

**DE ANZA HIGH SCHOOL
BUILDING 7 RENAMING CEREMONY
IN HONOR OF MRS. KAREN MASON**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013

10:30 AM



DE ANZA HIGH SCHOOL IS PRIVILEGED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO **MRS. KAREN MASON**
WITH THE RENAMING OF BUILDING 7 TO **MASON HALL** IN HER HONOR.
OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MRS. MASON'S 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
AS A TEACHER, MENTOR, INNOVATOR, ACTIVIST, AND INSPIRATION TO ALL.

RECEPTION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY MR. BOB EVANS, PRINCIPAL

REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S OCCASION BY DR. BRUCE HARTER, SUPERINTENDENT

DE ANZA CHOIR

COMMENTS BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

REMARKS BY MRS. KAREN MASON

OPEN MIC

RIBBON CUTTING & UNVEILING BY MR. CHARLES RAMSEY, BOARD OF EDUCATION

KAREN MASON'S stories about De Anza High are infused with a love for students and a deep respect for the history of the school and its community. No one is as tied to De

Anza as Mrs. Mason, who attended this school as a student in grades 7 through 12, from 1958 to 1964. De Anza had just been built and was a brand new middle/high school when it opened its doors in 1955.

Back then, Mrs. Mason was Karen Ewing. Her family moved to El Sobrante in 1955, when she was nine years old. She graduated from De Anza to attend Chico State, receiving her BA in speech and debate. After that, Karen moved back to El Sobrante, never to leave her beloved city again. She received her teaching credential in English with a minor in journalism from UC Berkeley.



9th grade De Anza student, 1961

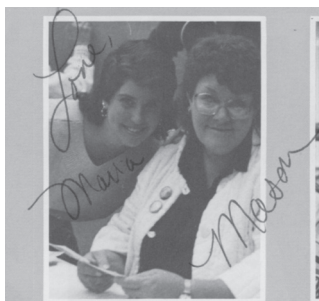


New teacher, 1970

Karen's first teaching job was at Oakland Tech, and then John Swett in Crockett before she returned to De Anza. She would remain among De Anza's stellar faculty for the next 35 years until her retirement in 2008.

Sometime during her years in higher education, Karen met Tom Mason, a U.S. Navy man serving in the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Alameda Naval Base when she was there as a war protester. They have been married 44 years. "I couldn't have done all the things I've done without this wonderful life partner," she declares with great warmth.

Mrs. Mason's is a 40-year career of "teaching the art of language," as she herself states. She taught English, journalism, forensics, and drama. She participated in the music department, especially during the years her sons Brent and Reid were De Anza Dons. She was the faculty sponsor of numerous clubs, in-



Journalism is a class that consists of students all over De Anza coming together as one to create De Anza's school newspaper, El Vaquero. El Vaquero informs students of events happening in and around De Anza. Mrs. Mason is the experienced advisor of this class. GOOD JOB!

Journalism, 1987



Forensics, 1993



Seasoned teacher, 1998

cluding the Shimada Club, Interact, and Close-Up. Every year for close to three decades, Mrs. Mason would bring her Close-Up students to Washington, D.C. for an inside look at democracy in action.

As she tells it, "I loved every one of my kids, and they knew it."

It was because she was so beloved that her students called her the "Mother of De Anza." Coming from a family of activists, her students would tell her that they respected her because of her activism, knowing she would stand up for them in times of challenge. As she would exhort her students, "Stand for something or you'll fall for anything."



Tom and Karen, 2008

Mrs. Mason's excellence as a teacher didn't escape the notice of the larger community. She was one of the first recipients of the EdFund's Excellence in Education Awards in 1983. In 1990, she was among 40 outstanding educators recognized by Thanks to Teachers, sponsored by Bay Area business leaders. In 2000, the Close-Up Foundation named her Civic Educator of the Year. In 2009, the community paid tribute to Mrs. Mason at the El Sobrante Stroll as Citizen of the Year.

After her retirement in 2008, Mrs. Mason stayed with the district as a substitute teacher, continuing to inspire the next generation of youth.



Citizen of the Year, 2009