach*

*Continued on page 7*



## Party Photos...

*Continued from page 6*



*Mike  
Delay*



*Mike, Gary and Gary*



*Melissa, Karl,  
Sharon and Mike*

*Mackenzie  
and John*



## THE AWESOME COMMITTEE



*Pictures above L-R front row:  
Sue Maris Hill (location and  
food), Kris Campbell Lockhard  
(treasurer), Denny Ward (greeter  
and advisor), Frieda (Karen)  
Fortmiller Flint (name tags), Ber-  
nadette Stone Barrett (locating  
classmates and data base. Back  
row L-R: Miles Schlesinger (advi-  
sor), David Avison (Master of  
Ceremonies), Barb Hoxsey Cross  
(communications).*

*Not pictured: Phyllis Jenks Bauer  
(decorations), Glen Johnson and  
Cobe Grabenhorst (advisors)*

*Photographer for the event was Avery Cross,  
granddaughter of Ron and Barb Cross*

# Reunion Notes From Classmates....

Nancy and I will not be in Oregon then and won't be able to attend. It would be especially great to tour SSHS. Have a great time!

*Roy and Nancy Davidson*

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I will not be able to make this one. We are going to be hiking in Switzerland for 6 weeks during that date. I'm sorry to miss this one as I was looking forward to being there. My best wishes to all who are able to make it.

*Roger Appelgate*

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I just received the announcement of the (I cannot believe how many years) 60th class reunion. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend, and wish it were possible. I believe everyone will have the best time renewing friendships. We are very involved in the various activities offered to us.

I wish I could be there in August, and it looks like it is not possible for me at this time. I enjoyed the breakfasts we used to do in years past. We have been here for four years and do like it a lot, we are full-time. I loved the newsletter and your letter to us. Thank you. A time of life of appreciation for all those who have entered into and been in our lives in such good ways. I am grateful. So, thanks. Take care and I hope to hear through the newsletter about the fun times at the reunion in August. I also wish I were able to be there to see and visit with everyone. I know it will be a wonderful time. I am sad I will not be there to see everyone. I hope there will be photos later on. I know it will be a great and fun time. It looks like a good turnout.

*Take care,*

*Mary (Hubert) Stewart-Hedberg*

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I appreciate all the effort all you, and everyone else, are putting into this reunion. I don't have a place to stay in Salem and a hotel just feels all wrong after having lived there for such a crucial time of my life. But, your persistence is really making me think about how I can make this happen. My cell: 413-336-2315

*With gratitude,*

*Ariane Neiman Goodwin*

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As you all may know, my beloved David passed away just over a year ago now. His wish was to have his ashes spread in the Bitter Root Mountains near Thermopolis, Wyoming. It has taken much planning and a pot load of help from his family who still live in that area, but in mid July I am taking David home. I won't be able to travel again so soon after Wyoming so regretfully I am letting you wonderful people know that I won't be attending. Please say "hi" to the gang for me.

*Love always,*

*Carol (Davis) Shelp*

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Enjoy the reunion!

*Darlene McCormack (Thomas)*

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I will not be attending the 60th Class Reunion. Recently my wife passed away and I am currently in the process of going through all the changes this has brought about. I am disappointed as we were planning to attend the reunion and see friends and relatives. I trust in the near future I will be coming down to Salem and hope at that time to see some of the old friends from South Salem High. I wish you great success with the reunion and thank you for your excellent efforts to keep all in touch with one another!

*With Best Regards,*

*Jack Price*

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I will not be able to attend the reunion. My wife, Peggy Vigeland has developed a medical issue and it is very difficult for her to travel. We both will miss seeing everyone at the reunion and send our regards to everyone.

*All the best,*

*Jim Price*

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I will not be able to attend, I am down in HOT Arizona have not been back to Oregon in along time, I am sure you will all have a super time here is my e-mail gizmoemolly@gmail.com Have a super time, p.s. where has the time gone?

*Mary Milne known as Moe*

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*Continued on page 9*



# Reunion Classmates Notes...

*Continued from page 8*

We will be in Seattle that weekend. I wish all of you a wonderful time.

*Melva Bischoff Murphy*

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I won't be able to make it, but I know everybody will have a fabulous time. I know many of the people on the email list below. My best to all

*Gary Gustafson*

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Thank you. As usual I will not be attending but I wish everyone a good time.

*Norm Bickell*

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I hope your event goes smoothly tomorrow and that everyone has a great time. I'll definitely think of classmates during the reunion time frame. Enjoy!!

