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El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

Newsletter Issue XXXV

February 2011

President's Message

Do you remember when El Cerrito High School was torn down to make way for our new school? Do you remember the 60th Year Reunion? For over five years the Archiving Project is proud to keep this transition of the Green & White story alive.

Do you remember in 1968 when Dr. Martin L. King was assassinated? Did you participate in the 22nd Annual City of El Cerrito Dr. Martin L. King Celebration at ECHS? There were 700 people marching down San Pablo Avenue lead by the Bay Area Black Cowboys and El Cerrito High School Marching Band. The participants marched to the ECHS Gym and Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner was the Mistress of Ceremony. Madera, Kensington, Harding Elementary Schools participated. This event is held every year at the same time. The plans for the ECHS 2012 event have already started.

Do you know that the construction of new Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. National Monument is expected to debut in August 2011 in Washington DC. This monument is located between Jefferson and Lincoln monuments on the National Mall. Like ECHS, this new MLK monument memorial pays tribute to the Baptist Minister who was committed to nonviolence and direct action to force social change.

The ECHS Archiving Project is busy supporting direct action to social change!

Mark your calendar. We are in the process of the Naming of ECHS Sports Complex, putting a facelift on the Museum with new lettering, selecting our 2011 ECHS scholarship recipient, and planning a fun, exciting, big fundraiser for this summer.

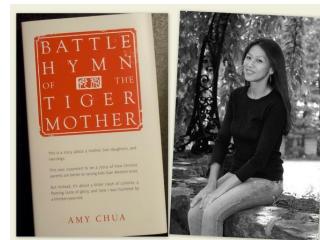
We can only do this through your continue support. We appreciate your help. Be sure to read your New sletters and tell other Alumni about the ECHS Archiving Project Committee.

Best Wishes,
Patricia (Jones) Durham '68

Alumni Corner *Alumni in the News*

It's probably comes as no surprise that **Amy Chua** was selected "Most Likely to Succeed" in the 1980 graduating class at El Cerrito High School.

Author of the hotly debated new book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, she's suddenly become a household name both lionized and demonized in the mainstream media and thousands of blog posts. The book describes her personal journey applying very strict "Chinese parenting" rules in raising her two daughters.



[El Cerrito Patch](#)

First Lady's Designer

Byron Lars



It was a special evening on the third of June, 2010 at the White House. Paul McCartney was to receive the Grammy Prize for Popular Song that night. "Michelle, ma belle" Paul McCartney sang to the First Lady, Michelle Obama, who was wearing the Holiday Swirl Neck Blush Dress designed by Byron Lars--yes, the same Byron Lars who graduated from El Cerrito High School in 1984! He's come a long way since traveling the halls of Gaucholand.

On a typical day in class, Byron would burst through the door of room 305, the Clothing Construction room, holding his Algebra 2 book that was overflowing with new paper patterns he would labor over during class. He could be wearing the white sweatshirt he designed with colored zippers used for embellishment. He might have searched out his friend, Tracy Ficklin, to catch up on the day's happenings. Maybe it was prom time, and a flock of teenagers would be checking with Byron to see if he could design and make their prom dresses, as he would for Tracy. He might have checked in with Maurice King, the other male student in the class. Maybe Mr. Morehouse would drop by to see what Byron was working on, since he too, enjoyed creating garments for his wife. However, almost every day without fail, Byron would leave his Algebra 2 book on the worktable and come rushing back into class to pick it up before the next period. Byron really wanted to stay in room 305 but Algebra called to him. During his second year in the clothing lab, Byron became the class T.A. There was one question that chimed out day-after-day-do I have to take this seam "a-loose?" Soon this A-loose had a life of its own and before graduation, Byron drew this creature with pencil on butcher paper, and bestowed it to his teacher who still has it today.

