

65th High School Reunion



Starlite Sapphire Dining Yacht

You are looking at the floating site of your SPHS class's 65th reunion luncheon. There were several classmates who felt that we needed to observe this milestone anniversary and plans have been made to do it! Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher and Barbara Volley Bowen took the lead and have provided the following instructions for our luncheon celebration:

1. The event is on **Wednesday, May 22, 2019**
2. Boarding is on the east side of Cory Causeway, between South Pasadena and St. Pete Beach.
3. Boarding time is 11:30 a.m., departing at noon, and returning between 1:30 and 2:00.
4. Cost for our group is \$36.11 per person, which covers the cruise, meal, dessert and coffee or tea. There is a cash bar available.
5. **Deadline for Lil to have your check in her hand is April 6th.**
6. Send checks payable to "SPHS Class of '54" to Lil Classen – 8037 Elbow Lane N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.
7. After the deadline you can try to purchase a ticket directly from the Starlite people at an increased cost, and if they have room. Depending on space available, you may or may not be able to sit with classmates.
8. No tickets are sold on the day of the cruise at the dock.
9. Meals are chosen when we board, from the following entrees:

- a. Shrimp Creole
- b. From the Sea
- c. Vegetarian Harvest
- d. Chicken Cordon Bleu
- e. Chicken Cesar Salad
- f. Beef Burgundy

For our collective 75th Birthday Cruise last October 2011, out of Clearwater, we had a big turnout. A few hesitated because of potential sea sickness. On that cruise, we hardly knew we were moving, so this little cruise up and down the Intracoastal Waterway is very tame. Now that we are in our 80's, we should try to be adventurous and sign up. ☺

Gloria and Joe Flad had hoped there would be a good response for a 7-day cruise out of Tampa to celebrate our 65th high school graduation. This was not the case, and there are only a few cruising with them. Thanks to the Flad's for their efforts.

Photos by James Lyn Provo



Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher is providing some information about the proposed 65th reunion luncheon cruise.



Norma and Dan Abbott enjoyed the luncheon at PJ's/



Bette Jackman LoBue was back from NC, and Myrtle Siemers Larson was looking great after her heart surgery last year.

Classmate Notes

Safety Harbor woman donates bells she's played her whole life to The Florida Orchestra (TFO)

February 21, 2019/in *Masterworks* /by Kelly Smith

When she was just 7 years old living near Harrisburg, Pa., Joanne (Schindler) Biringer was given a beautiful set of orchestra bells. Her parents thought they would be the perfect instrument for her to play.

And she did, all through school, with the summer symphony in New Hampshire, and the orchestra at the University of Miami, where she got her music education degree. Now living in Safety Harbor, Joanne continued to play them in local ensembles, including the St. Petersburg Community Band, where she is still part of the percussion section.

Joanne, 83, decided it was time for the bells to go to a good home: The Florida Orchestra. Officially called a Deagan Roundtop glockenspiel, the set made its debut this past weekend during the sold-out *Planets* concerts.

TFO percussionist Kurt Grissom couldn't believe the rare find. The bells, which he estimates date back to the 1920s, are made from drop-forged, high-carbon steel, which is extremely dense and produces a lovely, pure sound. It's hard to find a set like these today.

"This instrument is an example of the Golden Age of percussion manufacturing, where nothing was spared when it came to sound, detail and quality," Kurt said. "We will treasure this wonderful gift from Joanne."

The bells have tuned keys that are arranged like a piano keyboard and played with a mallet, much like a xylophone. When Joanne donated the set last summer, it was showing some wear from decades of use. The orchestra sent them to Andres Bautista of Century Mallet Service in Chicago to be refurbished. They came back looking brand new.

"I can't believe it!" Joanne exclaimed when she saw them Sunday at Ruth Eckerd Hall. TFO's percussion section brought Joanne onstage before the concert so they could show her the gleaming bells and thank her. She had her photo taken backstage with Music Director Michael Francis.



Joanne with TFO percussionists and her refurbished bells

Later, when the bells rang out from stage during *Mercury*, *Venus* and *Jupiter*, Joanne was in the audience. "I was so excited! I told everyone around me, 'Those are my bells!'" Joanne said.