*Sue Gleckler Palmason*

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I'm afraid I will miss the reunion! Karen's terminally ill brother is in town for a brief visit. Give my best to all. GO SAXONS!

*Eric Woodard*

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Many kudos to SSHS 60th Reunion organizing committee for an absolutely outstanding job of presenting a terrific program. Been some time since I've been to such an event but I do not recall any approaching the job you folks did. Thank you so much.

*Most Sincerely,  
Wayne Jacox*

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A huge thank you to the reunion committee for the work to pull off a fantastic reunion. I know they worked thoughtfully and endlessly to provide a very special gathering for our class. Thank you! It was very special and very appreciated.

*LaVonne (Vonnice) Bolstad Johnson*

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Wish I could come, but will be in Massachusetts where I live now. A big hello to everyone!!

*JoAnne Doerksen Stultz*

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Hello Friends and Classmates

Wishing I could be there celebrating our 60th high school reunion, seeing your faces, and sharing memories. I just took a "stroll" through our Sword and Shield Annuals. Amazing years. Sweet and relatively uncomplicated times. I feel absolutely blessed to have grown up in Salem made so many lasting friendships. Many thanks to Bush School, Leslie Junior High, South Salem High for all of the memories and the friendships made throughout those years. It's been an incredible journey! My husband Walt and I now live in very sunny Surprise, Arizona. We have a wonderful, combined family with 7 children, 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Life is good. Let's hope all our lives continue to be healthy and happy! And we see one another at the next reunion! Thanks to the committee! Thanks to Bernie for her relentless efforts to locate our whereabouts and helping to keep us in touch with one another. Have big fun!!

*Love and hugs,  
Becky Lorenz (Gough)*

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It was wonderful to be with everyone and have an opportunity to connect. Many thanks to the stalwart SSHS 60th reunion team... it was an epic event!!

*Best to all  
Toby Pomeroy*

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If I were writing for the Clypian, I would rate the Reunion event with an A++++++, as many pluses as would fit.

*Lark Brandt*

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We will not be able to attend. This photo is of the horse farm where we live in England.

*Dan Solomon*



# *In Sadness...*



## **KEITH WONDERLY**

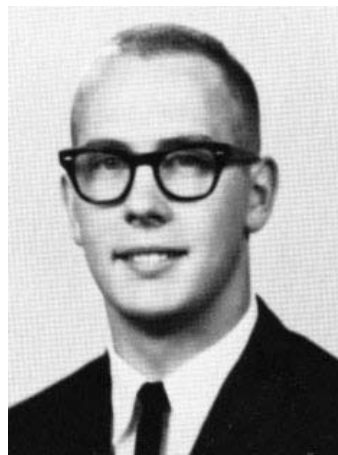
*January 24, 1945*

*December 22, 2022*

Keith Lavour Wonderly passed away early Thursday morning, December 22, 2022, at the family farm in Philomath surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived

by his wife of nearly 55 years, Patricia "Patti" Nofziger Wonderly; Daughter Kristina Wonderly (Eric Lindquist) Jefferson OR; Son Daniel Wonderly (Jenn Holmes) Redondo Beach CA; Grandson Grady Holaday (Sierra) Philomath OR. Keith was born January 24, 1945 to Madell and Francis Wonderly. He was the youngest of three children and is survived by his two sisters Lucille Wonderly Reeck (Darrell) Newberg OR and Madell Wonderly Klauke (Peter, deceased) of Toronto, Canada, as well as multiple nieces and nephews and their children. Keith grew up in a fun-loving Christian family in Salem that shared a passion for music. As a youth, Keith sang with the Salem Singers and was the drum major in the band at South Salem HS where he graduated in 1963. After taking classes at local colleges in the NW, Keith joined the Naval Reserves in September 1965 and reported for active duty a year later. Prior to shipping out on his first tour, he proposed to his childhood sweetheart, Patti Nofziger. They were engaged while Keith served on the USS Canberra for two combat tours during the Vietnam War. Keith's ship returned to San Diego one month before he and Patti were married on June 22, 1968. After leaving the Navy, they settled in the San Diego area while Keith attended San Diego State University, graduating in 1974 with a BS degree in Telecom. They were actively involved with Skyline Wesleyan Church. These early years of their marriage built the foundation for a life-long commitment to God's work. Upon graduation, Keith and Patti were accepted as missionaries with OMS International. They moved to Michigan for cross cultural training where their daughter was born, followed by a year in Costa Rica for Spanish language school. In 1976, they settled into their new home in Bogota, Colombia where Keith served as the Multi-Media & Radio Producer for 5 years. While in Colombia, they expanded their family with the birth of their son. In 1981, Keith joined the Audio Visual staff at