Byron's journey from room 305 to becoming the First Lady's designer was one that shows his creativity and tenacity. He was educated at Brooks College in Long Beach, and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, and showed his first collection in 1991 that he calls, "twisted American Classics." That year he was named Rookie of the Year by Women's Wear Daily. His designs could be purchased at Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, and Bloomingdales. In the early 90s, Byron ran Byron Lars Shirt Tales, a company that produced his menswear-type designs for women. You may remember him as a designer for Mattel's Barbie, although these dolls cost considerably more than the average one. More recently, Byron has started a new line of women's wear called Byron Lars Beauty Mark, where his focus has changed to a contemporary line and pricing structure.

Mrs. Obama has been known to wear contemporary fashion while being a practical consumer. No wonder she took notice of Byron Lars' latest styles and chose his design to wear to that very important occasion.

Even after all of his experiences, Byron is still warm, joyful, and enthusiastic, and one who still calls his teacher, Mrs. Smith.

Janet Duer Smith
ECHS Teacher, Class of 1967

[Byron Lars Website](#)

Reunions Happenings

Having a Reunion? Contact the EC Archiving Project for support --
ecarchproject@aol.com

Class of 1981 - 30th Reunion.
Fall 2011

Contact: Pelayo Llamas-- yo_jamon@yahoo.com

Please send a request via facebook to join the group page "ECHS 1981 30th Reunion 2011"

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

Class of 1967--45th Reunion
TBA-Committee is forming, to be a part of the planning process
Contact--Roddy Lee--LCP1967@aol.com

Past Reunion Information

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

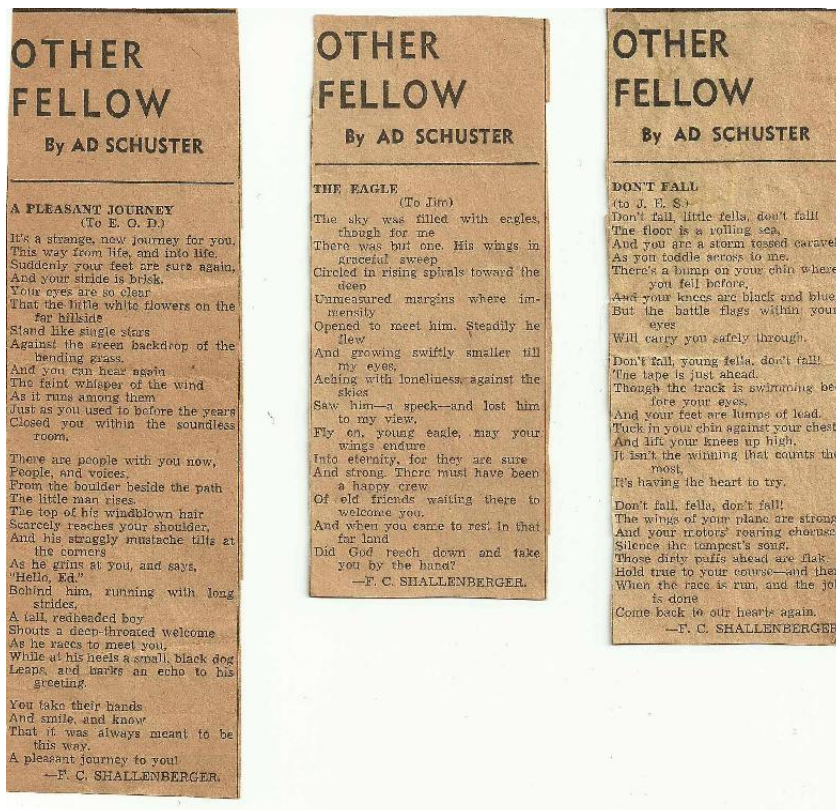
Class of 1985--25th Reunion
September 25, 2010 at Scott's Restaurant in Jack London Square
Contact--Andrea Lum--andrealum@yahoo.com

Class of 1979, 30th Reunion
November 28, 2009 at Golden Gate fields Turf Club.
Contact--Rachel Greenberg--echs1979@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



ECHS First Principal, Mr. Frank Shallenberger

John A. Erb, Class of 1944

A Memory about ECHS First Principal, Mr. Frank Shallenberger by John A. Erb, Class of 1944

It is a real privilege to be able to share these three poems written by Mr. Frank Shallenberger, the first principal of ECHS. One of his sons, Jim, was killed in World War II. The first poem is written to that son prior to his death. The second is penned after son Jim was killed. The third to E.O.D. is unknown to me.

