



Les (Gillis) Clark, Janet (Mason) Lutz, Connie (Settles) Greene

Reuniting

Getting people together after 50 years apart is a daunting challenge. The pandemic afflicting our planet added a dimension that, not surprisingly, sapped participation at the 50th reunion for Alameda's Class of '71.

Assembling a memory book is similarly challenging. Even when contact could be made, often the response was, "Who can remember that far back?" Well, we remember. The fact is, just like someone emerging from a deep sleep, sometimes it just takes a few impressions – a face or two, a memorable moment or two – to get the memories flooding back. So, let's begin.



George Smith greets a classmate

The Chronicles

The *Chronicles of the Class of 1971* is a living, evolving history of the Alameda High School (Lakewood, Colo.) Class of 1971. The current edition only scratches the surface of the rich and varied history of that noble entourage -- students, faculty and other relevant characters. Some submissions have been condensed for length. Please consider "Those Who Have Passed," our obituaries section, and if you have biographic information about classmates or faculty members who made a substantial impact on your formative years, send that information to ahsreunion7@gmail.com. The *Chronicles* editorial team will receive, curate and edit the material for publication in a subsequent edition. Please, no anonymous submissions. We will need to follow up and verify any information to ensure it was provided by a reliable source. Regards, **The *Chronicles* Editorial Team.**

For print copies

Many digital printing companies can convert this PDF product into a printed keepsake. One that helped with production of this memory book is Leave a Legacy (leavealegacytoday.com) in Fort Collins. Also check out VistaPrint (vistaprint.com).

For a class roster and more photos, visit:

Alameda1971.com

AHS '71 Quiz

(Answers next page --
don't cheat)

1. *The Paragon* was the AHS newspaper starting in

1970. What was its name before that?

2. AHS had good teams in 1971 but only one Jeffco

champion. Which sport?

3. Which '71 grad was featured as the male prize on "The Dating Game?"

4. What metaphor was used by the administration to describe the Mod Scheduling roll-out? A: Spider's web; B: Cow pie; C: Amoeba.

5. What hyper-mischievous student prank befell Mrs. Ghering in the English Resource Center?

6. Band guru Bob Montgomery got which famous trumpeter to perform in concert at AHS?

7. On graduation week, what did night-stalking seniors construct in the senior courtyard as a "gift" to the oh-so-inferior Class of '72?

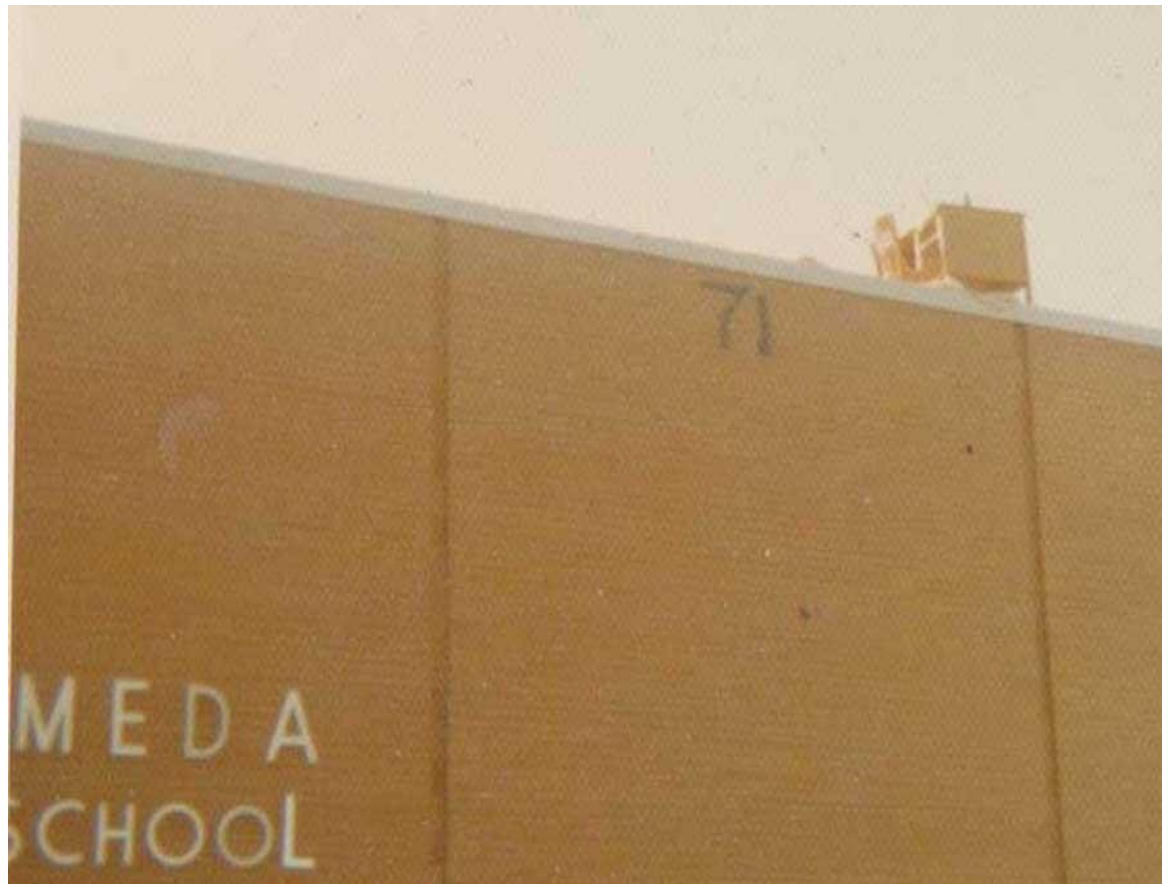
8. Who represented AHS that spring at the Denver-metro all-star baseball game at Bears Stadium?

9. Ben Eastman taught us English (and, hell, yes, sex ed), but most of his career he taught something else. What?

10. Who were teachers of the year in '71?

11. Who was responsible for playing the basketball halftime pep band version of "The Horse" so fast that the Treasurettes could not keep up with it? John Einarsen, Steve Norton, or both?

12. He wasn't very big, but he was a wrestling state champion in '71. Who?



13. Which faculty members played the Alameda Fight Song as a duet on brass instruments during a basketball season pep rally when we were sophomores?

14. Which technique did Mr. Mate use to get students to focus in his philosophy classes?

15. One valedictorian wasn't good enough for the AHS Class of 1971. We had two. Whom?

16. Which three members of our class were speakers at our commencement ceremony? For extra points, what was the topic?

17. What were girls finally allowed to wear to school during our senior year? With what exception?

18. Who were the leads in the AHS stage production of "110 in the Shade?"

19. Which ridiculous movie were we gathered in the auditorium to watch as part of high school social studies? A: *Salem Witchcraft Trials*; B: *Failsafe*; C: *Dr. Strangelove*.

20. OK, now, whose desk was hoisted onto the roof on the last day of class?

Those who served

“What are you going to do now?” When we graduated in 1971, many of us thought we had achieved a milestone . . . and we had, but there’s a reason high school graduation is called “Commencement.” It’s the end of one endeavor and the beginning of a new adventure, one simultaneously exciting and terrifying.

For some, life after high school was as certain as the sunrise; they knew they were going to college, or that they had a secure entry-level position waiting for them in the family business. For others, leaving AHS was an unsettling shove into a precarious world, and their post-high school choices were anything but clear-cut. There were three strong possibilities: further education, some kind of job, or — at a time when the war in Vietnam was still slogging along — the military.

To **Steve Valdez**, the military was his best choice. He is among several who served in the armed forces, a group that we at the *Chronicles of AHS '71* wish we could recognize in totality. Of course, we don’t know all among us who served.

Valdez enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Germany where he learned to drive tanks, among other soldierly skills. (After tank training, his impeccable touch-typing skills — which he said he owes to AHS business teacher Barbara Welch — took him off the field and into a clerical position.) He said he wasn’t going to wait and see if he would be drafted; he chose to enlist so that he would have some choice in how and where he would serve. And “serve” is the key to Valdez’s actions. He defines a veteran as “someone who serves” his or her country.

Steve credits the Army for teaching him self-discipline, and pushing him to set goals. Indeed, he used the GI Bill to go to college (eventually getting his master’s degree), have a teaching career and become an outstanding wrestling coach.

Not that every aspect of his service was positive. He said he decided to leave after his tour of duty because of all the drug use among fellow soldiers. At times, he said, “The Army is its own worst enemy because it doesn’t provide for its soldiers’ needs.” All told, however, Steve said it set him on the road to a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Other veterans from the Class of '71 include **Ken Charles, John Einarsen, Jim Kenshalo, Curtis Gay, John Malensek, Dave Marr, Dennis Waldner, Larry Waldner, Ted Chase, Terry Moore, Lloyd Wagner, Skip Cruse** and **Rick Warner**.

Thanks to all who served. Apologies to all who did the same and can’t be recognized by name here.



Steve Valdez and an M55 Sheridan tank.

Answers to AHS '71 Quiz

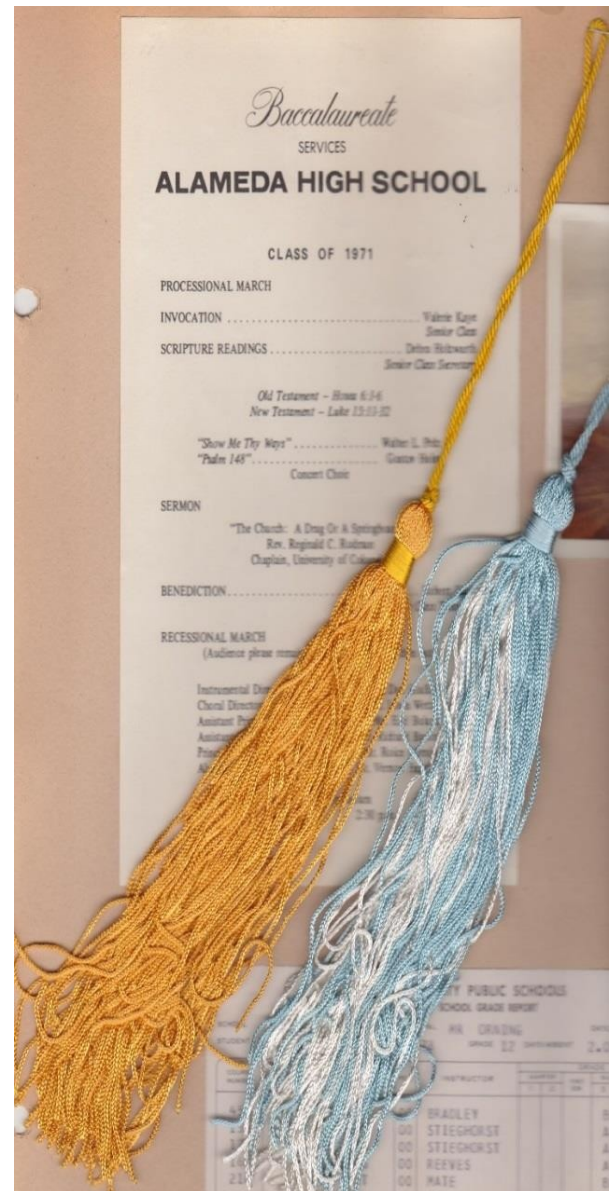
We told you not to cheat. . . .

