

AHS '71 In touch

February 2024

A once-in-a-blue-moon check-in. Any news to share?

Pages 2-3 – We lose cherished classmates and great teachers.



Major changes at Alameda High

As detailed in the AHS '71 50 memory book things have really changed at our old high school. Familiar parts of it have gone away, such as the old library and the stand-alone units to the north. The biggest change is the new entrance (above), which is at the southeast corner of the building, visible from Wadsworth. A multi-story wing there includes a new library. Alameda is now a high school/middle school, and has an International Baccalaureate designation. Read more in the memory book.

Spotlight – Warren Wolfe

Our classmate missed the deadline on the AHS '71 questionnaire, so here it is. Take it away, Warren!

Lives in: Deephaven, Minn. warrenwolfe1@gmail.com

Married to: Jenny - 3 grown kids, two grandkids.

Career: Still working part-time as a consultant after a career in food services that took me to 40 states with over 1,000 locations



focused on brand development, strategic initiatives and expansion as well as operational leadership for over 10,000 employees in the last 40 years.

Life has been very good and extremely busy. We have traveled the world but love most being at home with the family and dogs. I have been very fortunate in both health and prosperity and attribute my success to those around me who mentored me followed by hard work and good timing along the way. I have very fond memories of my high school days at Alameda. I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in journalism and business in 1976 and immediately went to work in food service (where I could earn the most money at the time). Never looked back.

Special memories from AHS: Our great jazz band and marching band.

Lasting impressions: We seemed to really have a group of dedicated teachers -- especially people like Ben Eastman and Bob Montgomery who brought a sense of adventure and joy to the learning process. I still get book recommendations from Ben Eastman, who is by far the best teacher I ever had.

Lesson learned: I learned 50 years ago to pick something you love and stick with it until you master the details.

How things have changed: Today's school experiences are so different due to the tech available to the kids, the AP classes and the amount of information at their fingertips (no waiting around for a book to come back or digging through the stacks for references). On the flip side, today's students in general are more anxious (have less fun) and seem under more pressure.

Best advice I got: Go to college right out of high school and keep learning. (Those who went into the military right out of high school and went to Vietnam had a rough go of it.)

What are you up to? News about classmates?

Did you know that John Einarsen, founder of *Kyoto Journal*, was a featured speaker at TED Talks Kyoto? The link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-jDA7ulwa0>

Did you know the acting bug Brent Schlueter contracted for the AHS stage continues in community theater in Hendersonville, N.C.?

Did you know that Curtis Gay is a Methodist lay pastor and author of *One More Sunrise: Memoir of a Combat Infantryman in Viet Nam*?

Did you know that with all the basketball coaching Bob Hicks did (highly successful Pomona High girls' program), he capped things off coaching golf at Faith Christian High?

What's your news? In these connected times, no reason to lose touch.

ahsreunion7@gmail.com

Pirates who will be missed

The organizer

No one was as deeply involved in our class reunions as Ken Horn, ever devoted to convening friends and classmates. He died Feb. 11, 2023. The cause was cancer.

He is survived by wife Roseann.

A graduate of Metro State and lifetime resident of Lakewood, Ken's work culminated with ownership of Columbine Wine and Liquors, from which he retired in 2015. Before that, he was in regional and route sales for Coors Brewing Co. and worked for Essress Realty.

Ken attended Saint Jude Catholic Church in Lakewood. He also served on the advisory board of the Colorado Licensed Beverage Association, Colorado Lottery Advisory Board, Shiloh House Advisory Board and was a youth mentor.



Ken Horn

Contributions can be made to Shiloh House Beyond the Walls Program, <https://shilohhouse.org/services/beyond-the-walls/> and or the Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers, <https://www.rockymountaincancercenters.com/>

The magician

Attendees of the 2021 reunion picnic saw Dave Elstun -- "Amazing Dave" -- do his thing, magic, a craft which became his life and career. He died Nov. 28, 2023, in a freak fall at home in Littleton.

Dave is survived by several performing family members, including his wife, Miss Connie, herself a children's magician.

Dave's performing career stretched over five decades and included serving as the house magician at Casa Bonita and doing magic performances at the Lodge Casino in Black Hawk. He also owned Zeezo's Magic Store and Elstun Magic Productions Inc. He was a member of the Mile High Magicians Society.



Dave at the 2021 reunion picnic

In lieu of flowers, his family suggested a contribution to Dave's GoFundMe:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/37hbygoa4o>

Wonderful teacher Betty Flanders

When we last heard from Mrs. Flanders, one of AHS '71's most popular teachers, she was having a blast at age 91. She died in January of 2023.

Having taught English for 30 years, she retired to the fullest of lives. She is featured in the AHS '71 memory book.

Among survivors are class of '71 alumni, daughters Joan and Jean, also featured in the Memory Book. They report that their mom did not choose a charity, "but would like for you to read a book."



Brian Mate's classroom magic

Barb Seese writes in the 50-year memory book that as a history teacher, Mr. Mate showed "classroom management is redundant when you can hold your students in thrall. He didn't have to raise his voice or zing sarcasm; an occasional pause accompanied by knowing eye contact was enough." One method to get students ready for deep thought was to play classical music in class. His cerebral methods came to mind for many upon hearing of his passing Sept. 26, 2022 at 88.

He came to class prepared and expected the same from students. As his wry obituary intones, "The good students loved Brian Mate – the bad students, not so much."



In addition to a long run at AHS, he taught at Machebeuf Catholic High School and Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy. He is survived by wife Jeane and two sons.

Instead of sending flowers or donations of any kind, his obituary contained the admonition to "read a history book or biography," and to "watch a baseball game (root against the Yankees)."

<https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/arvada->

[co/brian-mate-10949608](https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/arvada-co/brian-mate-10949608)

Know your way around a Web page? We can use you

With the passing of Ken Horn, we need someone to maintain a web page for AHS '71. Content is available for export at <https://alameda1971.com>, which Ken built and maintained. However, it is inaccessible without him. We would like to be able to embed previous reunion memory books on the site and get more photos and info from and to classmates. Let us know if you can help: ahsreunion7@gmail.com.