Joanne has a long history with The Florida Orchestra. In fact, she helped start TFO's popular Instrument Petting Zoo many years ago so kids could try out instruments. Still, donating the bells was not an easy decision.

"I didn't know if I could handle the empty spot," she said. "They have been a big part of my whole life. Now I know I made the right decision."

Graduations

It sometimes takes a few years for us to learn about the passing of a classmate. The information comes from various sources – friends, family, newspaper, returned mail or e-mail.



Patricia Arlene Chinn died November 11, 2012 in Albemarle, NC at the age of 77. She never married and was buried near her parents in New Albany, Indiana. [We only learned this by getting a non-delivery message from her former e-mail provider – six years after her passing! The photo is from the *Charlotte Observer*.]

Timothy Katsaris Jr., born Nov. 26, 1935, age 80, of Nokomis, FL, formerly of Steubenville, Ohio, died on August 9, 2016. A memorial service was held on August 21st at 3:00 PM at Farley Funeral Home, Venice Chapel and Graveside Military Honors were held on August 22nd at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Dr. Carole Ann Kendig (whose name at birth was Carole Ann Pike), 82 years young, of Asheville, NC (formerly of Dover, NH; Millburn, NJ; NYC; St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Elkins, W.Va.) went Home to her eternal rest on July 31, 2018 at Mission Memorial Hospital, Asheville, NC after a brief hospitalization. She is predeceased by her mother, Mary Elizabeth Daniels (Pike) of Elkins, W.Va. and her father, John Urban Pike of Harlan, Ky. She is survived by her Life-Partner of 45 years, Patricia L. Collins, Ph.D.

Arthur Ernst Hempel, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family Saturday, December 8, 2018. Art was born in St. Petersburg, Florida March 2, 1935. He attended Northward and North Shore Elementary schools, Mirror Lake Junior High School and St. Petersburg High School. He graduated in 1953 with a basketball scholarship to Florida State University. At FSU, he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and graduated in 1957 with a BS in Management and Finance. He

served in the United States Air Force Reserve for six years. Art married his high school sweetheart, **Rosemary Stephenson** in 1958. He was President of Ace Outdoor Advertising, National Director of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, President of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Florida, and Chairman of the City of St. Petersburg Planning & Zoning Board during his career.

Robert Buxton Broad died at home December 20, 2018 in Reston, Va. He was a graduate of the University of Florida College of Engineering.



Bob Broad

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Lyn Mosher Broad**. A pianist since childhood, Bob filled her life with music, curiosity and humor, dogs, golf and a love of the outdoors. Also surviving is son Christopher and his wife and their two children.

Mary Evanell Barksdale Taylor died on December 28, 2018. She had been confined to a nursing facility in Clearwater for several years. Her family had private services.

Robert Paul Kaniss, 82, passed away February 15, 2019. He was a native of St. Petersburg, born at St. Anthony's Hospital. He is survived by wife Helen, daughter Deborah Kaniss McGraw, Son Karl Kaniss and their offspring. He had a life long career in the jewelry business, owner of Kaniss Mfg. Jewelers. Bob was active in Masons, Egypt Shrine, NRA, and American Legion. He had private services and asked that donations to Shriner's Children Hospital or Suncoast Hospice be made in lieu of flowers.

Classmates Care

This newsletter helps us keep track of classmates. Our classmates generously help pay newsletter printing and postage costs, and the costs for the Internet website. Thanks go this time to **Mary Liz Slater Turner**.



Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find e-mail, phone numbers and mail addresses about our classmates: <http://sphs1954.org/> . Help us keep your data current!

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

Contributions: Donations are a big help and they keep this newsletter coming. (15 years, so far.) Please send them to Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please make checks 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) 544-2374 or r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, April 13, 2019

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar on St. Pete Beach. The menu includes non-seafood, if you have an allergy. Gathering time is **11:30 a.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., April 11. Nancy's phone is (727) 430-4005.



**7490 Gulf Blvd,
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706**

SPHS Class of 1954
10212 58th Street
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632
Address Service Requested