- (1) Pieces of Eight
- (2) gymnastics
- (3) Dave Mabra
- (4) C – “amoeba”
- (5) removed her entire cubicle, then restored it in a flash
- (6) Clark Terry of the “Tonight Show” orchestra
- (7) assembled a kiddie swing set
- (8) Rick Warner
- (9) Spanish
- (10) Ben Eastman and John Marsico
- (11) Sorry, Steve! Fifty years after the debacle, Einarsen has owned up to this deed
- (12) John Myers
- (13) Hugh Gunnison and Bob Montgomery
- (14) classical music
- (15) Judy Downing and Barb Fairbanks
- (16) Ed Swartley, Tony Bieda, Warren Wolfe (theme: “Where Are We Going? Where Have We Been?”)
- (17) slacks, but **not** jeans
- (18) George Smith and Brent Schlueter
- (19) A -- “Salem Witchcraft Trials”
- (20) Hugh Bradley’s

Not too shabby

In no particular order . . .

Jeff Malpiede became a Catholic priest and a leader in his diocese in Lubbock, Texas . . . Jim Donaldson was a Denver attorney . . . Gary Pfeiffer was a computer programmer for the University of Colorado . . . Debbie (Pidek) Vane has worked on many NASA projects at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory . . . Before he became a psychotherapist and she became a Spanish and biology teacher, Brent and Pam (Exon) Schlueter were Peace Corps volunteers in Malaysia . . . John Einarsen founded the *Kyoto Journal* in Kyoto, Japan, which published its 100th issue in 2021 . . . Denise (Washington) Wyhs was executive director of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence . . . Fred Schaefer became a Broomfield attorney and served on Adams 12 Five Star School Board . . . Before a career in accounting, Deb (Holzwarth) Mauck was on the Denver Broncos' Pony Express . . . Judy Downing served as chaplain in several hospitals and hospices . . . Barb Seese had a career as a special education teacher in Colorado and Arizona . . . Bob Hicks compiled a record of 343-147 as head girls basketball coach at Pomona High, with four appearances in the state finals . . . Tony Kanka joined the ministry and performed prayer services at AHS '71 reunions . . . Les (Gillis) Clark became an illustrator for children's books (Check out *Peepsqueak*) . . . Tony Bieda was CEO of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools in Washington, D.C. . . . Capping a career at Bear Creek High, Steve Valdez received a "Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award" in 2019 from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and coached Olympic gold medalist Adeline Gray . . . John Young twice won top honors in humor writing from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists . . . Bob Hall coached football at Cherry Creek High and owned a sports memorabilia business . . . Bruce Burkland earned the title "Guru of Racquetball" in Colorado . . . Terry Lemley became a professor of physics at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio . . . Patty McIntosh had a career as a physical therapist . . . Ken Horn purchased a liquor store in the Denver area after a career at Coors . . . Ed Swartley, whose career began in newspapers, had a long run in desktop publishing . . . Before his career in drywall supply, Dale Burkhardt played football as a walk-on at Fort Lewis College . . . Jan (Bohm) Olson has been a realtor in Brighton and trustee on the Platte Valley Medical Center Foundation . . . Alan Miller was president of Baker Shoe Stores . . . Pam (Exon) Schlueter spent a summer in Uruguay on a Fulbright Scholarship . . . Steve Norton had a career as an Aurora police officer and criminology instructor . . . Jim Webb was an accountant for several businesses . . . Deb



(Witaschek) Buehn had a career as a newspaper feature writer in Florida . . . Ted Chase served varied functions with the Navy before, as a civilian, working at the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center . . . Skip Kruse was a professional bowler and won two PBA titles . . . After many years as an English teacher, Karen (Mitchell) Davis transitioned to an intense career as a litigation paralegal in Colorado and Texas . . . Tom Murtaugh had a career in the U.S. Forest Service. . . Dan Stayton had a career in teaching and as a school counselor . . . Brad Bourquin plied a degree from Colorado School of Mines into a career in – yes -- mining . . . Stan Wofford was a concert pianist. . . Jim Jump managed a chain of movie theaters . . . Calvin Craig had a career as a mortgage loan officer . . . Janet (Mason) Lutz managed a plumbing company with her husband . . . Dave Mobley had a career in forest management and firefighting . . . Jeannie (Ryker) Chesling went from being a legal secretary to being a CDL truck driver, and ended up in county elections administration . . . Curtis Gay is a Methodist lay pastor and author of *One More Sunrise: Memoir of a Combat Infantryman in Viet Nam* . . .

Question:

Who is the faculty member, coach, or administrator you would most like to encounter after 50 years?

Kathi (Mainard) Price -- **Mr. Lossaso**, a very funny man! **Mr. Eastman**, who always suggested interesting books.

Tom Frew -- **Mrs. Flanders** was wonderful. In my yearbook, she wrote that I was noisy but I was nice and handsome, so that made it OK! **Mrs. Meadows** made me think about the impact we are having on Earth.

Steve Norton -- **John Tracy**. He encouraged me to compete in gymnastics at UNC.

George (Smith) Middleton -- I see **Mrs. Kinsey** occasionally at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and have spoken with her about the things she taught me in the AHS auditorium.

John Young -- I've been able to keep up with **Ben Eastman** and our beloved journalism teacher, **Marion (Stieghorst) Cox**. So I'll summon **Hugh Bradley**. We could talk about AHS hoops classics (but not statistics class).

Dale Burkhart -- I was really bummed finding out **Ben Eastman** was at the high school tour of the reunion while I was at the bar social time. He has always been my favorite teacher. I loved both **Jerry Jeffries** and **John Groninger** for being good teachers, great coaches and mentors. They were instrumental in helping me strengthen and live out my faith through Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Dan Stayton -- **Ben Eastman** -- often!

Terry Moore -- **Mr. Reid**. He put up with me, and I made it through his class.

Barb Seese -- **Ben Eastman** gave up many prep periods to provide free counseling to students; (Treasurettes sponsor) **Rosemary Smith** believed in my leadership skills and gave me the opportunity to shine; and **Marion (Stieghorst) Cox** challenged my creativity and encouraged me to take artistic risks.

Pam (Exon) Schlueter -- **Mr. Reid** sent me textbooks for my first year teaching. **Judie Dickinson** attended my seminar at a regional conference in the 1980s. **Ben Eastman** is my favorite non-teacher ever. I never took a class from him, but spent lots of time seeking his counsel in the English Resource Center.

'71 to Now

Betty Flanders: going strong

Those in the Class of '71 thinking of living long and happy lives can look no further than **Betty Flanders** for encouragement. Writes daughter Joan (AHS '71): "She is amazing at 91."

She plays bridge almost daily, and she watches the news and keeps up on current events with a communication device called a GrandPad.

She taught high school English for 30 years, of which 27 ('69 to '96) were at AHS.

"After my teaching years," she writes, "I enjoyed traveling in retirement." This included getting out on the water in a sailboat captained by former AHS principal Ron Mitchell.

Twin daughters Joan and Jean live in Eugene, Ore., and take turns going to spend a week with their mom. "Arthritis now requires a wheelchair for her, but she goes out almost every day. She is amazing and inspiring," writes Joan.



Betty Flanders taught 30 years, 27 at Alameda High. She resides at Village at Belmar assisted living in Lakewood.



Question:

What classmate(s) would you most want to encounter now after 50 years?

Dave Cross – My three best friends from high school: **Dave Elstun**, **Jim Crowell**, **Todd Wickman**.

Ray Nelson – **Patty Buchler**.

Mike Ruckhaus -- **Ken Chao**. We were college roommates.

Lloyd Wagner -- My sweetheart and wife of 32 years, **Cristee Lee Wagner**. Also my fellow thespians, and friends from Citizens Action Lab.

Bill Last -- **Mary Ann Kidd** and **Dave Fair**. They are my lifetime friends.

George (Smith) Middleton – I would like to know what became of **Alan Miller** (why isn't he president yet?) and **Doug Laufer** (aptly named as "laufer" means "runner").

Tony Bieda – **Alan Miller**, to hear of his experience and perspective as a business CEO.

Dale Burkhart -- I haven't seen **Bill Gillin** since 1981. I feel very lucky to have seen **Tony Kanka** this year at my daughter's wedding in Grand Junction and our reunion, he was a fun roommate at Mesa College and spiritual mentor.

Dan Stayton – **Tony Kanka**. I will see him in heaven.

John Einarsen – **Jim Donaldson**: such an unusual soul.

Kathi (Mainard) Price – **Bill Gillin**, a good guy and a neighbor of mine. We also went to the same church.

Terry Moore – **Mark Markovic**, to relive our film-making experiences.

Rick Offerson -- **Ronda Burton** from Alameda Elementary.
Cherri Nathlich – first-grade crush; **Steve Norton** and **Roger Reed** – best friends. **Cristee Weir**.

'71 to Now

Bruce Burkland

Residences (three locations): Arizona, Montana and California.
BurklandBruce@gmail.com.

I had a great career in private and municipal recreation. I retired in 2019 as the Racquetball Guru of Colorado.

Extracurricular activities that mattered to me: My involvement in after school athletics: gymnastics, football and track and field.

Classroom activities that mattered:

Learning how to type. LOL! Geometry and keeping a diary in Eastman's English class.

What lesson or lessons – academic or social – did you learn? Pay more

attention to the deviousness of your neighborhood buddies when you drive them to school in your car. Don't let them throw snowballs (from your moving car) at a school bus. It got me yanked out of the classroom by the police.

What do you wish you had done differently back then? Taken a shot at theater or the performing arts.

Best or worst advice? Chasing girls in the 16- to 18-year range can be complicated. This bad advice made me too shy to go for it.



Ray Nelson

Residence: Hager City, Wisc. nelson2652@gmail.com Three daughters, six grandchildren.

I was a supervisor/manager at various companies in Colorado, Wisconsin and Minnesota, including IBM, Conagra, Control Data, Red Wing Shoes and Bic Corp. I retired in 2021.

What kind act do you recall from high school? Supporting each other when Sheldon Cobos passed away.

What extracurricular activity mattered to you? Sports, working together to achieve a common goal.

What event would you like to relive? Senior prom

What do you miss about '71? The great cars.



