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# ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

Newsletter Issue LVI...**update, Gauchos in the Spotlight.**

September  
2018

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ECHS Alumnae & Friends,

The new school year is upon us, and the class of 2019 will soon take their walk across the stage to accept their diplomas.

The first installation of the El Cerrito Archiving Project Scholarship tile project has been completed. It is located on the west wall, under the flag poles.

Facebook, now Instagram, has become part of our social media platform.

Please come by the school and take a look at our Museum; you may be pleasantly surprised by what you see.

Jackie Fleming Fonken,  
Class of 1956  
Call 510-232-9149  
[j\\_fonken@hotmail.com](mailto:j_fonken@hotmail.com)

## Donating Your Museum Items

Archiving Project has over 600 donated iconic items; many are on display in the onsite administration lobby museum, school hallway display cases and the gymnasium lobby. The museum displays dance cards, school club and award pins, uniforms, wood and auto shop tools, home ec dishes and cookware, old office items such as a paddle (allegedly for spanking misbehaving kids in the old days), the first school's wall clocks, school sports game programs and the "Pep Jug," used at sports rallies to boost school spirit - a school tradition. All items have been donated by the

## First Installation Completed



Spirit Groups, Athletic Boosters,  
Teams and Athletes, Alumni.

Come and take a look.\*

Located on the West Wall at the El Cerrito High School Stadium.

The El Cerrito High School Archiving Project Tile display.

If you or a family member participated as an athlete, a cheerleader, a band member, a coach or a referee, you can memorialize your or your family member's performance with a tile inscribed to your order. Whether it was baseball, basketball, tennis, track & field, cross-country, soccer or whatever; if you played or supported sports competitions on ECHS's fields and courts, this project is for you.

Our Tile Project raises funds exclusively for ECHS student scholarships. Over the past thirteen years we have awarded over \$39,000 to deserving ECHS students. Please help us continue this important tradition.

Order your tile now!

<http://elcerritogauchos.net/archiving/archiving-project>

If you have questions, please contact Roddy Lee,  
[ecarchproject@aol.com](mailto:ecarchproject@aol.com)

\*Additional pictures forthcoming

"We" are the El Cerrito High School Archiving Project, and it is our mission to support the development of a strong ECHS alumni

school, alumni or their families.

If you think you may want to donate some of your high school memorabilia, please let us know. Contact Joann at 510-524-9468 or [jsbayat1@comcast.net](mailto:jsbayat1@comcast.net) to see if what you want to donate is needed or not needed. Things we don't need are yearbooks, school newspapers, pictures, and scrapbooks... unless the pictures and scrapbooks document identified (e.g., event name, location and year) school activities or events.

## Coach Quirico's Corner

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**Football Game Film.  
Alumni interested in obtaining  
ECHS Football Film.  
Contact Roddy Lee  
ECarchproject@aol.com**

\*\*\*\*\*



### Hall of Fame Ceremony

Coming Soon!

Contact Coach Quirico  
for more information

[bquirico@comcast.net](mailto:bquirico@comcast.net)

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#### Quick Links

[ECHS Website](#)

**new** [EC Archiving Project App](#)  
[Instagram](#)

[Archiving Products](#)

[How to Donate an Item](#)

[Alumni Information](#)

[Athletics Hall of Fame](#)

body, to collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School, and develop connections to current students and to the El Cerrito community.

## ECHS Grad, Class of 1967, in the Spotlight:

### Major General Barbara (Lavis) Brannon

Barbara Brannon graduated from El Cerrito High School in 1967 as Barbara Lavis. In 1972, she obtained a BS degree in nursing, cum laude, from San Francisco State University in San Francisco. In 1975, she joined the U.S. Air Force as a First Lieutenant nurse. Fast-forward to today and be impressed by her life's story.

Major General Barbara Brannon served for 31 years in the U.S. Air Force, rising through the ranks to become Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Medical Force Development and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Nursing. In these roles, she provided policy, program oversight and career management for tens of thousands of active duty Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve nursing personnel.

Throughout her distinguished military career, she received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster.

