



SPHS Classmates Are Social Animals

The regularity with which the SPHS Class of 1954 gets together after all of these years is amazing. Now that we have set times for our luncheons throughout the year, we have more participation. Classmates that live out of town have been showing up at our luncheons, when they visit friends and family in St. Pete. Of course, we have the regulars who come for the fellowship, news and a good meal. Over a year's time, we see about 50 different classmates at the luncheons. That is about 10% of the original class. We know that about 36% of the class still resides in the Tampa Bay area and that 26% of the class is deceased. In the whole state of Florida, we still have 200 classmates. One third of our surviving classmates live outside of Florida.

At our last luncheon, it was suggested that we should have a class-wide **75th birthday event**. Most members of our class are having their 75th birthday in 2011. Tentative reservations are made for an October 8, 2011 luncheon cruise @ 11:30 a.m. on the [StarLite Majesty](#) out of Clearwater Beach marina. Cost will be \$29.95 per person, if we have a group of 20 or more. Luncheon entrees include: Shrimp Creole, Beef Burgundy, Fresh-from-the-wharf, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Vegetarian Harvest and Grilled Chicken Salad. Final payment is due by September 23. So, put the date on your calendar, make your reservations and plan to join your classmates for a birthday cruise on the second Saturday in October. See contact info at the end of this newsletter to make your reservations.

Letters & Notes

Following a new issue of this newsletter we often receive letters from our classmates with updates on their lives. Due to the quarterly nature of our newsletters, the "news" from them is several months old by the time we get it published here. Nevertheless, it is interesting and is probably like the early days of our nation when it took months to exchange letters. ☺

Roy Kaple sent a note to **Lillian Olsen Classen** on Facebook: "We can't make it down to SP real often

but try you get down 3 or 4 times a year to see my Mom. She is in *Bon Secour Maria Manor* and is now 100 years old. She moved to SP in 1916 from her birth place, Anniston, AL, but had visited her grandmother in SP before that - so needless to say, she has seen many changes in Pinellas County. She too is a Green Devil class of '28 I believe. We will try to schedule a trip so we can be there for one of the mini reunions. I'm always remembering classmates from Childs Park, Disston, SPHS and SPJC, and hoping they are enjoying the Gray Years."

Incidentally, did you know that about 20 of our 1954 classmates are on Facebook? It is an effortless way to keep in touch.

Dick Jemison reports that he has just moved into a condo on the beach in Ft. Pierce - "finally got around to down-sizing. Thanks for making the changes in your records; I'll try not to move again, it ain't fun!"

Eva Martha Goddard Knapp e-mails us, "I am in Sydney, in the Land of Oz - Will miss luncheon. Please forward this to members in our northern area with whom I had lunch recently. I am having a ball - will be in Oz until mid-April. I Flew on Qantas 388. Check it out on Google - a perfect flight and the only way to go."

"Here is some news from your northern classmate, **Lucy Jacobus Bean**. Believe it or not, this old couple is planning to accept the invitation from son, Bill and his wife, Cristina, to accompany them to a 26-day trip to Colombia, SA and Peru - Lima mostly. We leave from Dulles airport on April 7, and return on May 2. Although I have been to South America once with Cristina, who wanted me to visit so she could introduce me to her family members (of whom there are many). She is from Perieda, Colombia, S.A. And Ralph, who has never had the pleasure, is in for a wonderful time. The scenery is breathtaking everywhere you look and we'll be visiting her family in Perieda, Medellin, Cali, Cartagena, and other spots for sight-seeing. Thank you for keeping me abreast of things going on from ole SPHS. I'll try to keep you apprised after we return from our trip. Meanwhile, please say "hi" to our classmates for me and enjoy your next activity."

Following the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan we received some communications from **Roger Fleming** about their son, Graham: "Sally said some folks might wonder about our son and his family in Tokyo. The best regular updates can be found at [crashjapan.com](#). Graham's pastor has trained and equipped Japanese disaster response teams in a

number of churches and he is currently the point man for Christian response to this crisis. Tokyo experiences rolling power blackouts as the gov't tries to ration available power to the country. This affects train service and any number of other matters as you can imagine. Stores are being emptied of water and groceries by concerned citizens. And the aftershocks and tremors continue. However Tokyo is approx. 400 miles south of all the devastation. Hope this gives some idea –**Roger.**”

Replying to Roger prompted this exchange: “Roger thanks for the update on your son in Japan. I will include it in the next newsletter. Sherry and I have been praying for the people there, as we also have several friends who live in Japan. They live in and south of Tokyo and are OK.