Curtis Gay

Residence: Denver
Curtis.gay.umc@gmail.com

Family: single

I'm retired from Centurylink but now serve as regional director of Methodist lay education for Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. I'm also a church organist/pianist.

A few words to sum up your life: The two most important days of your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why -- C. Jung.

Extracurricular activities that mattered to you: Bridge, choir, and theater people

What do you miss about 1971? Don't miss the past.



'71 to Now

This class is special to me

By Ben Eastman

After I graduated from college in 1963, I began teaching at Ranum High School. I came to Alameda in 1968 and taught sophomore English that first year, and thus got to know members of the class of '71 well. It was that connection with students that helped eliminate any career doubts I had and cemented my commitment to teaching that lasted for 48 years.



I fondly remember teaching with some very strong, gifted colleagues: **Brian Mate, Frank Phelps, Eileen Ghering, Judie Dickinson, my wife Lori Eastman, Scott Capron, Duane Lewis, Roe Mackey** -- the list is incomplete. There were many. I also derived satisfaction in encouraging students to apply to college, especially those who were unsure about going.

And there was nothing like Alameda basketball under Duane Lewis. When Lori and I were first dating -- and even after we were married -- we would bring our children (her two boys, my two girls) to watch the Pirates dominate Jefferson County League basketball.

My main role, as I saw it, was to form relationships with students. Knowledge of subject matter and how to impart it are important, but more than anything I wanted to get to know my students. I remember recommending to a rather tone-deaf student who had difficulty with Spanish pronunciation that after graduation he perform his Mormon mission in a Spanish-speaking country. He came to see me two years later, back from Latin America, with a truly sweet-sounding Spanish accent.

And I recall encouraging a student who was not at all sure she was cut out for college to apply. Later she burst into my classroom, interrupting the lesson, to breathlessly tell me she had been accepted. I loved watching students develop belief in themselves.



Ben Eastman talks with Steve and Kathy Norton and John Einarsen at the reunion.

My main wish for all my students, high school, private school, or middle school, is that they are able to move into adulthood knowing how to go about living fulfilling lives.

I taught English, including the western literature class called Lore of the West, teaming up with Frank Phelps. I got a master's degree in sex education and taught several classes including Family Living, Bionomics, and Marriage and the Family.

Eventually I asked Judie Dickinson if I might teach one section of Spanish I. She approved and, along with college classes I enrolled in immediately, helped me get started. Of everything I taught, standing in front of my first Spanish I class was the most scared I've been as a teacher.

I taught five years at Ranum High School in Westminster, 31 years at Alameda, two years at Colorado Academy, and 10 years at Hill Middle School in Denver.

To me the class of '71 is special because it was my experience with those students that assured me that teaching was where I belonged.

So many great teachers

Good teachers know how to get their students to attend class and pay attention to the day's lesson. Great teachers go a step further. They light a fire in their students, motivate them to become lifelong seekers of knowledge, and give them the tools they need to analyze, evaluate, and eventually create new ideas, products, and processes.

It's a blast to solicit classmates' recollections of the special people who served us in the classroom.

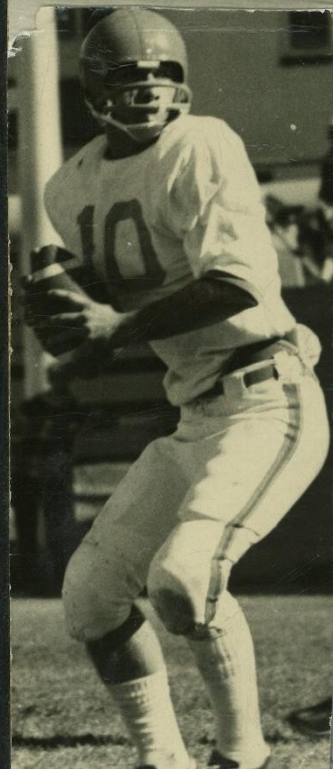
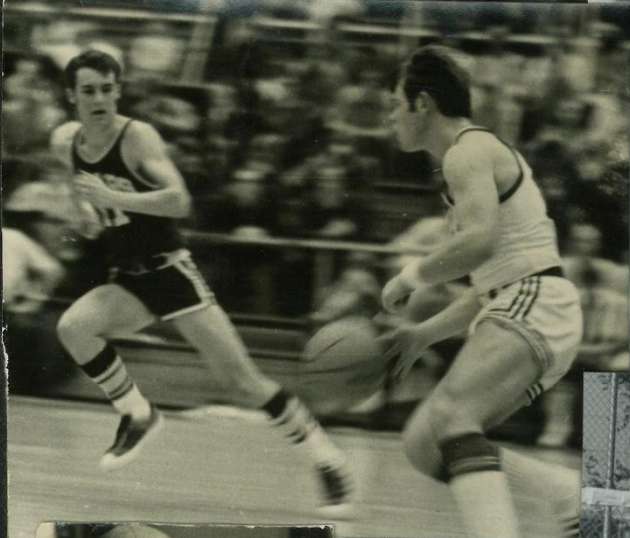
Barb Seese remembers the riveting classes of history teacher **Brian Mate**: "A great history teacher makes the past accessible and relevant. Mr. Mate's mastery of Russian history was unparalleled; he knew every fascinating detail about the Romanovs, Rasputin, and the Bolsheviks -- and he knew how to bring that information to life. He exemplified the idea that 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 to restore a mutual compact of respect."

Bill Last remembers how DECA sponsor **Paul Barr** not only was a great teacher but also a friend to students. He even helped Bill find employment.

Marcia (Bryant) Worley had glowing praise for **Eileen Ghering**: "There was no compromise on what she expected of us. It still grates on me when people use incorrect grammar or spell incorrectly in media and professional papers."

Lloyd Wagner thanks biology teacher **Betty Jane Meadows** "for her ability to fuel my interest and career aspirations in science" and **Diane Kinsey**, "who opened my eyes to the wonders of the humanities and the arts."

Tony Bieda is one of several alumni thanking physics teacher **Dave Reid**. He "inspired exploration and encouraged learning through a classroom filled with gadgets, instruments and devices, aka the tools of physical science. He introduced us to the Mu Meson/Time Dilation, a proof of the general theory of relativity filmed at Mt. Washington, N.H. He also introduced us to frictionless laboratory devices (dry ice emitters traveling on glass tabletops) and an exhaust hood that was used to measure pounds thrust of model rocket engines (only if the cinematographer avoided double-exposing the 8mm film!) The intellectual wealth and natural curiosity of a bright man filled his classroom."



Some *really* good coaches

For much of its history, Alameda has been known as a basketball school. It would have been a Jeffco dynasty in the '60s and '70s if not for that other dynasty, the Wheat Ridge Farmers. Alameda built other reputations -- in gymnastics (county champions in 1971), wrestling (state champion John Myers), baseball, cross country and more. Of course, AHS athletes had some great coaches.

The AHS varsity basketball team of '71 settled for third place in a tough Jeffco League campaign under **Hugh Bradley**. The fact is, however, that most members of that team had barely known the word "loss" on the hardwood up to that point in high school. They went 18-0 as the AHS junior varsity under **Paul Davis**. The previous year the same team lost only two games and went undefeated through a Jeffco campaign under **Merle Wicklund**. Davis would go on to win a state championship with Green Mountain High.

The AHS gymnastics team took the county title under **John Tracy**, who also doubled as tennis coach. The wrestling team had excellent coaches in **Henry Hadlik** and **Frank Phelps**.

John Groninger and **Jerry Jeffrey** seemed never to go home, serving vast and varied coaching functions. Groninger was so widely respected as AHS baseball coach that when the head football coaching job opened up after **Frank Rino's** retirement, he was the natural choice.

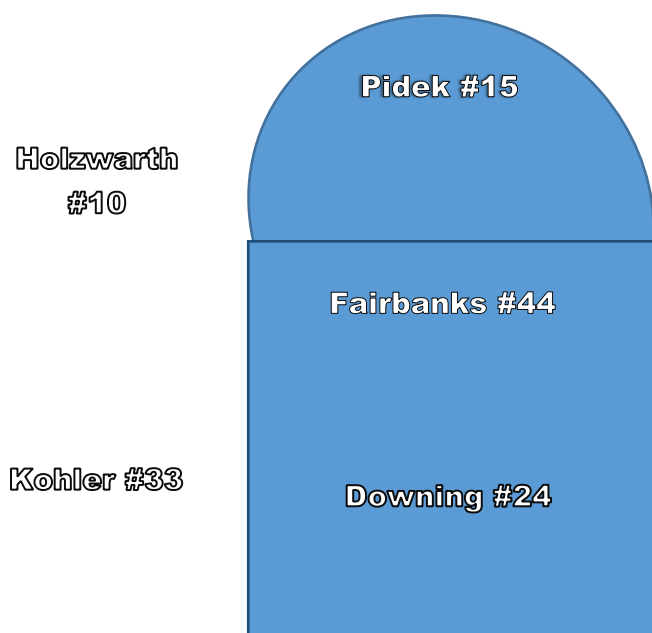


The undefeated '70 AHS junior varsity team – all members of the Class of 1971. Back row, Coach Paul Davis, Ken Brown, Mark Geisert, Rick Hildebrand, Ray Nelson, Alan Miller, John Quinn. Front: Bob Hall, John Young, Bob Hicks, Gary Pfeiffer, Dave Oss, Bill Leach. Not pictured: Fred Schaefer, Rob Evans.

Groninger also spent nights during basketball season providing intricate scouting reports for Bradley and Davis. Jeffrey coached cross country in the fall, and assisted with basketball and baseball. The AHS track team was led ably by **Dick Gordon**, while **Greg Nicholson** coached golf.

A *fantasy* team

No doubt most moms and grandmoms in the AHS Class of '71 have fielded the question: What sports did you play in high school? The answer, sadly, scandalously: Girls barely had any such opportunities then. Except for scattered instances, girls' interscholastic sports in Colorado didn't begin in earnest until 1976. What a shame. What a hole left in high school experiences for so many. With basketball glory in mind (see above), the *Chronicles* staff imagines who might have made the squad if one existed. Here is the Team that Never Was. Starting at high post and low post, respectively, two rangy co-valedictorians, **Judy Downing** and **Barb Fairbanks**. Starting at point guard, the fleet-footed and calculating **Deb Pidek**. At one forward, the strong-elbowed **Deb Holzwarth**, a star of softball renown. At the other forward, make way for **Cathie Kohler**, ever a rebound in the making. Pretty good, eh? For reserves, make a place on the bench for **Becky Trapp**, **Laurie Rehberg**, **Pam Eubanks**, **Patty McIntosh** and **Karen Rubenstein**. OK, Ladies. It's fight, fight, fight for the blue and white.



