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# ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

**Newsletter Issue XXXVI**

**November**

## Gauche News

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## New Museum Acquisition from Class of 1944

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Dec. 2013

To all the ECHS Graduates and the many supporters of El Cerrito High:

I'd like to introduce and welcome our new Office Manager, Melisa (Lisa) Siembida, ECHS class of 1982. She is a delightful lady and a wonderful addition to the ECHS Office staff.

I hope to see many of you on Sunday, February 2, 1014, for our next fundraising event featuring cellist Rebecca Rust. Rebecca is the daughter of Ben Rust, a teacher at El Cerrito High for many years. See the concert details and a short bio of Ben Rust in this newsletter.

John Erb, who graduated in June 1944, donated his beautiful and well-worn class ring school's museum. The ring is the oldest piece of jewelry in our collection.

The June 1944 class was the second class to graduate from the 'new' El Cerrito High School. The first was a small class in January 1944. During the war years, the school graduated twice a year so there would be a steady supply of service recruits. The classes of 1944 were infamous because they were the students who established all the rules and traditions including the mascot and school colors.

A note about our donor: After graduating from ECHS where he was yearbook editor and class manager under the tutelage of Hale Roach, John attended UC Davis. During his working years, John owned and operated a walnut orchard, was president and general manager for a ready-mix firm and established a travel agency. John was a school board member for Joint Union High School District and a trustee for the San Joaquin County Board of Education for 27 years and president of his local Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and United Way. Since retirement, he and his wife have put more than 100,000 miles on their motor homes.

To donate items to the high school's museum, please contact [jsbayat1@comcast.net](mailto:jsbayat1@comcast.net).

I want to wish each of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Fleming Fonken,  
Class of 1956

## [Rust Memorial Classical Music Concert Sunday, February 2, 2014](#)

2:00pm

ECHS Performing Arts Theater

\$10 at the door

### Upcoming Events

- Rebecca Rust In Concert Sunday, February 2, 2014
- Grand Opening for the Athletic Stadium -TBD

A year ago, Rebecca Rust approached the ECHS Archiving Project about the possibility of a fundraiser for our scholarship program in memory of her father, Ben Rust. That idea has now become a reality. We hope you can all attend this once-in-a-lifetime concert with world-class cellist Rebecca Rust with her husband and musical partner, German bassoonist Friedhelm Edelmann, together with the Kensington Symphonic Orchestra under the musical direction of Geoffrey Gallegos.

There is a display in our Museum dedicated to Ben Rust who was a long-time and much respected teacher at ECHS.



BEN RUST (1913-1974)

The students of El Cerrito High School dedicated the 1965 Yearbook to Ben Rust.

This dedication describes Mr. Rust as being an educator, author, historian and craftsman. He was a prominent figure in the faculty of ECHS and in the community. Mr. Rust began teaching at ECHS after graduation from the University of California, Berkeley in 1938. During World War II, he was an engineer, ship fitter and a draftsman.

He was President of the California Federation of Teachers for seven years. Before his position at ECHS, he was president at the local and county levels.

In 1958, Mr. Rust wrote a paper titled Study on the Costs of Classroom Instruction. His paper and presentation to the State Senate Special Committee on Government Administration was the passing of two state education laws. He was educational consultant to the Senate Governmental Administration and Efficiency Committees for three years and served on several national advisory boards in education.

In 1974, the El Cerrito Jaycees honored outstanding community leaders, awarding Ben Rust the 'Outstanding High School Educator' award.

Mr. Rust's vocation was teaching, his avocation sculpturing. He made twelve violins, and one cello and numerous other pieces, representational and abstract.

### Quick Links

[ECHS Website](#)

[Archiving Products](#)

[Alumni Information](#)

[Athletic Hall of Fame](#)



[Click Here to access the ECHS Archiving Project](#)

Small Home/Apartment Needed for One - Two + Month Stay. Visiting guest musicians from Germany need of a free, short-term place to stay that has full kitchen access.