I just returned from six days skiing at Crested Butte, CO. We really had the snow, as I am sure you did too. When we left, Crested Butte had a total of 342 inches this season. This was my 11th year skiing at Crested Butte, where some friends own a condo on the mountain. Six of us guys from our biking club go and have a great time. Regards, **Ron Rasmussen.**”



“Thanks for the note, Ron. Wow! Crested Butte is only about 1 ½ hours from us. [Roger and Sally live in Montrose, CO.] We also have friends from Little Rock that have a place there. We're not skiers but very much enjoy the wildflower show in the summer. I'll send a recent e-mail from our son, Graham, since he is on a team working in the devastated area. <http://www.gracejapan.com/> **Roger**”

“Congratulations on your excellent newsletter! I so look forward to receiving it; and I often go to my *NoSoWeEa*'s to put a face with a name. Don't travel to Florida very often but will be going to FSU's Emeritus Alumni weekend in Tallahassee first week of April--then on to Carrabelle for some R and R! I live in Western N.C. in the Great Smoky Mountains--a truly exquisite part of the country. If you or any of

our classmates might be travelling in this area I hope you will give me a call so that we can meet for lunch (perhaps at my home, high up in the Balsam Mountains) or any nearby restaurant! (Telephone (828) 631-9772) I lived in Europe for many years--mostly France and Italy. My son was born in Rome and we have a large extended family there. So, when we travel it is usually across the Atlantic! My son and his family live in Nashville, TN but his frequently takes him to Tampa Bay Area. I noticed in the newsletter that Nan Spaulding lives in WNC--will have to see if I can contact her. Many friends from Florida use Asheville as a central meeting point and we often meet there for lunch. Again, thank you so much for keeping me in the loop. Hope I can make it to St. Pete one of these days for lunch on the Pier! Fondly, **Loretta Lewis Holliday.**”

“Hi, **Sally Cook Vazquez** letting you know that I'm joining another club tomorrow [June 14] - The Hip [replacement] Club. It's really bad but I know it'll be a success. The doctor is T. Bernasek, and is supposed to be the best. He's Chief of Staff at Tampa General, so guess he's as good as the get! Say a prayer for me and my family. They're all pitching in to take care of me.”... **June Ward Fleisher** says that Sally's surgery went well.

Joan Steward Hurst reports from Columbiana, AL: “We are unable to come when you have get-togethers; I would love to see everyone, but one day it will be right for us. I do enjoy getting newsletters. Thank you for keeping me informed and be blessed.”

“I thought you would like to see **Fred's** latest accomplishment. He came in Second this past weekend at the Southern Region Championships in Golden A Men Solo Dance Final. We will be going to Fort Wayne IN for Nationals the first week of August. Hope all is well with you! **Sonja Wheeler**”



Silver medalist Fred Wheeler is shown on the left in this photo.

Graduations



Dr. **Fred L. Greiner, Sr.**, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Psychiatrist, Financial Analyst, Cattle Rancher, Real Estate Developer, World Traveler and SPHS classmate, died on April 10, 2011.

Fred was born in Toledo, Ohio on March 14, 1937. Fred's highly-developed intellect and wide-ranging ambitions were shaped early in life by his father, an inventor, university professor, entrepreneur, and scientist who fled pre-war Germany to America. Fred excelled academically at an early age, especially at military school, where he says he learned discipline, and how to get more from the system by working with it rather than bucking it. He graduated high school early, and went on to earn a medical degree at Emory University in 1961.

Fred then became an intern at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, where he met his first wife, Janelle. Rather than beginning a residency program in medicine, Fred chose to first serve his country as an Air Force Flight Surgeon stationed in Bitburg, Germany. He flew missions throughout Europe and the Mideast, serving on a rapid response recovery team for the Mercury and Gemini space flights.

After military service, Fred returned to Atlanta, entered a residency program in psychiatry, began a successful practice, and raised his three children. He became president of the Georgia Psychiatric Association in 1978.

In the early 1980's, Fred visited Costa Rica, an adventure that was to shape the remainder of his life. Fred became an expert grass farmer and cattleman, and built several large cattle ranches in the beautiful tropics. For the next 30 years, he refined the genetics of his cattle and grasses.

In the 1990's, Fred met and fell in love with his wife, Gaylyn. Together, they travelled extensively and eventually established residence between Hutchison Island, Florida, Costa Rica, and Lugano, Switzerland. They attended the 55th class reunion.

For the past four years, Fred battled Polycystic Kidney Disease, to which he succumbed.

We extend our sympathies to classmate **Joyce Lindsay Sperry** on the loss of her husband, David. David died on May 25' 2011.

Contributions

Lil Classen reports these classmates have sent in funds to help keep the newsletter coming. Letters mailed by USPS cost the class about 70 cents each for postage and printing; many thanks to:

Dan Richardson (again)

Sandra Collins Stephens

Paraprosoodokian's

A **paraprosoodokian** (from Greek "παρα-", meaning "beyond" and "προσδοκία", meaning "expectation") is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. Here are a few paraprosoodokian's:

Ø If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.

Ø We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

Ø I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.

Ø Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Ø The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Ø Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

Ø To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Ø Why is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Ø A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

Ø Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR".

Class Contacts:

Reunion Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com

Contributions/Reservations: Donations are a big help and they keep this newsletter coming. Send contributions and event registrations to Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please make payable to: "SPHS Class of '54",

Classmate updates, news-to-share, etc., should be sent to: Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 547-6857 or rrasmus1@tampabay.rr.com

**Next Luncheon is
Saturday, July 9, 2011**

We will meet at the Columbia Restaurant on The Pier. Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know no later than Wednesday, July 6. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.

Remember, you can get there by shuttle from the parking lot at the foot of the pier, by *walking* or by valet parking at the pier (\$4 +tip).



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