World's now our stage

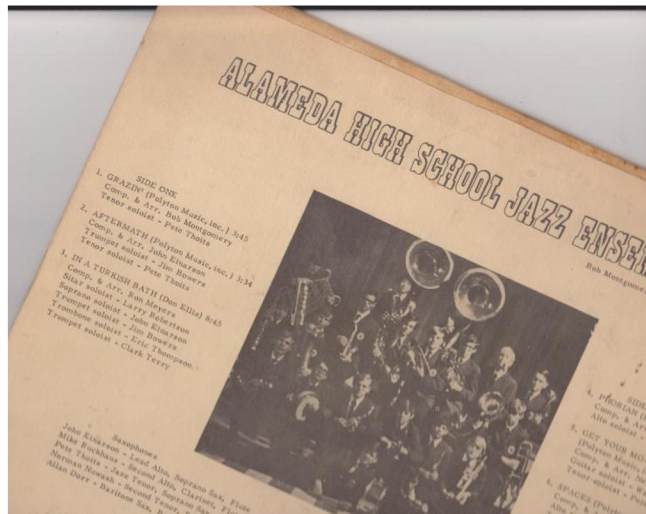
George Smith and Brent Schlueter were the leads, but the contributors to the spring 1971 school play *110 Degrees in the Shade* were plentiful -- and packed with '71 grads. **Ed Swartley**, **Kit Klancke**, **Dave Marr** and **Valerie Kaye** had central speaking roles. Among the townspeople of the village of Three Point: **Karen Ardis**, **Jan Bohm**, **Steve Briley**, **Judy Downing**, **Dave Elstun**, **Cathie Kohler**, **Michelle Hurd**, **Mark Markovic**, **Terry Moore**, **Cherri Nathlich**, **Laura Sherburg**, **Lloyd Wagner** and **Cristee Weir**.

Under the direction of **Diana Kinsey**, it might as well as have been a cast of thousands, as did other AHS stage productions.

The performing arts would provide defining experiences for many. So much of what is enriching about a high school education takes place outside the classroom. That certainly was the case for students involved in orchestral and choral music at Alameda. The AHS Jazz Ensemble under **Bob Montgomery** blazed trails in traditional jazz and experimental music. Montgomery used his connections to bring "Tonight Show" trumpeter Clark Terry to play with the AHS musicians in the high school auditorium.

With performers like **Jim Donaldson** and **Jim Bowers** (trumpet), **John Einarsen** (saxophone), **Mike Ruckhaus** (clarinet), and **Rick Ohlemeier** (trombone), the jazz ensemble wowed audiences with mind-blowing student arrangements and those by Montgomery.

Many grads found venues for their talents after graduation, but all took with them the love of the arts.



'71 to Now

The Jazz Man

He sported a beard, wore a Nehru jacket when he conducted band concerts, drove a white MGB Hatchback, and lived in Evergreen in a home with a second-story wrap-around balcony. He was laid-back but intense when on the director's riser and in rehearsal. He still performs trumpet and flugelhorn in Denver.

AHS band director Bob Montgomery introduced young musicians to the creative and imaginative possibilities of jazz improvisation. He encouraged practice at a depth and intensity necessary to master the scales and arpeggios necessary to create melodic lines and rhythms that synchronized with chord progressions. He directed the AHS Jazz Ensemble at numerous state jazz band competitions and won several awards.



Jazz was his love; marching band was not. Recalled one student performer: "He hated it, and we hated it, too. Once we performed at halftime at a football game with two bass drums, and they got out of sync; the whole thing was a disaster. At the end we marched to the end zone and stood at attention. Mr. Montgomery ran down and looked at us all with his piercing stare. We anticipated a scolding, but he uttered only one word: "Dismissed!"

'71 to Now



Steve Norton

Residence: Arvada
snorton61@msn.com
Wife Kathy, son
Justin, granddaughter
Quinn, grandson
Kade.
I retired as an agent
from Aurora Police
Department after

nearly 29 years of service in a variety of assignments: patrol, investigations, training academy, Direct Action Response Team (a special street crimes unit), and SWAT. Today I instruct classes such as arrest control, defensive tactics, impact weapons, ground fighting, building searches, and vehicle contacts at the Community College of Aurora basic law enforcement training academy.

I am very proud to have worked with so many true professionals. I retired from Aurora PD knowing that I had made significant contributions toward officer safety through the application of sound and effective tactics.

I met my wife, Kathy, at UNC in Greeley, and we have been married for 45 years. She is the love of my life and my best friend. We both worked hard to build our lives by serving our community -- me in law enforcement and she in education. We adore our grandchildren and our two dogs and enjoy spending time at our cabin.

Extracurricular activities: In addition to gymnastics, I enjoyed playing the drums, particularly in the pep band at football and basketball games. I hated marching band.

As for the classroom, I wish I had taken my education more seriously. I particularly wish that I had taken Spanish, as it would have been so beneficial working on patrol in Aurora.

High school was fun, but in the grand scheme of things it was a mere blip in our lives and in many ways was not particularly consequential. All of us have suffered great loss or witnessed horrific events. High school was not the best or the worst part of my lives. It was really just a brief chapter in a long book.

Brent Schlueter

Residence: Hendersonville, N.C.
schlueter.brent@gmail.com

I'm still working as a clinical social worker. It is the only job that has kept my interest -- now for 34 years.

I'm still with and in love with Pam Exon. We have two wonderful daughters. In AHS I first became connected with theater. I am still doing it. I love how radically liberal AHS was. Citizens Action Lab as an example. We changed things with Belmar Park.

I am still hopelessly liberal. It has led Pam and me to the Peace Corps and countless other wonderful adventures. There are far too many friends and faculty who influenced me to name.

The ones I would rather forget I have thankfully forgotten, but their lessons remain as well. The Seventies were a time of change. We hoped and tried for what was better. Now???



Les (Gillis) Clark

Residence: Longmont

My husband Gary and I have three daughters, three son-in-laws and four delightful grandkids.

I am working on my children's books and fabric designs. Go to leslieannclark.com and see some of my work. My most popular kiddie book is *Peepsqueak*. The second one is *Peepsqueak Wants a Friend*. Go ahead and order a few dozen from Amazon! Ha ha! Like everyone else, I am busy doing this and that and then doing it all again the next day. Life is never boring.

My hubby and I travel a wee bit in our tiny travel trailer. It is easy to pick up and go over a weekend. Mostly I hang out in my art studio working. It's delightful. It never feels like work.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: I loved the football games until they put in the mod system and school spirit dissolved. That was a sad day.

Classroom activities that mattered: Nada. I didn't really like school that much. Only Mr. Eastman's class.

A kind or otherwise remarkable act: I remember leaving to go watch soap operas at Woody's house. Ha! I also remember my dad bought us one car for all four of us to drive. My brother and sister Karen went away to college, so that '63 Chevy Impala convertible was all mine for a short time. I couldn't wait to get out of class and sit in it and put the top down! Off I went! Wind in my hair! Ha ha! Was that remarkable? I suppose it was remarkable we all survived those years without seatbelts!!

Lessons learned: I learned how important it is to be kind to people. I saw plenty of unkind acts and people hurt in high school. Now we are all grown up! Our reunions have been delightful and fun and everyone is kind! The past is just that. Past!

What you had done differently? Take more art classes.

In what ways are the school experiences of your children or grandchildren different from your own? My three daughters were a lot like me. Their values were much like my own when it came to liking everyone. Things don't feel so safe for our grandkids. When we were young we went all over the neighborhood and our mom didn't even know where we were.

What is the best or worst advice? In third grade I had someone in authority tell me I was not like my brother and sisters. It was devastating. I thought I was stupid. Eventually I believed it. As it turned out, I had a learning disability. Words are powerful. By the time I was diagnosed, I was already raising children. I watched for it with my own kids, and none of them had problems. I always told them they were soooo smart, and they lived up to it. Between the three of them, I think they all had straight A's through college. Watch what you tell your children.

'71 to Now



Lloyd (Steve) Wagner

Residence: Providence, Utah

Lloyd.s.wagner@icloud.com

Widowed and remarried, with 5 children, 2 stepchildren, 16 grandchildren.

I'm retired but still doing fine art oil painting.

I served 23 years as an Army officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers followed by 15 years as a senior VP of an environmental engineering company. I've had a full and fulfilling life packed with many wonderful, exciting and heart-wrenching experiences. My military career provided opportunities to live and visit throughout the world and do my part in defending the Constitution and the noble ideals and values it codifies. It was a great privilege to serve with other like-minded patriots. I also very much enjoyed working as a leader in a company with the resources to clean up and correct many environmental messes across the country.

I lost my high-school sweetheart, Cristee Weir Wagner, to a brain injury in 2005 after she fell while riding her horse. I remarried a wonderful woman (Sharon) who was widowed shortly after I was when she lost her husband to cancer. I attribute all that I have and all that I am to the wonderful grace and enabling power found in my relationship with Jesus Christ and his glorious gospel.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: student council, thespians and stage presentations, Honor Society. I recall walking miles along the highway with Cristee, picking up aluminum cans for the "cash for cans" fundraiser.

Classroom activities that mattered: I enjoyed doing taxidermy in Mrs. Meadow's Biology II class and having the porcupine I stuffed put in the display case.

What lessons serve you well 50 years later? I was a member of the Citizens Action Lab group that advocated for preserving the property adjacent to the Villa Italia Mall. I testified before the city council. It has always been important to me to make a difference in my community and leave things better than I found them in the lives of people and our precious world.

What do you wish you had done differently back then? No regrets. *Event you'd like to relive?* Every precious moment with my high school sweetheart.

In what ways are the school experiences of your children and grandchildren different from yours? I considered Alameda a tough school in the sense of plenty of fights and conflicts, perhaps because my older brother Dave travelled more in those circles. Perhaps it was the turmoil of the Vietnam War. I'm certain there was plenty of domestic violence experienced by many of my classmates

at home. We had our hoods and our jocks. Today, however they have to cope with the intense unrealistic, demanding pressures of social media. In many ways parenting responsibilities have been abdicated to the schools.

Best or worst advice you received in your youth? Best advice was a choice to decide right then and there if I wanted to drink whiskey or have Cristee as a girlfriend. Worst advice was when I sat next to a fellow Honor Society student in the library and asked him how he would solve a math problem I was struggling with. His response: "by myself."

Rick Offerson

Residence: Albion, Mich.

Offy53@icloud.com

Wife Brett, sons Sven, Robert. I'm retired from Eaton Corp. I was an



OTR truck driver 25 years and for 13 years territory sales and service manager. After a couple of restarts, now I'm enjoying a wonderful life in retirement with my loving wife of 26 years, now committed to community and

church involvement/service.

Activities that mattered in high school: pizza at Luigi's after games, and woodsies in Deer Creek Canyon.

What lessons did you learn? Civic-mindedness – giving back to the community.

What would you do differently? Finish college the first time.