She has been described as "a great American and a true military heroine" by Senator Daniel Inouye. She was the first nurse - and the first woman - to command an Air Force Medical Center. She rose through the ranks and became the first nurse in the history of the Air Force to become a Major General and the first two-star general chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps. In other words, Major General Barbara Brannon flew about as high as any nurse in our military possibly could.

A Bay Area native who found her calling early, Brannon excelled in the nursing program at SF State and graduated with honors in 1972. Within a few years she would find herself in the Intensive and Coronary Care Unit at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, newly minted as an Air Force First Lieutenant.

From there the promotions followed - Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General - and finally Major General. So too did the assignments - seven more states, including Nebraska, California, Texas, Florida, Alabama, Wyoming, and Oklahoma, as well as the District of Columbia; High Wycombe, England; and Aviano, Italy. In the midst of this, she found the time to earn another degree: a master's in cardiovascular nursing from UCSF.

Within the confluence of the medical field and the military complex, Brannon flourished. Her passion for her work and talent as a leader brought her to ever-increasing positions of authority, culminating in her appointments as Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Nursing and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Medical Force Development. In these dual roles, Barbara's work directly impacted tens of thousands of medical professionals responsible for providing the highest degree of combat readiness and effectiveness for Air Force personnel. Her mission was to ensure a



## Gauchos in the Spotlight

Do you have a classmate who has contributed to society and you think we would like to hear about him or her?

Contact Roddy Lee at [ECarchproject@aol.com](mailto:ECarchproject@aol.com)

## Take a Look!!

Visit our Museum!



[Old and new, updated pictures of ECHS.](#)

[Reunion Information Reviews and Updates](#)

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Updated 8/20/2018

### Class of 1959

The ECHS Class of 1959 celebrating 59 years, is having their reunion lunch on Sunday, October 14, 2018. There will be a Hospitality Suite open on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 4:00 PM with port and chocolate at 7:00 pm, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Concord. For more information, please contact Barbara Cornish Barichello at 510-724-4988, Lyn Martinez Kelly at 925-937-1437 or Roberta Mendonca at [rcmendonca@aol.com](mailto:rcmendonca@aol.com)

**Class of 1963 -- 55th YEAR**  
**Sunday, October 7, 2018**  
**11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Richmond Country Club**  
**1 Markovich Lane, Richmond**  
**Contact Marc Bautista**  
[\*\*marcusec63@aol.com\*\*](mailto:marcusec63@aol.com)

Class of 1988

Contact: Mylika Lisa Smith  
Reunion Information: TBD

"fit and fighting force."

Decorated with numerous awards and medals and at the pinnacle of her career, Brannon decided to retire from the Air Force in 2005. She has continued to serve her "military family" in her second career - one that is a labor of love.

For much of the past decade, Barbara has been president and CEO of Falcon's Landing, a residential community for retired and honorably discharged military officers from all branches of service, as well as for senior-level federal retirees and their spouses.

Located up the Potomac River from our nation's capital, Falcon's Landing is a place where veterans can enjoy the best years of their lives among the company of others who share much in common. It is also a place where Barbara can continue to put her numerous talents to work in the service of others, promoting the health, wellness, and best possible quality of life for our veterans and their families.

Within her own family, she and her husband, Stan, are the proud parents of Air Force Captain Alex Brannon, who carries on the family's tradition of service to the military and to our country.

[Source: <http://nursing.sfsu.edu/news-announce/alumni-spotlight>.]

## Missing - Alumni Class Reunion Leaders

We are looking for you. Your fellow classmates would like to know when your next reunion is scheduled, and they look to the Archiving Alumni Liaison to give them that information. So, PLEASE, tell us who you are and where you have been hiding.

Missing Leaders:

Classes of 1946-47, '51-53, '77, '83, '86, '88-93, 1996-2000, '02-05, '07 -15.

We need to have the following information for your classmates:

Name, Email, Home Address, Phone #, Cell # and, of course, year you graduated.

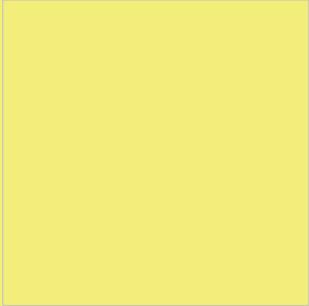
Ladies, if you have a maiden name, we need that information also.

