



Joyous Holiday Seasons!

December is usually a very busy time of the year for many of us. There are family events, shopping and parties. It can also be a very lonely time for those who live alone or have family far away. If you know someone who is alone this season, reach out to them and show that you care!

October Reunion Luncheon

The quarterly luncheon was again held on St. Pete Beach at PJ's Oyster Bar. 23 classmates and guests enjoyed visiting with each other. With fixed dates for our luncheons throughout the year, out-of-town classmates can plan their trip to the area to coincide with our luncheons.

We took a poll of those at the luncheon to learn preferences for our January luncheon venue. Each ballot selected two choices, and this is how it ended:

- PJ's Oyster Bar 18
- Carrabba's 4th St. 12
- Harvey's 4th St. 5
- 3 Others, total 7

So, it's PJ's next time and we also can go back to Carrabba's later.



Photos by James Lyn Provo



Myrtle Siemers Larson is back from bypass surgery earlier this year, seated by Gloria Slater Carnegie.



Bob Walton and Frances Ellinwood are regulars at the reunion luncheons.



Ron Rasmussen and Boyd Acklin usually attend the luncheon. However, both have had senior moments and totally forgot about the date on different occasions!



Pat Reeves Acklin and Sherry Nichols Rasmussen (SPHS '55) smiled for James Lyn's camera.



Barbara Reed Thompson and June Ward Fleisher were enjoying the chance to see classmate and reminisce.



Gloria Fernald Flad and Joe Flad are regulars at the luncheon. They are coordinating a 65th reunion cruise. Gloria and Joe are reminders of what wonderful things result from our reunions.

65th Reunion Cruise

Gloria and Joe Flad have conducted a poll by e-mail for a reunion cruise. There were three choices and a selection has been made. It is a 7-day cruise from Tampa on the Holland-American *Rotterdam*. Departing April 7 for Key West, Santo Tomas de Castillo/Guatemala, Mahogany Bay/Honduras and Costa Maya. The lowest per person cabin rates start, including tax, fees, and port charges at:

Inside \$854.00

Ocean view \$954.00

Verandah \$1754.00

Please book directly through April Martin, Avoya Travel, whose direct line is 877-207-8062, and please copy Gloria so she will know how many to plan for. nativestpete@gmail.com, or 352-321-4026.

Classmate Notes

Annetta Eck Gross Writes: "Life is good, we've been married 59 years, still live in Cocoa Beach and my husband had 40 years as an electrical engineer on the Atlas launch vehicle at Cape Canaveral. We've been fortunate to stay here the whole time. Our 3 kids are independent adults and don't have to monitor us too closely - yet. We're healthy, active, volunteer at church, and go the gym 3 times a week. My favorites are pool aerobics and tai chi. Walking on the beach at low tide and sunrise can't be beat. Our goals are to keep moving, don't fall and be active. My husband is completely restoring his 1929 Model A and that is one huge project! Traveling has been a big part of our life. Our favorite travel group is Road Scholars (formerly Elderhostel) and we have enjoyed 24 programs with them in the states, UAE/Oman, China, Africa and Greece/Turkey. They promote education with fun. I do enjoy the newsletter and am so glad to see the locals still get together. Nancy Cramer wins the prize of changing the least!

Myrtle Siemers Larson sent this note earlier this year: "I had a quadruple coronary arterial bypass graft (CABG) surgery on 2/19 at Bayfront Medical Center. Am doing well and recuperating at home. Family support has been incredible; however, I am more comfortable as caregiver not a patient. Thanks for all the prayers and well wishes." Today, Myrtle is active again with her extended family and friends.



Sylvia Hommer Acton sent us an actual letter by snail mail which said in part: “Thank you for the newsletter and all the hard work keeping everyone informed. My big news this year was the birth of my first great grandchild. Such a joy – a boy. I do love being retired, working in my garden and singing in the choir – of course I’m the oldest and there are many jokes about me being there when J.S. Bach and others perceived their works.”

Nan Spaulding Hess replied to the reunion cruise poll with this: “Sounds like a fun get together. Since my passport is out of date and I get “sea sick” it’s not a trip for me. Would enjoy seeing everyone and hope you all have a great time. Happy sailing!”

Carolyn Brimley Norris also replied to the reunion cruise poll: “Sorry, too far away, and with three harbors [Helsinki] full of cruise ships, as you know - best of all. Thanks anyway, and keep up the very good work for us all, Carol of Finland”

Bob Kaniss is at home under the care of Hospice. Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher had a lengthy phone call with him and he sounded chipper to her. He is concerned that he not be a burden to wife Helen.

Sally Cook Vazquez had surgery in October on the neck area of her spine to relieve persistent pain. We pray that it brought her some relief.

Marlene Matouk Haugland sent this from her home in Oregon: “The recent newsletter was fabulous...as are all of them. Many thanks. I am saddened by the recent deaths of good friends. Can we be that old and/or sick?? I guess so. And I love the dates of past issues. When darkness and rains come to Oregon, I will click on all of them and relive wonderful memories. [Past issues are online, on our class website] I am fine...hubby and I are getting ready for Fall travels in and around the Pacific NW. I sent Boyd an email asking if all was well since I didn't see pix of him/Pat or read anything about their lives. He responded in 30 minutes! And all with reassuring news.”

Graduations

BCHS Classmate **Cloe Carroll Dance** lost her son to cancer on October 12. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her.

Thankfully, we have not received any other notice of a classmate passing since our last newsletter. We are aware that 180 classmates are gone. That is 37%

of our graduating class. If you are reading this, be thankful that you are in the other 63%.

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 to these classmates:

- Annetta Eck Gross
- Sylvia Hommer Acton
- Nancy Cramer Litten

Class Website Usage

One of the things that donations to the class treasury provides is our informational website. We pay a company to host our class information at our Internet address: <http://sphs1954.org/>

All it takes to access this information is to click on the address above. No password or account is needed. That opens a window that provides links to all our known classmates, reunion records, lots of photos and the archive of newsletters. Our computer-savvy classmates access this on-line resource regularly and we receive monthly reports from our web host about its use. This is a chart from a recent report, showing how many hits our site has received over the past 12 months. November is the short, incomplete bar on the right end of each chart.



The chart is hard to read, but, the green bar for October shows about 2800 hits on the website. The light blue bar for October shows that about 1800 files were viewed. On the right, the October yellow bar reveals that the site was visited 651 times. The red bars on the lower right are just a record of data used.

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, January 12, 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., January 10. Nancy's phone is (727) 430-4005.



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

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Address Service Requested