Advice? Life is short. Live every day like your hair's on fire.

Jeannie (Ryker) Chesling

Residence: Cartersville, Ga.

sweetpea500@hotmail.com

Husband Matthew; two daughters, three grandchildren.

I've had an interesting career.

After having been a legal secretary, I got my CDL and took to the road for a few years (saw all states except for Maine). After that time, I started working for the elections office in the county where we lived. I retired in 2016.

I've had a wonderful life (some good and some bad). But haven't we all experienced

that? The choices we've made in life gave us adventures, friends, and the quality of life that was only ours to live.

What do you wish you had done differently in high school?

Sign up for Outward Bound and try for another part in drama class.

What day or event from your high school years would you like to relive? 11th grade homecoming or prom.

What do you miss most about 1971? The music, friends, clothes and the carefree feeling of being young.



'71 to now

Judy Downing

Residence: Yuma, Ariz. judithlynndowning@gmail.com

My career took me to varied locations (Middle East, Korea, Paris) yet always following Jesus to people on the margins of life. I'm still chaplain at my church in Arizona. I had served as chaplain for hospices and hospitals in Colorado Springs. Life has been adventure and beauty and belovedness through difficulties.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: I loved being a Treasurette!

A kind or otherwise remarkable at you recall from school: My friends were my friends – remarkable!

What do you wish you had done differently back then? I wish I had known to listen to my heart.

What from high school years would you like to relive? I thoroughly enjoyed singing and dancing in *110 in the Shade*.

In what ways are the school experiences of your children or grandchildren different from your own? I had a stepson who lived with us during my second marriage. He attended a small private school in downtown Seoul, Korea, an hour and a half by public transportation away from a three-room apartment for 5 people, where he learned to hate studying French.

Best advice you got in your youth? Take organ lessons.



With Chico

(Kathi) Millynnne (Stratton) Brown

Residence: Van, Texas

2sandybear@gmail.com

Recently widowed: spouse Bob Brown. Three grandchildren.

I still work for a regional grocery company in data processing and customer service.

I've had data-entry jobs at various companies, plus about a dozen years working with Youth With a Mission in the Tyler, Texas, area. I had a

wonderful marriage of 43 years and am relearning how to be "on my own" since my spouse passed away, and the rest of my family is miles and miles away. When I'm not working, I'm involved in my church and with friends.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: I enjoyed the French Club the few times we met.

What lessons did you learn that serve you well 50 years later? I never thought that taking typing class would pay off, but it did when I decided to go to work at other than a retail business. In general, learning the value of doing a good job on something also has paid off over and over.

What do you wish you had done differently? Not been afraid to make friends. Work a bit harder and take some more difficult classes.



Jan (Bohm) Olson

1963 Donna St. Brighton, Co 80601

Two sons, two grandchildren. Married to David Olson 43 years.

I retired after 20 years as a Realtor. I have been a trustee of Platte Valley Medical Center Foundation since 1992. I'm a volunteer chaplain at Platte Valley Medical Center.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: band, Outward Bound Club, Treasurettes.

Memorable act from high school: Outward Bound leader Mr. Lombardi tested our inner strength with difficult physical and mental challenges like a 50-mile pack trip through Paria Canyon, Utah. I repelled off a gymnasium wall. The experience has impacted my life. The most important phrase which stayed with me today is, "Pick up that backpack and go!" Now I lead the group out.

Best advice: Always do your best!



Bill Last

12605 Hazel Ct., Broomfield 80020;

wcf14@comcast.net

Happily married to my wife Liz 45 years, two 2 remarkable sons, four grandchildren I had 43 years in the paint and hardware industry. I started out working for Montgomery Ward including transfers to

Kansas City and Chicago. After 14 years I came back to Denver and worked 20 years in the paint and hardware distribution field. Before retiring I was national director of purchasing for Comex Paint U.S. and Canada. Comex sold the U.S. and Canada divisions to Sherwin Williams in 2015. I assisted with the transition.

Liz and I have been blessed to have great jobs, great family and enjoy our free time traveling. We have a second home in Fond du Lac, Wisc. We spend as much time there as we can.

Extracurricular activities that mattered to you? Managing the student bookstore and working on the 1971 yearbook.

Classroom activities that mattered: DECA.

What do you wish you had done differently back then? Nothing -- had a great three years at Alameda.

What day or event from your high school years would you like to relive? There was a lot of craziness in the bookstore behind the blue wall.

In what ways are the school experiences of your children/grandchildren different from yours? My two boys were very active in sports. I wish I would have gotten more involved.

Unfortunately my home situation would not allow me to participate
Advice you received in your youth: "Turn down the radio," and, "Get a haircut."

What do you miss most about 1971? The fun times, music, and just being a young teenager.





The former Mrs. Stieghorst and husband Ed Cox

'71 to Now

Elegance and grit: Marion Cox

If you had her in a creative writing class, you knew Mrs. Stieghorst was more than a teacher. She was an artisan. Grading poems, she would lovingly, and in sweeping strokes, mark the meter of each. She had a soft side reflected in the student work she nurtured in the *Kaleidoscope* literary magazine. She also had a tough side, not so much directed at her students but in standing up for independence and inquiry in the student press.

As sponsor of *The Paragon*, she drew the wrath of administrators, including the superintendent of Jeffco schools, for stories and student commentaries focused on sex education and contraception, drug abuse and race relations. She never backed down.

After a stint at Alameda, she had a long run at Columbine High School. She and second husband Ed Cox moved to San Francisco ("Too cold") and then found "the place" in Chapel Hill, N.C.

After retirement she stayed busy with elevating pursuits. She studied art at Mills College in Oakland, Calif., and the University of North Carolina. She learned to paint and do digital art. Her life was one of elegant strokes.

Sadly, during production of this memory book, Marion Cox passed away at 92.

Question:

What lesson or lessons – academic or social – did you learn that still serve you well these 50 years later?

Fred Schaefer – I learned there is always someone tougher, smarter, richer, and better-looking than me. But you know, really not that many! But seriously, I learned that, inside every single kid - with few exceptions -- is a truly talented, gifted kid.

Jeannie (Ryker) Chesling – Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be afraid to be in front of a group of people.

Judy Downing – I don't think I really started learning till later.

Tony Bieda – Have the courage to leap into the future, and the integrity to persevere. People will notice.

Ronnie (Burton) Lockabay – Organize your time; don't waste it. Cherish your friends.

John Young – Toward changing the world, a little bit of something is infinitely more than nothing.

Dan Stayton – Days, like the beat of a drum, have a rhythm and back beat to the lyrics that we live out in front of others.

Bob Hicks – Set goals and follow through on achieving them; love others no matter what, as I feel our class (jocks, rowdies, nerds, and those gifted in the arts) all got along and supported each other.

Steve Valdez – I still use the skills I learned in physical education. The same with typing, a skill that got me through the Army, college, jobs and so on. I skill use my fundamental skills I learned in physics, geometry, Latin, Spanish, accounting, and civics.

Dale Burkhart – In Boys Home Management class I learned how to do a double Windsor knot on my tie and a few sewing and cooking skills. From typing class I gained the skills to type term papers in college for classmates for beer and money.

John Einarsen – Mr. Montgomery taught us what real excellence is and what it takes to achieve it. Mrs. Stieghorst gave us a sense of ethics. She also let me use the school camera and darkroom, which set me on the wonderful path of "seeing." I worked all summer my junior year as a dishwasher and earned enough money to order a 35mm Olympus camera from Japan. I learned something about reaching a goal through my own efforts.

Kathi (Mainard) Price – Never underestimate the value of learning something "new." Reading and researching continues to be a very value tool for me.

Terry Moore – Sometimes the "powers that be" have no idea what they're talking about.

Rick Offerson – Civic-mindedness: giving back to the community.

Janell (Shaffroth) McBeth – Focus on what *you* want, not what others want for you.

Steve Norton – Just try to treat each other respectfully even if someone is not a part of your particular group.

Pam (Exon) Schlueter – Yes, AHS, we did and we DO make a difference.

'71 to Now

Joan Flanders



Residence: Eugene, Ore.
gregandjoan@comcast.net
My life partner of 38 years is Greg Fisher. We chose not to have children. I am a retired registered nurse, most of my career in newborn intensive care. I loved it. In retirement, I enjoy friends, family (Jean and her husband live 3 miles from us), reading books, walking miles every day, and playing ukulele. Our English

cocker spaniel, George, is a joy. Jean and/or I travel to be with Mom (Betty Flanders, at Village at Belmar, assisted living, in Lakewood) every month.

Ted Chase

Residence: Albuquerque
Wife Camille (Graham) Chase, AHS Class of '76; four daughters, 9 grandchildren. I retired from the U. S. Navy and Naval Reserve after almost 30 years. I've worked as a civilian for the Air Force 11 years at the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB, NM. In active duty and as a civilian I have served 10 presidents and 12 administrations.



Extracurricular activities at AHS: cross country, *Paragon* photographer, state French horn competition with Stan Wofford as accompanist.

Classroom activities: geometry, Jerry Jeffries; chemistry Harry Jones; English, Ben Eastman.

What do you wish you had done differently? Wish I had been able to master (learn) trigonometry, math analysis, and calculus. I REALLY wanted to work in the engineering sciences. Curious that I now work in the acquisition of nuclear weapons capabilities for the Air Force.

How did school for your kids differ from '71? Our kids were subjected to what was called "outcome-based education," more concerned with self-image than learning from (homework, class, school) failures and overcoming them. Sadly, public schools have become indoctrination tools of the present socialist "progressive" movement, rather than teaching actual history, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and practical life skills – knowledge required for our grandchildren to compete in the international world in which they will live.

Fred Schaefer

Residence: Brighton

drjosh33@hotmail.com; drjosh3@gmail.com

Family: Widow. Four children, all way more successful than dear old dad. One, the smartest, just got her Norwegian citizenship (it's dual)

Grandchildren: 14, one on the way.

I was an attorney for 19 years but just quit to sail in Mexico. Before my career in law I was a newspaper editor (the failed *Back Country Journal* in Sudbury, Mass.) I formed American Pride Soyfoods (still in existence), was an organizer with the Billy Graham Crusades and was in restaurants and retail. I was adjunct philosophy professor at Metro State College and served on the Adams 5 Star School Board. At one point I realized that chasing money, honors, degrees and fame ain't worth it -- and that a relationship with Jesus Christ is!



Extracurricular activities that mattered: Athletics and dating. I tried to date Karen Ardis and Pam Exon at the same time. Who knew?

Classroom activities: Mr. Reid's Physics I and II classes; Ben Eastman's English class; Mr. Bradley's math science seminar.

What would you have done differently? Learned to play defense on the basketball court. Taken Fellowship of Christian Athletes more seriously. Married someone from AHS who was not a class valedictorian. Sorry, Barb and Judy -- took me a couple decades to grow up -- still love you (both).