OMS's International Office in Greenwood, IN. He eventually became director of that dept and served in that role until he retired after 25 years of service. In his free time, Keith also served as the lead sound engineer at their local church, Southport Presbyterian. With retirement came a call to return home to Oregon and settle at the Wonderly farm in Philomath OR in 2005. They were joined by their daughter and grandson. They spent the first couple of years remodeling the old farm house and eventually building their own home on the property. When not working at Home Depot and the Mennonite Village, Keith's real love was puttering around and maintaining the property on his orange Kubota tractor, being trailed by the two family dogs, Stuck and Speckles. Keith retired officially for the 2nd time in Jan. 2017. He and Patti enjoyed their retirement years with many miles of hiking, impromptu trips to the coast or mountains for breakfast and hosting epic family gatherings. They were also deeply connected with their church NW Hills in Corvallis. Keith was loved by many over the years.



## **RON NICKOLS**

*October 31, 1944*

*January 30, 2023*

Ronald James Nichols, 78, passed away January 30th at his home of complications from cancer. Ron was born in Salem in 1944 to Orville & Paulee

Nichols. Ron graduated from South Salem High in 1963, and from Oregon State University in 1969. Ron was married to Cheryl (Hopkins) Nichols for nearly 55 years, most of them in the Salem/Keizer area. Ron designed parks for the City of Salem, served on Oregon's Landscape Architect Board. Ron worked for the City of Salem Parks Department for a few years before starting his own landscape business. He later sold the business and went to work managing the campus grounds at Willamette University. Ron retired from Willamette University in 2007 after 21 years.

Ron enjoyed the outdoors. He loved hunting, fishing, hiking, and gardening. Ron loved his Christian faith and hosted a fellowship meeting in his home in Keizer for many

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# *In Sadness...*

*Continued from page 10*

years. Ron is survived by his wife, Cheryl; his sons, Darren and Jason; daughter, Amy; his sister, Jane, and brother, Hal; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

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## **MARGARET CHRYSTINE “CHRY” BUTLER KANSIER**

*September 9, 1945 September 8, 2015*

Margaret Chrystine “Chrys” Kansier was born September 9, 1945 to Russell and Margaret Campbell Butler in Dallas, Oregon. The Lord took her home Tuesday, September 8, 2015. Chrys devoted her life to taking care of the people she loved. She loved to camp and fish. For most of her life she did industrial sewing. She was good at what she was able to make and loved making all kinds of items ranging from dog collars to custom boat covers. Chrys was preceded in death by her husband Albert Kansier; her parents Russell & Margaret Butler; three brothers: Chaddie, Harold and Eddy; three sisters: Ellyn, Jan and Mary; and one great-grandchild. She is survived by her sister Eileen; brother Randy (Shirley); her children: Cathy (Jerry), Sid (Abby), and Chrystie (Josh); grandchildren: Eric, DJ (Marcie), Anna (Shane), Clarissa (Alan), Shauna and Sylus; and her pride and joy her great-granddaughter Melody. She had many nieces, nephews, adopted children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends that loved and adored her. Funeral services was held in Nampa Idaho. In lieu flowers memorial donations may be made in Memory of Chrys Kansier to the American Lung Association, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601.

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## **JOANNE WARDEN BOOCK**

*January 11, 1945 - February 5, 2020*

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## **JAY DARCEY BOOCK**

*June 4, 1945 - April 15, 2022*

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## **ROBBIE LYNNE MOON**

*October 27, 1944*

*April 14, 2023*

Sister: Alicia

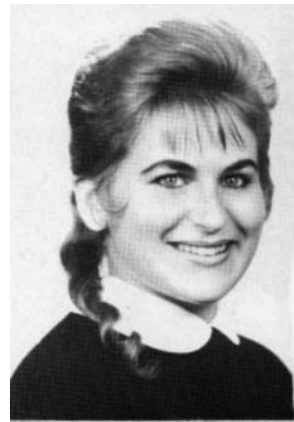
Daughter: Anne

Son: Craig (wife Kelli)

Granddaughters: Kaelyn & Stephanie

Donations could be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Association.

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## **TAMRA BANKS WHITEAKER**

*January 21, 1944*

*September 5, 2022*

Helen Tamera Whiteaker went by her middle name. We knew her as Tam, Tamera, and Tammy. Her 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren knew her as Grammy Tammy. She was born in a Naval Hospital in San Diego on January 21, 1944.

