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El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

Newsletter Issue XXIII

July 2010

President's Message

School is out, the sun is out and it's time to get out and play! Check out the upcoming events at ECHS. Don't miss the ECHS Museum Tour and Speaker Night.

Go Gauchos! We are committed to collect preserve, and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School keeping the Green & White story alive!

Tell other Alumni about the ECHS Archiving Project.

Whatever your summer may consist of, I hope you get out and enjoy w hat our w onderful upcoming events at ECHS starting next month.

Patricia (Jones) Durham '68

ECHS Tour of Points of Historical Interest

September 25, 2010

The El Cerrito Historical Society and the ECHS Archive Project is organizing a tour on September 25 of the new high school stopping at over 22 points of historical interest. There w ill be 10 docents on duty to give you a brief history of their departments. Docents lined up so far are-

Howard Mackey, First graduating class, former math teacher
 Lee Canapa, Second grading class, local business woman
 Janet Smith, ECHS grad, former English and Home Ec teacher
 Jason Reimann, Current principal
 Lanie Johnson, Current librarian
 Phil Morgan, Former head of the TV and Radio station
 Robert Fabini, Current science department chair
 Larry Quirico, Former athletic director, baseball coach
 George Austin, Current athletic director
 Cathy Berman, Former forensic and English teacher
 Peter Lock, Auto Shop
 Lanie Johnson, Library
 Mark Streshinsky, Drama

Tours w ill be available betw een noon and 2:30. You may take a student lead tour or a self guided tour. Tours may last up to one hour. Lunch and snacks w ill be sold in the

quad. The Historical Society and ECHS Archive Project will be offering items for sale.

For more information contact Joann Steck-Bayat 510 524 9464 jsbayat1@comcast.net.

Band Reunion

A Benefit Performance for the ECHS Music Program

October 3, 2010

ECHS Performing Arts Theatre 540 Ashbury Avenue El Cerrito, CA 94530



When the alumni of ECHS band director Paul Yonemura (1985 to 1991) heard about the current financial crisis for the ECHS band program, we decided there was only one way to respond with music. We're getting that band back together!

Join us for a once in a lifetime performance. Alumni are coming back from across the Bay Area, across the country and across the world to perform. Joined by the current music students of ECHS, this will be a concert to remember.

Along with ticket sales, T-Shirts, and other memorabilia, the El Cerrito High School music boosters, Friends of El Cerrito Music (FOECM) will be offering tiered sponsorship packages, including the sponsorship of individual theatre seats inside the school's 600 seat Performing Arts auditorium. Please visit our website for additional information.

FOECM will also be sponsoring a bake sale. For information on how to participate, please call Donna Houser 510-234-2251

Logistics:

The Reunion Concert event will be held over the weekend of October 2nd, 2010, with rehearsals and dinner reception on Saturday October 2nd, and the concert itself on Sunday October 3rd at 2pm in El Cerrito High School's new state-of-the-art performing arts auditorium.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.echsreunionband.org

2nd Hall of Fame 2010

Inductees

Date: Sunday Oct. 3, 2010

Program: 3:00 p.m. Social (Hors d'oeuvres)

5:00 p.m. Awards

Tickets: \$30.00 per Person (under 9 yrs free)

Place El Cerrito High School Gymnasium

Send To: George Austin Athletic Director El Cerrito High School 540 Ashbury Ave. El Cerrito, Ca. 94530 Phone (510) 231-1437ex 26522.

By: Friday Sept 17, 2010.

DRESS: COUNTRY CLUB CAUSAL. NO SHORTS T-SHIRTS, and SANDALS

Please make checks payable to El Cerrito High School Athletic HOF (ECHSAHOF)

Missing Hall of Famers

Darryl A Stowers, 1966

Karen Mason, 1977

1978 Baseball Team- Eric "Ricky" Hughes, Ken Harris, Ron Harper, Robert Harrell

1975 Basketball Team- Carlos Addison, David Smith, Snow Heatley, Kevin Heacock, Tony Thomas, Derrick Brown, Ira Tate, Richard Evans

If you have any information for these missing please Call Coach Larry Quirico 510-222-1835 Bquirico@comcast.net.