Memorable from '71. Posing for every club picture for the yearbook with Bob Hicks. Who was (and still is) cooler than Bob Hicks?

Worst advice you received? "No one will look out for you. You need to look out for No. 1." Thanks Dad, for the terrible advice that only leads to loneliness and misery.

What do you miss most about 1971? Pure, unadulterated, innocent political activism – like efforts to save the Bonfils Estate from development.

Janell (Shaffroth) McBeth



Residence: Lakewood

Janell.mcbeth@yahoo.com

Great husband Gary and I have a daughter and 4 grandchildren. Worked at King Soopers 29 years in various roles.

Memorable from AHS: Pep Club was fun going to the games.

Event from '71 you'd like to relive: My trip to

Washington, D.C., and all the stops we made – monuments, Potomac River, White House, Salem, Mass.

Life lessons learned: Focus on what YOU want rather than what others want you to do.

'71 to Now

Dan Stayton

Residence: Paducah, Ky.
dpstayton@gmail.com
Wife Julie, two daughters,
one son, three
grandchildren, one great
grandchild.
I'm retired after having
been a school
counselor (Clark County
School District) in Las
Vegas, Nev.



Today I volunteer with the Gideons International and at Heartland Church. Teaching and counseling are fondly remembered as I often said, "Everyday a little fun, a little learning and a little service to others." God has been gracious to me! Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live."

Extracurricular activities: I was the consummate partier and not proud of that.

Classroom activities: A class titled Modern Intellectual History.

Lesson that still serves you: Days, like the beat of a drum, have a rhythm and back beat to the lyrics that we live out in front of others.

What do you wish you had done differently? I would have found Jesus as my savior at a younger age than 19.

Ways the school experiences of your children or grandchildren differ from your own. Children are over supervised and underprepared for adulthood.

Kathi (Mainard) Price

Residence: St George, Utah



klprice.71@gmail.com

Husband Mike

Daughter, stepson and stepdaughter, with eight grandchildren.

Graduated from Regis University in 1991. Had a pretty crazy single-mom life until that time. Married Mike in 1994. We have lived in Colorado, Arizona and now Utah. We've travelled extensively since his retiring in 2010.

I retired from the oil and gas industry after 20 years as a staff accountant, then I worked part-time in various things – aviation, rail transportation and real estate with Mike. I still work, very part-time, to help Mike and his partners in real estate. I took up my passion of glass art as a hobby and do fused-glass art from my home studio. I love hiking, yoga, Pilates and living in Utah where we are close to all our children and grandchildren.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: Pep Club and all things sports. Open-campus classes made it easier to work after school.

What would you have done differently? Not graduate early. It went by very fast for me. After graduating at semester break, it was off to community college and work.

How do today's school experiences differ from your children's? The digital age changes everything regarding social interaction.

Best advice from your youth? I truly can't remember!

What do you miss from 1971? The music.

Ronnie (Burton) Lockaby



Residence: Mesa, Ariz.

ronnielockaby@cox.net

Three grandsons. I still have my mom at 90 and my sister.

We had a mobile and modular home dealership for 32 years in Minnesota.

However, I retired from that with divorce. I'm still doing some artwork. Overall -- a beautiful ride with a few tough times

Extracurricular activities: Art Club, creative writing, cheerleading.

Lasting lesson: Organize your time. Don't waste it! Cherish your friends.

Memorable act of kindness: NEVER did I think I'd get to be homecoming queen against Les & Star. It was a shocking night to remember. Ohhhh, but Monty went out with Don that night, sooo, I was homecoming queen without a date. Thank you, Debi (Pidek) Vane, for having my back that night

Best advice: Be honest. Be true to yourself. Do your best. Give to others.

Tony Bieda

Residence: Louisville, Ky.

anthonyvb34@msn.com

Wife: Maggie Ward

Son and daughter with Barbara Seese, one grandson and a granddaughter on the way!

I'm still working in public policy and post-secondary education consulting. Critical thinking, analytic skills and writing skills developed in

high school and honed through college and beyond have put bread on the table and a roof over my head for more than 45 years. The rest is detail from my CV, a lengthy and convoluted chronicle that merits little attention and no acclaim. Family and providence have blessed me in ways I cannot fully describe or explain.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: jazz and marching bands, attending sporting events, wrestling, cross country (training for wrestling), student publications.

Classroom activities: Music, studio art, math, science, English.

Remarkable event: Assisting John Einarsen, Brent Schlueter and the homecoming parade float team build a Pirate's skull out of chicken wire and tissue paper. Many weekday evenings and weekends shaping and covering that shape in someone's garage!

Lasting lesson: Have the courage to leap into the future, and the integrity to persevere. People will notice.

What do you wish you had done differently? Practiced the alto saxophone more.

What from your high school years would you like to relive? My first homecoming dance with D.W. I was allowed to borrow the family Ford sedan to transport the entourage!

Best advice: You will never have trouble finding someone to tell you, "You cannot do that." Do it anyway.

Miss most about 1971? Access to my Dad, who passed away more than 20 years ago but who was a solid and enduring resource to me and my family always. As is my Mom, who lives in Westminster.





Class of '71's Lloyd Wagner speaks to the Lakewood City Council – Sentinel Photo

'71 to Now

Saving Belmar

It started with a school biology project: **Brent Schlueter's** inventory of wildlife on the closed-off Bonfils estate property, not far from his home across Wadsworth. It turned into an against-the-odds effort by AHS students to save precious open space.

In seeking information about the property where Canada geese often resided, Brent heard that the massive property – over 127 acres – might give way to bulldozers and homebuilders, scenic Kountze Lake drained. This discovery, as yet unconfirmed, coincided with a special senior-year independent study class: Citizens Action Lab.

In it, local activist Estelle Brown schooled students on how to get something done in one's community. Then the students set out to do it. In small groups, they chose projects. Brent suggested open space to his group: **Pam Exon, Lloyd Wagner, John Young** and **Terry Thompson**. After confirming their fears about the future of the Bonfils property, they sought to stir Lakewood residents to save it. The spoke to the mayor and city planner, wrote letters to the editor, appeared on TV, gathered 3,000 signatures and presented their concerns to the Lakewood City Council. And then . . .

. . . They graduated and scattered to respective corners of the higher education world.

The students had no idea if the notion they planted would bear fruit or the winds of commerce would shuffle their idea into the ditch. They didn't know that when they left, another civic group took up the cause and pushed to get the preservation of the property on the ballot.

In 1973 the voters of Lakewood resoundingly said “yes” to preserve what today all in the Denver area know as “Belmar.” The citizens' affirmation resulted in a lot more than saving a lake and green belt.

Today the property serves as the centerpiece of the city, not just with the lake, a city museum/cultural center and retail at the corner of Wadsworth and Alameda. A few years after its purchase years afterward, the city, feeling cramped in its municipal headquarters, picked up those stakes and built a new City Hall on a sliver of the property that had piqued AHS students' interest.



Once targeted by developers, Kountze Lake is the centerpiece of Belmar Park.



After preserving the 127-acres of the former Bonfils estate, Lakewood built a new city hall on the property.

'71 to Now

Dale Burkhardt

Residence: Morrison, Colo.
dale.burkhardt@lwsupply.com
wife Robin, two daughters,
five grandchildren.

I remain at L & W Supply in
Denver, a distributor of
drywall products and
accessories. I hope to finish
next year after 29 years in drywall supply.

I attended Mesa Junior College and transferred to Fort Lewis
College, majoring in football until I realized you have to study to get
a degree which I did in 1977 with a BA in business administration. I
married Robin, an Arvada West graduate, in 1980.

I still have lifelong friendships with fellow classmates and enjoy the
reunions when they come around. I started tae kwon do in 1971.
Then I got into competition. I was blessed to do a lot of travel during
my competitive years (1985-2001) and have created lasting
friendships both nationally and internationally. Robin and I have
raised our grandson Taylor since 2008. He now is a world-class
gymnast with Stanford University.

What do you wish you had done differently back then? Actually
applied better study habits, because I had none. I always got by until
my junior year in college and had to teach myself how to study.

Event from your high school years would you like to relive? I missed
the senior prank and still hear the stories to this day thanks to Bobby
Hall about his role and how he almost served time! Nobody can still
believe Jim Kenshalo survived his famous jump off the roof.

How did your school experiences differ from today's? Simply not the
same. We were probably one of the last classes that was tight and still
stays in touch, we enjoyed all the activities, sports, plays, and class
fun which is simply not there today.



Bob Hicks

Residence: Arvada
prst4321@gmail.com

Rocque and I have 2 sons and 2
grandchildren. I retired after 45 years of
teaching and coaching -- 33 in Jefferson
County (29 at Pomona High); 12 at Faith
Christian High. I've been blessed to be
married 42 years, watch my sons grow
into manhood, marry wonderful ladies
and have their own children.

Activities at AHS that mattered: cross country, basketball, track,
choir, junior class president, senior class treasurer.

Classroom activities: All math classes, Ms. Gott's Latin Class, Mr.
Davis's special education class.

Especially memorable: Kissing Karen Chase in the library on a bet in
front of 30 students and Mrs. Kinsey; hiding from the police on the
roof after painting "'71 lives again" on the courtyard wall thanks to
Bob Hall and Alan Miller taking one for the team; basketball games;
running the Galley concession stand our junior year.

Moment you'd relive: Hitting the winning free throw against Golden
junior year.



Would have done differently: played golf; worked harder at
basketball; sang choir all three years.

Best advice from your younger years: Say what you mean and mean
what you say. Be good for nothing (do the right thing even where
there's no reward for doing it). Don't do drugs.

What do you miss most about 1971? Flower parties; hanging with
Hall, Donaldson, Roy Wood, and Doug Laufer; missing Jim
Kenshalo's flying act.

Jackie Youngblood

Residence: West Highlands,
Denver
jackieyoungblood@comcast.net

Husband Jerry Moline, one
daughter.

I'm retired as a judicial clerk/bailiff
in Denver County criminal court.

I am very happy. I am also very
disappointed. I loved traveling around the world. Damn COVID.

Experiences from high school you'd relive:

None of it. They were tough times. We were on a cusp. We went to
elementary, junior, and high school together and, the years later
divided us. Hippies, Vietnam, etc. I remember sitting in class and
having to say goodbye to a classmate who had his draft number come
up.



Marcia (Bryant) Worley

Residence:
Sedalia, Colo.

Daryl and I
have been
married 46
years. We have
three children
and have nine
grandchildren.

I loved being a
pediatric nurse for 15 years, the rest in private practice in Castle
Rock. I retired earlier than desired due to COVID. My husband and I
are blessed with good health, really great kids and grandkids. We all
love adventure, being active and being together. We're so grateful to
raise our family in a rural setting, a smaller community, and to keep
wonderful friendships over the years.