His poetry was often published by Ad Schuster of The Oakland Tribune.

Mr. Shallenberger was an extremely sensitive and understanding person, held in high regard by both his faculty and students as well.

He loved to participate in student activities. One shining example of that was his performance at a student assembly reciting with gusto the famous poem Gunga Din by Rudyard Kipling. He brought down the house. He was an amazing person and I considered the most influential person in my life. He had the ability of encouraging students (and I would suspect faculty members as well) even when they were not performing up to their ability.

An excellent example of that was one time he had asked me to speak at his revered Lions Club. I did a miserable job having been poorly prepared. On the way back to school, he didn't criticize me, he merely pointed out the necessity of adequate preparation. From that day forward, the rest of my life, I never went unprepared to an engagement of that sort. My life was filled with public speaking engagements and each time I said a quiet thanks to Mr. S.

He maintained contact with me while I was in the service and beyond until his death. His lovely wife maintained that contact until her death. They were truly outstanding people and I was fortunate enough to have had contact with him from Junior high school on.

John A. Erb, '44

Do You Have Items You Would like to have in the New ECHS Museum?

If you have articles you would like to see displayed in the ECHS museum, please follow the steps below.



1-Type out the following information for each item: Department used in such as social science, football, music Physical description of item. Type of item such as trophy, newspaper article. Date of use. Size of item. Donor's name, phone number, email address. 2-3 sentences of background information.

2-If the item can be framed, take to the following shop to be framed- The Glenn 7027 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito 510 558 1078. The likelihood of your article being displayed quickly increase dramatically if they come to us framed by The Glenn and ready to be hung. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that it will be displayed in the foreseeable future and will be put into our storage room.

3-If the item cannot be framed or you do not want to frame it, please deliver it to use in acid free envelopes or wrapping. Make sure the wrapping is transparent. Package articles in a durable fashion with the information included.

Joann Steck-Bayat 510 524 9464 Jsbayat1@comcast.net Museum Curator

Bricks

Support the Class of 2011 and be a part of El Cerrito High School Gaucho History. Purchase a commemorative inscribed brick for \$100.00 per brick. Bricks will be installed on a wall adjacent to the flag pole in front of the school. Orders are accepted on a first come, first served basis. To order your brick,



Contact-- Marty Westby-- martywestby@gmail.com.

Alumni and current students are both invited to purchase customized bricks.

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.