Reunions Happenings

Current

RUSD Reunion
August 20, 2010
Meet and Greet 6pm to Midnight
Richmond Country Club
1 Markovich Lane Richmond CA
Contact Emily Hunt -- ehunt5025@sbcglobal.net

Class of 2000
Saturday, July 24, 7:00PM
ROE
651 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105 US
Contact: Haley Jones or Andrew Kosel

Class of 1990 20th Reunion
July 10, 2010, 12:00 PM
Arlington Park, El Cerrito, CA 94530
Contact: Larry Fox (510) 965-9351
echs1990@hotmail.com.

Class of 1985--25th Reunion
September 25, 2010
Scott's Restaurant, Jack London Square
Contact--Andrea Lum--andrealum@yahoo.com.
<http://www.elcerritohigh1985.org/>

Class of 1980-30th Reunion.
November 6, 2010
Shattuck Hotel in Berkeley, CA.
Contact--Chris Misa-Mackey bcmackey@cox.net, bcmackey7@gmail.com or
Facebook.

Class of 1973
40th reunion of 1972, 1973, and 1974
August 3, 2013
www.echs1973.com

Class of 1970
November 26 2010
Mira Vista Country Club.
www.classmates.com

Class of 1972--40th Reunion
June 16, 2012
Contact--Al Gambetti--agambetti@yahoo.com

Class of 1967--45th Reunion
TBA--Somewhere in California.
Contact--Roddy Lee--LCP1967@aol.com

Class of 1965--45th Reunion
October 23, 2010--Mira Vista Country Club
Contact--Dennis Kalis--dkalis@sbcglobal.net

Class of 1964 Picnic, September 2010.
www.elcerritohigh64.org.

Class of 1960
Oct 2-3, 2010
Doubletree Hotel - Berkeley

Contact--Carol Sergek St. Onge (925) 372-7999

Class of 1956

Class of 1955, 55 yr Reunion

Oct. 23rd 2010, Colombo Club in Oakland.

Contact: 1955 Marilyn Heinkel Bracelin--bracelin@earthlink.net

Contact: 1956-Jackie Fonken --j_fonken@hotmail.com

Virginia Rodini Perata - vper38@gmail.com

Class of 1954

Barbara Bacon--barbarabacon@comcast.net

Contact EC Archiving Project for support., Roddy Lee--ecarchproject@aol.com

Past Reunion Information

Class of 1979, 30th Reunion

November 28, 2009 at Golden Gate fields Turf Club.

Contact Rachel Greenberg--ech1979@gmail.com

Class of 1964 45th Reunion

Contact Jackie Arnold Olson jackie.olson@alumni.berkeley.edu

Class of 1959.50th reunion

October 10th, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Concord.

Contact Roberta Mendoca, rcmendonca@aol.com

Class of 1969 40th Reunion

August 29th Mira Vista CC.

Contact Bill Morris (510) 741- 7147. w morris@actransit.org

Class of 1970 40th Reunion, TBA.

John Gioia, ECHS Class of 1975

John Gioia grew up in the Mira Vista area of Richmond. His father, a civics teacher at Kennedy High School, didn't drive because he was visually handicapped. So, John usually rode his bike to school at El Cerrito High School, riding along Richmond Avenue and Everett Street after meeting up with friends around Potrero Avenue. On rainy days, John rode the bus. Today, John is a Contra Costa County Supervisor and a major champion of public transit and the environment.

John attended school in San Francisco for grades 1 to 5. In sixth grade, he attended the former Del Mar Elementary School in El Cerrito and then Portola for grades 7 to 9. After that he attended El Cerrito High School, graduating in 1975. He entered college at UC Berkeley, where he received a BA degree in Political Science in 1979 and a JD from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1982. While at Boalt, he worked as a half time staffer for then Contra Costa County Supervisor Tom Powers and also got a taste for politics by working on Supervisor Powers' 1978 Campaign.

After receiving his law degree, John practiced business and land use law in San Francisco and then moved his office to Richmond. He also ran political campaigns and did polling and developed campaign strategies for candidates throughout the Bay Area in the 1980s. In 1988 John was elected to the Board of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). After being reelected in 1992 and 1996, John successfully ran for the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. In 2002 and 2006 he was unopposed when he ran for reelection.