Extracurricular activities that mattered to you: Treasurettes.

Classroom activities that mattered: Learning to type, write a
composition, and understand physics and algebra.

A kind act in high school: Mr. Reid was always able to stay after
school and help me and others pass physics.

What would have done differently? Maybe more extracurricular
activities.

*In what ways are the school experiences of your children or
grandchildren different from your own?* We had more emphasis on
reading and getting facts from a textbook and taking tests. Today's
kids are subjected to social and educational experiments based less on
facts than on agendas.

Best advice: Be honest and hard-working.



New life for AHS

When approached from the south on Wadsworth, a silver facade gleams – a raft of windows looking out along the Front Range.

It's the new face of AHS – Alameda International Junior/Senior High School, to be exact.

More about that name in a moment. First, the new look:

In 2018 voters approved a \$567 million bond issue to replace some schools and improve others, including AHS. The Alameda community awaited results with bated breaths. A similar bond issue had been defeated by voters in 2012.

Approval of the bonds signaled new life for a campus in its 60th year of existence – yes, built in 1961 – and desperate for renovation.

Construction, targeted for completion the fall of 2022, will take the building east and south. Older components including the two original east-west wings (and second-story library) and the “pods” on the north will go away. In the place of all that will be a new soccer field and tennis courts.

The gleaming façade on the southeast corner of the building will become the new entrance to the high school -- an area that used to host speedball games and other outdoor P.E. activities for those of us who graced those grounds in the '70s. Directly fronting the new entrance will be new parking. Inside will be a colorful atrium and new library.

School officials apologized for being unable to host a hall crawl for the AHS '71 50th reunion due to construction. They invited alumni to return next school year to see the end result of all the work.

Now, what about that name? AHS, still a Jeffco public school, was added to the International Baccalaureate network in 2009.

Known by the initials “IB,” the program is touted as an individualized approach to education with heightened rigor for all students. Rather than designating some students “gifted,” IB schools offer outlets across the board that emphasize student aptitudes, whether in STEM education, the arts, or international studies. IB is specially designed to boost achievement of students for whom English is a second language.

As is the practice in other school districts, Alameda has several feeder IB elementary campuses.

AHS became a junior-senior high school in 2017 with closure of O'Connell Middle School.



Artist's renderings show the new AHS entrance in the southeast corner, library and atrium.

'71 to Now

Steve Valdez

Residence: Littleton

steve.valdez52@gmail.com

I'm single: one child – 41; I was a single parent, raising my son starting at 18 months. I have one grandson.

I retired from education in 2006. However, I am still working -- not only in education (major shortage of teachers currently), but also as a funeral director for Romero Family Funeral Home in Denver. It is interesting work.

My career in education and coaching sports has been extremely rewarding. I have

touched the future. Students I taught went on to careers in business, law, military, space, medicine and athletics.

My life has been great. I have gotten to see young people succeed. I have gotten to see my son become successful in his field. I have traveled to several foreign countries. I have gotten to coach athletes of all levels, little league to the pros.

What would you have done differently in high school? Pay more attention in Mrs. Ghering's English Comp Class.

In what ways are the school experiences of your children different from yours? My child's education and upbringing were different than mine. To play sports in high school, he had to pick one sport and focus on it until he graduated. He had to learn computer science at an early. I used pen and paper. He learned how to use Google technology. I thought google was baby babble.

Best or worst advice you received? Best came from a former Army drill sergeant: "If you think it is impossible, find a way to make it possible." Worst came from a former high school employer: Learn how to wash pots and pans, because that is all you will ever do. I proved him wrong!



Speaking at 2020 Memorial Day service

Barb Seese

Residence: Phoenix, Ariz.

bkseese71@gmail.com

I have a daughter and a son-in-law; a son and a daughter-in-law; one grandchild with one on the way (all shared with friend, classmate and former spouse, Tony Bieda).

I retired in 2014 from teaching K-6 Resource (math, reading, and writing for students with learning disabilities); I went into teaching by default because I didn't know what else to do, and it turned out to be my calling. I miss the "light bulb" moments and the creativity involved in designing materials and plans for specific learning needs. Retirement has allowed me time to follow Liverpool FC and write scathing rebukes to my elected officials.

Life in general: Mostly ordinary; the pluses and minuses seem to be evenly balanced; some joys, some regrets; happy to be continually learning and attempting to solve the many mysteries of life.

High school was my refuge. My high school friends still enrich my life; even though none of us lives in the same city, we share formative history and the same values.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: Treasurettes provided a conduit for my athleticism, fulfilled my love of dance, and bolstered my self-confidence.

Classroom activities that mattered: In field biology I learned how to stuff a rat, perform a slope study, conduct a waterfowl count, and so much more. It was my all-time favorite class, and likely the root of my passion for nature and the environment.

Anything you'd do differently? I wish I had been less self-absorbed and more cognizant of my peers' lives in high school, less of an immature teenager and more of the person I am now.

Ironically, since the past always informs the present, I wouldn't be the person I am now if I hadn't experienced high school the way I did 50 years ago. I am who I am both because of and in spite of my high school experience.



Terry Moore



Residence: Longmont

tmooore@1791.com

I was married twice, now divorced; 6 children, 18 grandchildren.

I'm retired. Had a career in the Air Force and another as a Unix Systems administrator.

A few words to sum up my life? I want

to learn it all!

Classroom activities that mattered: Working on the teletype connected to the HP 2000A Time Share BASIC system computer at the school district building via an acoustically coupled modem running at 300 baud. Graduating with a 1.8 GPA and still attending the Air Force Academy without a congressional indorsement.

Special memory from AHS: Not getting flunked by Mr. Reid when I got the film wrong on the 16mm camera while trying to measure the power of a model rocket engine in physics class.

Best advice from your youth: I am sure there was a lot of advice, but keeping to the Scriptures helped me a lot!

Jean (Flanders) Boggs

Residence: Eugene OR

jeanbo@aol.com

Husband Bill (44 years so far)

and son, Tyler, born in 1982

Retired RN

A few words to sum up your

career: Pediatric RN, then master's, then nurse practitioner. Worked 40 years in Colorado and Oregon, then retired 4 years ago.



'71 to Now



Dave, with children and grandchildren.

Dave Cross

Residence: Buford, Ga.

gdavidcross@bellsouth.net

Wife Donna, three children, seven grandchildren ("so far")

I'm retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after 42 years of government service. I spent the majority of my career devoted to research and prevention of HIV and AIDS.

My greatest joy is to be "Pepaw" to my 7 grandchildren. My wife and I take care of four of them three days a week, and the other three two days a week. Quite the busy retirement!

Extracurricular activities that mattered: marching band.

Classroom activities that mattered: biology and physics.

Special memory: Guys from the marching band lifted up and turned Bob Montgomery's small car in its parking space such that it was trapped between two adjacent cars.

What do you wish you had done differently? I wish I had been more confident and dated more.

Event you'd like to relive: Water fights with Steve Roberts in the English Resource Center using the syringes from Mrs. Meadows' Biology 2 class (we were using the syringes to inject hormones into baby chicks to change their expressed physical characteristics).

Ways school then was different from today: We didn't have to worry about a classmate shooting up the school. Pornography was not so rampant.

Best advice: Never be above doing menial tasks.

What do you miss about 1971? Gasoline at 25 cents a gallon.



Mike Ruckhaus

Residence: Denver

mikeruckhaus@yahoo.com

Family: 2 daughters. Divorced.

Most of my career was managing construction for the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. I retired in 2019.

I worked in engineering all of my career -- 25 years at the university. My last project was building a new heat and power plant there -- a tough but satisfying project.

I moved to Alaska a couple of years after graduating from CU-Boulder. I recently moved back to Denver. I enjoyed skiing, rock climbing, and canoeing in the Alaska wilderness.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: jazz band.

Classroom activities: I liked the STEM classes.

How school experience today differ from your own: Obviously, today's technology creates a much different experience.



John Young

Residence: Fort Collins

jyoungcolumn@gmail.com

Wife Becky, sons Michael and Rob. No grandchildren.

I retired from newspapering in 2009 and jumped right into college-level teaching -- English comp and journalism, at Front Range Community College.

After eight years in Alamosa, where I was editor of the small daily there, Becky and I moved to Waco, Texas, where I was opinion editor of the *Waco Tribune-Herald* for 25 years. I wrote three columns a week. Most of them were distributed by the New York Times News Service. Texas was a great gig for a commentator: truckloads of creative tension. I continue to write -- johnyoungcolumn.com -- and show up in a few publications.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: the Paragon. Sports mattered, too, but I found odd liberation to make better use of myself when Hugh Bradley suggested a few of us JV reserves not come out for basketball as seniors.

A lesson that lasts: Our success with Citizens Action Lab and the quest to save the Belmar property showed me that people do have power, and to never accept powerlessness.

Worst advice: My CSU advisor suggested I not spend too much time at the student newspaper. Registered and ignored.

Best advice, best adviser, best teacher: Everything about and from Mrs. Stieghorst. For one, she wrote a note suggesting I write a column for the school paper. I still have it.

Debbie Zimbelman

Residence: Arickaree, Colo.

Rickyj@plainstel.com

I went to UNC in Greeley for four years, graduated with a teaching degree in business, started teaching at Arickaree School, about 120 miles east of Lakewood. I started teaching in 1976 and retired 38 years later. I loved teaching and my many students.

I met Rick, my first love, out there, and we have been together ever since. I love living on the Eastern Plains, reading, and my dogs.

Special memories from high school: Making homecoming floats, business classes, going to a homecoming football game in a blizzard as a sophomore, and graduating.

'71 to Now



Jim Kenshalo

Residence: Clam Gulch, Alaska (summer), Colbran, Colo. (winter).
yaktracks@gmail.com

Wife Tina, two sons, one daughter, 6 grandchildren. Retired after 27 years with Anchorage Fire Department, paramedic/ fire firefighter; Alaska Department of Corrections, Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services. Prior: USN hospital corpsman Third Class – USMC company corpsman. “Ooraa.”

I, like many of my classmates, have mashed a few fingers, taken a few stitches and broke a few bones making a living and living our life’s dream. I, too, have gone payday to payday making just enough money to keep the lights on and put food on the table. Somehow, I kept a roof over my family, cut enough firewood to keep us warm and made sure the toilet kept flushing. I’ve laid some skid marks, slept sleepless nights and witnessed tragedy after tragedy. Doing so, I have met some amazing people and some real assholes.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: Wrestling. I never made varsity, but the coaches made sure those of us not so good got matches. Nothing takes the rough edges off a young man’s character like getting pinned on a two-inch-thick mat, under a spotlight, in front of a home crowd of family and friends, while in ill-fitting blue underwear. I also enjoyed choir, finding peace and a safe haven singing with my friends.