She moved to the Salem area and grew up outside of Salem and Graduated from South Salem High School.

At 24, she married Ray Mclain and moved to Las Vegas and had four children.

After they divorced, she moved back to Oregon. and threw herself into religious studies.

She attended a local church with her mother and sister. She became a soloist for Oregon and northern California church areas. if you knew her, you knew she could sing and you knew she had a very loud infectious laugh she was famous for.

She met William Whiteaker while they were members of the same Portland area church, after she sang special music for the service, he said to himself that he had to meet her.

They were married within a year after meeting. They lived in Portland, caretaking for a now known haunted house. Strange things happened in this house, so they had to move.

They had one daughter, Teah, while living in Portland.

*Continued on page 12*

# *In Sadness...*

*Continued from page 11*

Tamera served members of her church by singing at their weddings and funerals. She was an talented floral designer and always provided beautiful bouquets for every occasion. She would sing for them, and provide flowers, and plan the entire event for them, and then check up on them after the event to offer more help if it was needed. She was well known and deeply loved by the members of her church community.

She loved to travel the US with her family. They visited over half the states and saw the sights like the Grand Canyon and Mt Rushmore, driving in a wood paneled blue station wagon with a tear-drop trailer towing behind.

They moved to California and Tennessee then back to Oregon to live out their final years.

While they lived in Sacramento, California they became long term foster parents for special needs infants/toddlers. The first foster child they helped then adopted, while keeping a good relationship with his birth mother.

She was an avid log cabin quilt maker. Every child she had was made a quilt when they were married, and every grandchild was made a quilt. She gave quilting lessons throughout her life and taught her two daughters how to sew log cabin quilts.

When Tamera's third son, Brad, was 21 he took his own life. This was a very tough time for her family but somehow it brought them closer.

In her last years with her husband, they cared for her adopted sons, first born daughter, Xylia Rane. From two months to three years, they cared for her daily. She had an extreme bond with her last-born granddaughter.

Tamera was a loyal and loving wife to her husband, William, and thoughtful mother to her own children, and many more children she fostered or just took in under her wing.

Tamera, the midwife, passed on Labor Day, September 5, 2022, holding her youngest daughters hand, one month after her husband, William of 46 years, passed. She told her daughter she did not want to be here without William. She was surrounded by women and a hospice nurse, singing her favorite songs, and celebrating her beautiful life.

She was survived by five of her children, Darran, Paul, Tara, Teah, and Thomas. Her grandchildren, Marissa, Bryan, Garrick, Caitlyn, Dakota, Logan, Kristian, Gavin, Arianna, Brandon, Ranae, and Xylia Rane and her great grandchildren Kieran and Addeline.



## **COETA EVANS MONTGOMERY**

*September 17, 1945 -  
May 28, 2023*

Celebration of life hosted by Annette Holm Montgomery and Charles Montgomery on July 15, 2023.



"Leave your sadness at the door and join us as we celebrate the life of Coeta Montgomery. She brought life to every party. This celebration of life is meant to reflect the party she would have wanted her family and friends to enjoy. We invite you to dress in your most colorful attire as we gather to toast this incredibly fabulous woman!"



## **STEVE STRONG**

*Information of  
his passing was  
provided by Roy  
Davidson*

## **LAURIE SUSAN LAGO**

*August 5, 1945  
May 13, 2023*

Born in Centralia Washington (no other obit)



# *Funding for the Class of 1963*

**W**e decided to combine our two Class of 63 funds. We want to thank Sue Gleckler Palmason and Vicki Andrews Sanders for their many years of guarding our funds for mailing regarding reunions, newsletter and website, and start up money for reunions.

Kris Campbell Lockard is now the keeper of the funds. Your contributions are always welcome as we try to share stories and information through our newsletters, the website, and ways to meet in person.

Send checks payable to South Salem High School Class of '63.

Mail to Kris Campbell Lockard, 1388 Parkmeadow Dr. NE, Keizer, Oregon 97303.

Thank you for the generous donations from Glen Johnson, David Rowe, Cobe Grabenhorst, Ron Boise, Kirk Gresham, Mary Houser McLurg, Tish and Jim Shinn, John Chu, Barb Cross, Dan Hughes, Kris Campbell Lockard

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## *SSHS Veterans*

**D**an Withers and John Luchau put together a website for Class of 63 Veterans. We had 58 classmates contribute to this project. If you were in the military, please let Dan add you to their website.