Growing up, John was a good student and he "had to be on good behavior because his father knew El Cerrito High teachers". He channeled his involvement into a number of activities, including playing the violin in the school orchestra and running cross country and track. In the 10th grade, he had Hale Roach as a cross country and track coach. In grades 11-12, he had Jim Brooks for both track and cross country. John

recalls that the early 1970s was a good period at ECHS. The school had unity and pride and many students went to Cal.

John remembers having a great time with sports, although that often meant he missed other activities including the Junior Prom and Senior Ball. These were the same years that the Oakland A's won the World Series (1972 to 1974). John hung out with the track and cross country runners, a diverse group of students. Barry Cromarti was a jumper who later became a Richmond Planning Director.

John remembers how the Gaucho name got started. Coach Hale Roach and his wife lived on Colusa Avenue behind El Cerrito High School when the school was built in the 1940's. Roach's wife got the idea for the Gaucho name from UC Santa Barbara which also is called the Gauchos.

The announcer for home track meets was Sandy Berman, who was also John's 12th grade math teacher. If John acted up in class, Mr. Berman would intentionally mispronounce his name. Some of John's other teachers included Ted Beck for Physics, John Rossi for Government and Carol Liu for American Experience. Carol Liu is now a Los Angeles area state senator.

Today John is busy with the many responsibilities and activities related to being a county supervisor and also his family. John's father passed away in 1987 at the age of 57, a year before John was elected to EBMUD. His mother, an immigrant from Italy, died of cancer soon after John was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1998. John has a half sister from his mother's first marriage.

John lives with his wife, Jennifer Peck, and children in Richmond. Jennifer is the Executive Director of the Bay Area Partnership for Children and Youth. John has a son, Christopher, born in 1992, with his first wife, Charo. Christopher was a star track and cross country runner at Albany High School. He will be attending Cal in the fall. John and Jennifer have a daughter, Emilia, who was born in 2004.

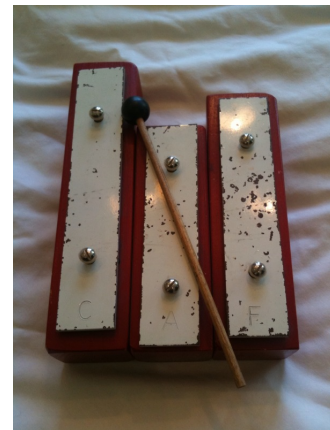
by Janet Abelson

Where did this come from?

Your help is needed to solve a mystery!

The xylophone pictured here was given to the museum by the newly retired office manager. She did have any background on the item. Do you recognize the three toned small xylophone?

If you know something about it, please let Joann know at jsbayat1@comcast.net



Alumni Information Needed

If you know any Alumni who have not subscribed to the ECHS Archiving Project New letter, please forward their information to ECarchproject@aol.com.

Reunion Leaders

Are you a reunion leader for one of our ECHS years? Please send us an updated class list.

We would like to ask for your help to notify us as to whom the reunion leaders are from each missing year. If you know of a missing alumni chair, please notify



Reunion Leaders, To change or add your contact information please email, Roddy Lee - ECArchproject@aol.com.

[ECHS Alumni Website](#)

Newsletter Subscribers

New sletter Subscribers Increasing! Hey, why not pass our new sletter on to other ECHS supporters and ask if they want to subscribe. Email ECarchproject@aol.com to get on the distribution list!

Follow up Links

- [El Cerrito High School Online](#)
- [The El Cerrito High School Archiving Project](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#)

Executive Board

President-Patricia Durham,'68, Vice President/Secretary-Jackie Fonken,'58, Treasurer-Dianne Chambers,'69, Co-Founders - Joann Steck-Bayat, Lu Tipping, Alumni Coordinators- David Bilyeu,'65,Kathie Weinstein,'58, Communications-Roddy Lee,'67, Community Liaison/Oral History-Janet Abelson, Product Marketing-Donna Houser, Publicity-

Standing Committees: Athletics-Hall of Fame - Larry Quirico,'58, George Austin,Roddy Lee, Museum - Sandi Genser-Maack,'63, Lynn Maack,'63, Linda Takimoto, Joann Steck-Bayat, Scholarship-Bobbi Griggs, Howard Mackey,'44, Gregg Mayer,'76, Donna Houser, Joann Steck- Bayat, Mike Aaronian,'76, Charlotte Rogata,'58, Lu Tipping.

El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement:
Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School - Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.

email: ecarchproject@aol.com
phone: 510-231-1437

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