If you are not someone who plans your reunion, please go online and register with the Archiving Project Newsletter Editor Roddy Lee, and he will add you to our mailing list and keep you up-to-date on what your school alumni are up to. [ECArchiveProject@aol.com](mailto:ECArchiveProject@aol.com)

Contact Alumni Liaison: Kathie (Nemy) Weinstein, Class of 1958;

email [Bjhardy4@att.net](mailto:Bjhardy4@att.net), phone (510) 215-5570.

## Archiving Our Newsletters



- [Special Events](#)
- [Newsletters 1-10](#)
- [Newsletters 11-20](#)
- [Newsletters 21-30](#)
- [Newsletters 31-40](#)
- Newsletters 41-50. tbd



**Class of 1978**

**Luanne Canestro at canestro4@gmail.com**  
**https://www.facebook.com/groups/996298050429897/**

**Class of 1979!!!**

**The Reunion committee with Dwayne Fisher, [Cindy Low Tsujimoto](#), [Larry Thompson\(Boo\)](#), [Carol Anderson-Varner](#) and [Lorenzo Harris \(Zo\)](#).**

**Tentative date for our 40th class Reunion!!!!**  
**The date is November 30, 2019!!**

**Class of 1987**

**30TH REUNION**

**HTTPS://ECHS1987.EVENTBRITE.COM**

**CONTACT: TOSCHA CONROE -**

**ECGAUCHOS1987@GMAIL.COM**

**HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/990845987615102**

**Class of 1968- 50th YEAR**

**REUNION DATE CONFIRMED ...**

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

**Richmond Country Club**

**Facebook ...**

**ECHS 1968 REUNION COMMITTEE**

**Paul Bailey**

**Steve Kirby**

**Donnie Lemone (nee Shields)**

**Jim Perry**

**Rich Runswick**

**Class of 1967--50 year**

- Did We Have a Good Time??



- 
- October 14, 2017
- Mira Vista Country Club
- Contact: Roddy Lee-- echs1967@aol.com
- Website:  
<http://elcerritogauchos.net/alumni/alumni/alumni-class-pages/1967-2/1967-50th-invitation>

- \*Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/278113378923236/>

**Website Link: items for sale**

2018 Gift Ideas! Archiving Project Fundraisers!

- Pencils . . . . . 2/\$1.00
- Pens . . . . . 2/\$1.00
- Pins . . . . . \$1.00
- School Photos . . . . . \$1.00
- Book Marks . . . . . \$3.00

"Green & White/The Gaucho Story" - the DVD - \$15.00

Gaucho 75th Anniversary Cushion.. \$10.00

License Plate Frames . . . \$7.00

**Contact**

Donna Houser	Jackie Fleming Fonken
510-234-2251	510-232-9149
<a href="mailto:houserini@sbcglobal.net">houserini@sbcglobal.net</a>	<a href="mailto:j_fonken@hotmail.com">j_fonken@hotmail.com</a>

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Reunion leaders: If you are planning your reunion or need information about your reunion, please Contact Roddy Lee: [ECArchProject@aol.com](mailto:ECArchProject@aol.com).

## Executive Board

President-Jackie Fonken,'56,  
Vice President, Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Scholarship-Kathie Nemy Weinstein,'58,  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary-Diane Sericati,  
Treasurer/Financial Secretary-Dianne Minard Chambers,'69,  
Museum and Display, Scholarship-Joann Steck-Bayat,  
Oral Historian/Biographer-Janet Abelson,  
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,  
School District Liaison -Lee Matteucci,  
Hall of Fame Coordinator Larry Quirico,'58,  
Past President,Community Outreach- Patricia Durham-Mitchell,'68,  
Scholarship-Howard Mackey,'44,  
Media-Jessica Lee,'00,  
Member-Rosenda Thomas,'71  
Member- Sam Burns, '71  
Member-Kent Sanctuary, '64  
Member-Marilyn O'Brian, '58  
Member-Bonnie Taylor, Faculty  
Media-Alejandra Perez Orozco, '02

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)*