1944--Howard Mackey -- Howard2201@aol.com

1945--David Blackemore--dmbmore@foxinternet.com

1946- - -

1947-- - -

1948--Alice Brownlee-- missjudy1962@att.net

1949--Jack McFarland-- Hambone@intercomm.com

1950--Harry Hanson --
 1950--Nordahl Bonomi Lucy--
 1950--Gorrell Carter Patricia--
 1951---- Tony Tezzi Pryde
 1952--Pryde Tezzi Toni--
 1953--Weller Miller Barbara-- Eandbw eller@aol.com
 1953--Don Pryde --
 1953----
 1953--Jerry Deuker --
 1954--Barbara Bacon--barbarbacon@comcast.net
 1955--Marilynn Heinkel Bracelin-- bracelin@earthlink.net
 1956--Jackie Fonken --j_fonken@hotmail.com
 1957-- Sandy Blackwell Wagner--sandyrich@astound.net
 1958--Gerry Fraser Bertnick-- gerrybertnick@hotmail.com
 1958--Joe Stadum- -joestadum@comcast.net
 1958--Ken Johnson-- kbjbj@comcast.net
 1959--Roberta Mendonca-- rcmendonca@aol.com
 1960--Davis Smith Pennie--
 1960--Phil Playle --
 1960--Arkin Arthur Barbara--
 1961--Richard Pryde -- richpryde@aol.com
 1961--Davis Courtright Bea--
 1962--Creech Balas Juanita-- rbalas@earthlink.net
 1962--Sherry Humphrey --
 1963--Mark Bautista -- marcusec63@aol.com
 1964--Jackie Olson -- jackie.olson@alumni.berkeley.edu
 1965-- Dennis Kalis --dkalis@sbcglobal.net
 1966-- Sandy Berry Faccini-- sandy48@pacbell.net
 1966--Diana De Gracia--
 1967--Roddy Lee -- lcp1967@aol.com
 1968--Jeanne Lotta Sellars-- jeannels@earthlink.net
 1968--Paul Bailey -- paul_bailey@att.net
 1968--Yvonne LePage Schw artz --Phoenixdancer1@aol.com
 1969-- Bill Morris--w morris@actransit.org
 1970-- Cathy Nielsen --
 1971--Gene Staus-- echs1971@sbcglobal.net
 1972--Jerry Dagna -- jdagna@cox.net
 1972--Al Gambetti --agambetti@yahoo.com
 1973--Dale Myer -- echs1973@aol.com
 1973--Belinda Jeffries -- w w w .echs1973.com 1974
 1975--Robinson Tate Agnes--
 1976--Reiss Grunau Nancy--
 1977-- --
 1978--Bill Reichle -- bill@tw istsf.com1978
 1978--Anna Smithy --
 1978--Donna Nordahl --
 1979--Adriene Stinson --
 1979--Rachel Greenberg-- echs1979@gmail.com
 1980-- Chris Misa Mackey -- bcmackey@cox.net
 1981--Pelayo Llamas-- yo_jamon@yahoo.com
 1982--Roger Grubb -- rogergrubb@comcast.net
 1982--Lisa Larkin --
 1982--Smith McCarthy Charlotte--
 1983-- Donald Chew --dnsenterp@home.com
 1983-- Lisa Boblitt --
 1984--Eric Hardy --
 1985-- Andrea Lum--andrealum@yahoo.com
 1986-- Kurt Yoshii --kyoshii@juno.com
 1987-- Michelle Barrocca -- barroccamm@cooley.com
 1987--Sherman Tucker Trina--echs87@aol.com
 1987--Griffiths Smith Sheldon-- SHELDENG@FASH.NET
 1988--Nicole Jones - -bignik@comcast.net
 1989--Amber Smith -- Amber_Smith@csaa.com
 1990--Christina Lee- -christina_lee_98@yahoo.com
 1990--Larry Fox --larrydafox@hotmail.com

1991-- McDonald Barton Chakay-- OAKLAND@yahoo.com
 1992--Ranetta Ledet --
 1993--Laivian Coleman -- mrlgcoleman@hotmail.com
 1994--Nancy Quick --nequick@yahoo.com
 1995--Caulkins Rivera Karyn-- karyn_calkins@hotmail.com
 1995-- Vivian Lau --VivDog8@aol.com
 1996--Ebony Lew is -- echsclassof1996reunion@yahoo.com
 1997-- Evan Soloman --discop@gmail.com
 1998-- Echclassof98@yahoo.com--
 1999-- --
 2000-- --
 2001--Annmarie Darrow -- annmarie.darrow@gmail.com
 2002-- --
 2003-- Julie Oshiro Regalia -- joshiro@berkeley.edu.
 2004-- --
 2005-- --
 2006-- --
 2007-- --

[ECHS Alumni Website](#)

Memorial for ECHS 9/11 Victims

Memorial for ECHS 9/11 Victims The Archiving Project would like to include in the school's museum the names of those El Cerrito High School graduates who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. If you may know of someone who died during those terrorist attacks, please submit their name and date of graduation to jsbayat1@comcast.net.

Theater Seats

Available for Purchase

With strong community support, the reunion band exceeded its financial goal of raising \$30,000 from many local businesses and private donors from the El Cerrito community. Many responded to the call to purchase theater plaques to honor or memorialize special people, and there are still many unnamed theater seats still available for interested donors. Contact Brenda Belden at fendersue@comcast.net or 510/528-3216 for more information.

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

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