

# And Life Goes On

We had a great birthday/cruise/reunion earlier this year and we had a very large gathering in July for our quarterly luncheon. In fact, we had the largest lunch crowd since our days at the Columbia on The Pier (which is now demolished). We actually had too many for the back room at Harvey's 4<sup>th</sup> Street Grill and some had to eat in the regular dining area. That is a good kind of problem!

We are planning to return to Harvey's in October, and it is hoped there will be enough room for us!



It was wonderful to see Bob Kaniss and Helen back at our luncheons. Bob thanked the group for all the letters and well wishes he received during his months in hospital and rehab.



The back room at Harvey's is greatly improved since our earlier luncheons there. It has been enclosed and air-conditioned. We had the whole room to ourselves.



You can see the good times being shared in this photo of Bob Walton and Dan Abbott at Harvey's.



Danise and Bob Peruche came all the way from Inverness for the luncheon. It was Danise's birthday and the Wheeler's shared their table. Here, Bob is shown with Ron Rasmussen, with whom he attended West Central Elementary School in the 1940's.



Sonja Wheeler and Fred were delighted to see Bob Kaniss enjoying the quarterly reunion luncheon. A group photo of the class who went on the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday cruise is shown on the table. It was provided by class photographer **James Lyn Provo** at his expense to all those who cruised.



Happy to return for a reunion luncheon are, L to R: Kathy Patrick, Walt Lettau and John Patrick. The Patrick's traveled from Citrus County and Walt came from Auburndale.



Pat Reeves Acklin was unable to attend, and Boyd looks kinda sad. ☹



Joan Shaffer Hammill and Carol Deuel Phelps are turned to listen to a classmate sharing some news.

## DONATIONS

Our Class Treasurer, **Lil Olsen Classen**, reports: "Many times, I receive donations along with very nice cards and notes, and I would like you all to know they are appreciated. That is something we learned early, wasn't it? Send a hand written note of thanks to a friend. It is becoming a lost art, and I hear that cursive writing *may* be taught again in the schools. It seems like a whole generation is illiterate in reading cursive. I hear from grandmothers who say their grandchildren can't read their notes. How sad.

Anyhow, keep those nice notes coming. They are wonderful. Do what you can to encourage cursive writing as it is such a wonderful art."

We want to thank **Carol Deuel Phelps, Janet Sieck, Bev Furman Praschan and June Ward Fleisher** for their recent contributions to the class treasury.

## Notes from Classmates

From time to time we receive notes by mail or e-mail from our people. Here are a few recent ones:

**Myrtle Siemers Larson** writes on 8/23/2016, "As some of you may know, my new goal is to become a 'Snowbird'. To accomplish that goal, I'm currently in Lexington Park, Md. with daughter Connie. Temp is now in the 70's and the yellow leaves are beginning to float down from the maples already. Spent time in Savannah, one of my favorite southern cities. Love the town and eating at the Pirate House. Plan to be in Baltimore this weekend and going to Williamsburg in two weeks. Looking forward to a Labor Day crab fest with in-laws who are 'water people' (as well as some Chesapeake Bay oysters). All the great-grands have been so much fun. School starts next week. One granddaughter is homeschooling her two oldest children this year. Some things being taught and the PC culture in the [public] school are not in keeping with this family's strong Christian morals. I really admire her and her husband. There are 4 children in the family. I seem to keep busy, although I sometimes wonder "How so???" Returning in Oct., but not in time for the SPHS luncheon. Pray all is well; enjoy each day. Remember, that you are the oldest you've ever been - until tomorrow!!!"

**Lil Classen** has been playing this summer in the Sunday Afternoon concerts of the Masonic Band at the Masonic Home on 1st Street North. The last two concerts Bob & Helen Kaniss and Bob Walton showed up. They were with Shirley Beaupre Michaud and husband. It was great to see my old band mates from the Green Devil band. Wish they could have sat in. By the way, these concerts are held all year on the 3rd Sunday of the month, and are open to all.

Lil also plays in the Pinellas Park Civic Orchestra which performs on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Performing Arts Center in Pinellas Park. See the <http://www.pinellas-park.com/residents/events/co.php> website for details.

Reacting to the June newsletter, **Bev Furman Praschan** writes: "Great pix and write-up...so glad Bonnie went with you, Myrt!! Great pix of you guys and of Phyllis, June, Gloria and hubby [Joe]! Happy for all of you celebrating 80 for ALL of us!! HOT in AZ!!!! going up to 119 this weekend...so staying in A/C. Love and prayers"

**Marlene Matouk Haugland**'s e-mail: "How nice to get a newsletter comprised of [color] pictures from a gala cruise!!!! Everyone looks happy. Not a bit older than many years ago. Thanks, Ron, for your Editor efforts. Those of us who live far away and don't get to St. Pete often or not at all, appreciate everything the core classmates do. I'm in touch with Neil [Gatewood] and Geri [Martin Willingham]. I'm perking along...am the President of our Homeowners Association and still a loyal volunteer with Assistance League of Salem-Keizer. I love to organize monthly activities for my retirement ladies group and belong to two book clubs. Every now and then I'm home!!!!!"

## Graduations

We have had two notices since the last newsletter. **Richard Leon Albritton** died on September 5, 2016, in St. Petersburg. According to SPHS records, he was born on 2/7/1935.

The US Post office returned the June newsletter on 6/27/2016 from Dagsboro, DE, indicating that **Carolyn Bubser Wester** was deceased. No further information is known at this time.

**Class Contacts:**

**Class of 1954 web site, where you can find it all:**  
<http://sphs1954.org/>. Help us keep your data current!

**Reunions Chairman:** Boyd Acklin, 1110 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or  
[eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com)

**Contributions:** Donations are a big help and they keep this newsletter coming. (13 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 58<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or  
[ronr@alumni.ufl.edu](mailto:ronr@alumni.ufl.edu)

**Next Reunion luncheon is  
Saturday, October 8, 2016**

**Location is Harvey's 4<sup>th</sup> Street Grill in St. Pete.** Gathering time is **11:30 a.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., Oct. 6. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.



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