On February 2, cellist Rebecca Rust, daughter of beloved ECHS teacher Ben Rust, and her husband bassoonist Friedrich Edelman, will be performing at the school and at other Bay area venues Southern California between December 20 and March 12.

If you have a studio apartment, small vacant home, or a suite in your house that the couple could use from December 20 to March 12 or January 8 to February 3, please email Mr. Edelman directly at [edelman@friedrichedelmann.com](mailto:edelman@friedrichedelmann.com). Their website: [www.rebeccarust.com](http://www.rebeccarust.com) or [www.friedrichedelmann.com](http://www.friedrichedelmann.com).

Concerts: Dec. 30th Mendocino; Jan. 28th El Dorado-Placerville; Feb. 2nd ECHS; Feb. 20th Ridgecrest; Feb. 22nd Borrego Springs; March 5th Spring Lake near Santa Rosa; March 10th Fullerton.

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## Senior Benches

**The classes of 1945, 1957, and 1977 generously donated outdoor benches to ECHS as their class gift. The Archiving Project had these benches uprooted and stored during demolition of the old school with the vision of having them re-installed on the new campus site.**



**We have recently learned that the benches will be placed prominently on the new athletic field near the concession structure. Construction of the new field is projected to start in January 2014 and should be completed by the fall of 2015. During construction the benches will be temporarily relocated to the community garden area on campus.**

**Andrew Mixer, district project manager assigned to ECHS, expressed that the district is sensitive to the historical value of these and other pieces from the old school." They are working closely with the Department of State Architect for approval of placement of such outdoor pieces. For additional questions, contact Andrew Mixer at 510-307-4548**

[Reunion Information](#)  
[Reviews and updates](#)

## Class of 1964

Contact: Jackie Arnold Olson  
jackie845@sbcglobal.net

## Class of 1963

Contact: Marc Bautista  
marcusEC63@aol.com

## Class of 1994

Contact: Nancy Quick  
nequick@yahoo.com

## Class of 1968

"A good time was had by all, as best as can be told, Saturday night, October 5th, 2013 forty-fifth year reunion of the class of 1968, held at the Richmond Country Club. The the Pussycats, Sundowners, and Suncats for a plethora of lively tunes. These ECHS-b1 and party bands kept people on their feet into the night after dinner using a custom d professional sound system, one befitting the talent and passion demonstrated on stag Richmond Country Club should be thanked, as well, for the warm, friendly environs a delicious food. Several Gauchos commented that they absolutely had to have second because the food was so tasty. Importantly, thanks to ALL classmates, spouses and fi came, joining in the fun and thereby adding to it. Between now and our 50th year reu please send changes of address, email or snail, to ... echs1968@yahoo.com ... questio comments are always welcome as well. Sincerely, Class of 1968 Reunion Committee, High School."

## Executive Board

President-Jackie Fonken,'58,  
Vice President, Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Scholarship-Kathie Weinstein,'58,  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary -Diane Sericati,  
Treasurer/Financial Secretary -Dianne Chambers,'69,  
Museum and Display, Scholarship-Joann Steck-Bayat,  
Oral Historian/Biographer-Janet Abelson,  
Museum and Display, Scholarship-Lu Tipping,  
Fundraising Event, SAF Representative, Scholarship, Merchandising Manager-Donna Houser,  
Communication Coordinator, Scholarship-Roddy Lee, '67,  
Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Fundraising, Merchandising Manager-David Bilyeu,'65,  
Scholarship-Gregg Mayer,'76,  
Museum and Displays, Archive Database Manager-Lynn Maack,'63,  
Museum and Displays-Sandi Genser-Maack,'63,  
School District Liaison -Lee Matteucci,  
Hall of Fame Coordinator Larry Quirico,'58,  
Past President,Community Outreach- Patricia Durham -Mitchell,'68,  
Scholarship-Howard Mackey,'44,  
Scholarship -Bobbi Griggs,  
Media-Jessica Lee,'00,  
Member-Leslie Solanen,'67,  
Member-Rosenda Thomas.

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](mailto:ecarchproject@aol.com)

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