<https://warboats.org/sshs63veterans.htm>

We are looking for military history on the following classmates:

Don Ditto	Rick Sanders
Fred Fagg	Bob Smith
Gary Olson	Steve Strong
Thomas Gary Pace	Russ Whitbeck
Tim Plummer	Larry Zeller
Russ Reed	

Can anyone give us any contact info that may allow us to add to their military history?

Dan Withers [dwithers@rodaxwireless.com](mailto:dwithers@rodaxwireless.com)



## *Finding Classmates...*

On Bernie's travels, she frequently finds classmates. Please let Bernadette Barrett know if you have any changes to your contacts information (541-753-3286 [rlbbarrett@aol.com](mailto:rlbbarrett@aol.com))

List of Missing Classmates as of 3/24/19

James Alexander  
Evelyn Cobb Lewis  
Judy Brimm-George  
Michael Butler  
Floyd Chase  
Katherine Jo (Katy) Clyde  
Ray Coopridge  
Schelly Culver  
Joan Davidson  
Larry D Davidson  
Karlet (or Carlette) Davis  
Robert A. Day  
Paul Dixon  
Carol Duggan  
Mary Jean Eller Woods  
Cheryl Franklin Pack  
Steven Ferry  
Larry Fisher  
Peter Groves  
Pam Gruel Charles  
Jerry Hanson  
Joan Arlene Hudson

Paul J Johnson  
Janet Jones  
Jane Louise Jones  
Diane Meloy Sandsburn  
Kathy Merin-Strickler  
Elaine Nelson  
Courtland Newhardt  
David L. Nicholas  
Nancy Noffsinger  
Joan Penniman Langa  
Elaine Pecht  
Stevie Romander  
Bruce Shuler  
Patricia Standal  
Sharon Thompson  
Gail Titus Redding Boatwright  
Jerry Tracy  
Mary Walberg  
Kathy Wilson

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## *Reunion Questions?*

**D**avid Avison, as Master of Ceremony, asked these questions for discussion around the tables. The mic didn't work well, so people requested the questions be added to this newsletter. Of course, we didn't get to the answers but had lively discussions anyway.

1. You can only count one marriage. Who has been married the longest?
2. How many at your table got COVID?
3. How many of us '63ers are still working, at least part-time?
4. How many grand and great grandchildren.

# NEWS FROM THE REUNION COMMITTEE

1. The 60th reunion was well attended and many classmates have asked for more reunions. To plan a major reunion, we need helpers. Some classmates suggest combining with other classes like 1962-1964 and others suggest combining with North Salem. We look forward to classmates who wish those options to volunteer.

2. We look forward to classmates volunteering to host and plan mini-reunions. In the past we have had mini-reunions at Minto Island Park, Coria and Stangland wineries, Doughton shop party, a trolley ride, Bush Park picnics, a Seattle museum tour, Anne and Hal Wineland's Gale's Creek farm, various Salem and Lincoln City restaurants. Propose a date and location. We would be happy to advertise the mini reunion in an e-mail and possibly in a future newsletter.

3. We have some funds remaining from the 60th reunion. As a committee, we have considered a few options for using the remaining current funds.

- a. Continue supporting the cost of having a webpage SSHS63.com
- b. Mini-reunion funds for a tray of food or reservation cost
- c. Donate as the Class of '63 to a South Hi scholarship fund like Saxon Success Fund. (see below)
- d. Other suggestions appreciated – send to Barb.Cross@comcast.net

<https://www.saxonsuccessfund.org/>

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## SAXON SUCCESS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS AND KATHLEEN HANNEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Saxon Success Fund is a nonprofit organization made up of alumni and SSHS supporters wishing to transform South from a great Oregon high school through strategic investment. We raise funds for specific projects that have the greatest impact on the success of all Saxon students. Providing scholarships each year is one way we fulfill our mission. SSF has provided 40 scholarships to South Salem High School seniors since it began during the 2019-20 school year, each one in the amount of \$1000.

Donors have options for giving to a variety of funds within the SSF:

General fund: This fund is used for general scholarships and specific projects as they are identified.

Class of 60 Scholarship: At their 50th class reunion, the Saxon class of 60 began a scholarship fund and has awarded scholarships every year since. In 2021, they became affiliated with our efforts.

Class of 70 Scholarship: Taking the challenge of the class of 1960, the reunion goes at their 50th decided to also collect funds for scholarships. The first scholarships from the class of 1970 will go to the class of 2023.

Hanneman Scholarship: Longtime educator and educational leader, Kathleen Hanneman was a role model for many women leaders in the field of education. She was the first female to lead a large high school in the state of Oregon. In her memory, the Hanneman Scholarship fund confers scholarships to graduating girls pursuing a career in education.