Lasting lessons: Geometry and algebra taught me basic understanding of how to build a house and how a house will fall down when it’s on fire.

Would do differently? I’d have been more mature and patient. I’d have said, “Thank you,” and, “I am sorry” more often.

Event you’d want to relive? – My 30-day Outward Bound experience in the San Juan Mountains. I came home with a clearer vision of who I was and what I wanted to accomplish. Two weeks later, on my 17th birthday and with my father’s signature, I enlisted in the Navy Reserves. This was the smartest decision in my life. The Navy and Marines Corps opened every door I knocked on for a job.

Miss most about '71? – The price of gasoline at 25 cents at the U-Pump-It on Mississippi Ave. It was so cool cruising around in my 1956 gold-and-black four-door Buick – big ol’ “Hercules.”

Faculty member: It is my hope to visit Coach Frank Reno’s grave at the Fort Logan National Cemetery. I want to clean his headstone that honors his patriotism and wounds suffered in Korea. I hope his spirit will judge me by my children’s character and see the hope that my grandchildren bring to our country. I will ask him for his forgiveness, thank him for his encouragement, and whisper a wee prayer for the both of us.

Melinda (George Smith) Middleton

Residence: Genesee, Colo.
middleton.melinda@gmail.com

At Colorado College I earned a BA in German. CC had no drama major, and German was the next easiest to study after having it at AHS with Frau Birnbaum. It also paved the way for two study trips to Germany, where I met my husband, John, who was a soccer player at CC. We have 3 fabulous children and one granddaughter.



Our kids are upstanding citizens who are making the world a better place – one doctor, one military, one eco-warrior. As to career, I bounced around until I landed back on the stage, but this time as a director and writer. I taught high school drama, speech and German 12 years in Montana after earning a master’s in theatre. I’m now retired and living the life of a princess in the pines. My husband and I ride a tandem bike all over the U.S. and sometimes in Europe. It is a serious exercise in communication and coordination. I communicate, and he coordinates.

At our reunion, I was touched by the generosity of spirit that everyone showed to each other and happy to know that our “mean girls” days are way, way behind us. Hearing Brent Schlueter sing again brought tears to my whole face, not just my eyes. And Tony Kanka’s Sunday morning service was particularly touching, in retrospect.

Jim Donaldson and I would have lunch once and awhile. When he didn’t respond to my email, I knew it was because he couldn’t.

So, me Pirate Maties, keep well and remember that 1971 was a launching point, not the end point. Everything I learned there, except Trig, has served me well in my personal and professional lives. Love one another and take care of those close to you.

Donna Albrandt

Residence: Denver nine2teen53@gmail.com

I’m still single. My children have been fur babies, three over the years. But I have two nephews and four great-nieces.

I retired after 37 years with Safeway, then worked for an outside vendor in grocery stores. I retired from that four years ago. Now do my best to enjoy retirement and family.

I traveled abroad in the 1990s: France, Germany, Italy, couple Greek Islands. I did an Aegean cruise and saw Israel, Cyprus, Crete, Rhodes, and Istanbul. Enjoyed it all! Then 9/11 ended travel. Until the pandemic I would go watch a great-niece race a sport ATV on flat tracks and road course, something she’s done since she was 5. She wants to be NASCAR driver, and some day we will see her race at major track.

I’ve had two surgeries since the pandemic started including a right hip replacement. I’m doing really well, though, one day at a time! The pandemic put a crimp in everyone’s life. See you in 10 years at the next reunion.

'71 to Now

John Einarsen

Residence: Kyoto, Japan

Wife Midori, son Sage

Retired? Never. I'm teaching, running a magazine (Kyoto Journal) and photographing. *Extracurricular activities that*

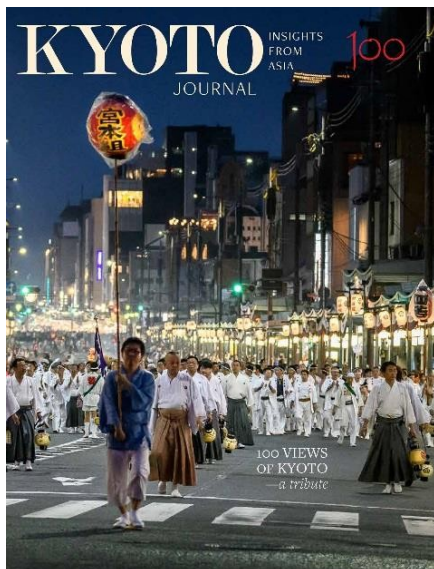
mattered: Jazz band, of course! Making floats for homecoming. *Classroom activities:* The Paragon (our newspaper), concert band, art.

Memorable act: My memory may be wrong, but in an advanced math class, Mr. Tracy got stuck on a math problem and Debra Pidek went up to the board and solved it for him. I also remember Jim Donaldson punching Kurt Thompson in the band room and then getting marched to the office. But Kurt was being obnoxious, and Jim decided to do something about it. I don't condone it of course, but I admired J.D. in that moment. I also remember practicing in a band at J.D.'s house when the moon landing happened. Many teachers gave kindness and encouragement every day! How lucky we were!

Lasting lessons: Mr. Montgomery taught us what real "excellence" is and what it takes to achieve it. Mrs. Stieghorst gave us a sense of ethics. She also let me use the school camera and darkroom for the school newspaper, which set me on the wonderful path of "seeing." I worked all summer my junior year as a dishwasher for money to order a 35mm Olympus camera from Japan. I learned something about reaching a goal through my own efforts.

Day you'd like to relive: When Stan Chao (bass and violin) and I performed our "happening" in the auditorium. We screwed up the beginning. For weeks we made a giant "egg" out of paper mache' using a weather balloon we had ordered as the underlying structure. Then it burst, and we had to order another and start over. We did this after school in the back of the school auditorium. The "happening" was mostly our original music with the "egg" on stage. At the end, Teresa Stevens broke out of the egg and gunned us all down with a toy machine gun. Ah, what crazy fun!!!

How your child's school experiences differed from yours: My son



had a real international education, going to the Kyoto International School until seventh grade. Then we homeschooled him for a few years, and he went to a Quaker high school in Tasmania. So he encountered lots of kids from other countries and learned about other cultures. He grew up speaking two languages: Japanese and English.

Tom Frew

Residence: Kingman, Ariz.

tfrew62@msn.com

Wife LaNae. Two daughters, one grandchild

I worked in fish hatcheries in Colorado, Idaho and Arizona for 44 years.

I was with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game until 2012 and in Arizona for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until retiring in 2018.

I graduated from CSU in fisheries. Of 7 in that major that year, I was the only one who went into the field of right away. Others went into the military or to grad school.

Extracurricular activities: I was in Pre-Med and tried chess class. But mostly I worked after school.

Classroom activities: I was a bit of a science nerd, so I loved biology class, although Mrs. Meadows and I had some "lively" conversations.

What lessons – academic or social – did you learn that serve you well 50 years later? Be nice. You never know what others are going through.

What do you wish you had done differently back then? Not much, I was a pretty well-adjusted student. Although I do wish I had developed better study skills so I would not have had to struggle so much in college.

Classmates from 1971 you would most like to encounter: Yvonne (Lawson) Turner lived right across the street. Steve Wagner and I were college roommates. We have been trying to get back together, but COVID and distance has precluded it. We will soon, though.



Jill (Widman) Sweeney

Residence:

Erie, Colo.

jdsweeney2@yahoo.com

Three children, four grandchildren.

I'm still working in healthcare.



Steve Herrman

Residence: Westminster
herrman102@aol.com

I retired in 2014 from Raytheon Company as a senior test engineer.

I never married; no children. My hobby is collecting early U.S. half dollars.

'71 to Now

Pam (Exon) Schlueter

Residence: Henderson, N.C.

pamnbrent@aol.com

AHS 1971 was definitely a life-changing and life-shaping experience for me.

School was a challenging and safe place for me. I met my best friend – husband Brent Schlueter. We married young – but, hey! He was the right guy!



Together we have created a loving, supportive family, markedly better than the families that we escaped by sharing common positive experiences. Our two daughters Marcela and Charla have proven to be even more liberated than me – both married but have not changed their surnames. No grandchildren. Not my fault. Or maybe it is – too many birth-control

lectures while they were teenagers.

Our marriage has been strong and eventful. We designed and built TWO passive solar houses, taught science in the Peace Corps in Borneo, speak three languages and have traveled the world. We are now taking in refugees seeking political asylum.

I have retired from 38-plus years as a public school teacher/community college professor. Genealogy, genetics and sourdough are featured in my retirement.

It's hard to highlight my career, though I initiated Native Speakers' Spanish, coached winning Quiz Bowl teams, and led students to competition. I even spent a summer (winter!) on a Fulbright Scholarship in Uruguay.

Remembering 1971: I am stunned by how much the world has changed. And not. Our '70s world was in many ways much more open and liberal: Outward Bound, rafting, hiking Paria Canyon, Environmental Action, our efforts to preserve Belmar Park, student-led Treasures, flower parties, and winning the float competition both junior AND senior years! A modular schedule which allowed me to take nine classes at once! But - wait?! We wore dresses to school every day until our junior year! Now we have girls' sports, school-purchased uniforms for all. The internet! But we went from a 1971 Paragon front-page article on birth control to my daughters facing abstinence-only sex ed in their school.

Indelible moments: Seven of us stayed up all night talking, then climbed Green Mountain to watch the sunrise. The first Earth Day (1970) featured a pukingly bad smell in our halls. My friends gave me a surprise party and chipped in to pay for my Spanish Club trip to New Mexico.

Lessons to last a lifetime: I fondly remember the formative AHS experiences that propelled my career. I modeled many future weekends after the AFS international weekends that we hosted. Remember corrupting half the world with rousing rounds of "spoons"? I was steeped in the value of outside-the-classroom experiences.



Karen (Mitchell) Davis

Residence: Paoli, Pa.

Husband Tom Davis (AHS Class of 1970), two daughters, one grandson.

I taught middle and high school for about 15 years, including all

English/language arts-related classes. I switched careers in 1993 and began working for law firms. I spent that time as a paralegal until I retired in 2019. I worked in areas of business and immigration law, but mostly litigation.

I enjoyed teaching, and that is what I focused on in college. I taught in a number of small towns in Kansas, Colorado, and even Oklahoma. However, it turned out that I loved working in the private sector more than being a public servant. Teaching became a little tiresome after a few years, but I never was bored helping to sue people or defending them from civil suits. I worked for law firms in Colorado and Texas. We settled in Western Colorado after leaving teaching. After our daughters went off to college and grad school, we ended up moving to Austin, Texas, in 2010. I'm beyond proud of them. They are kind, sassy women. My sons-in-law are wonderful men. My grandson is the joy of my life, and he keeps me laughing every day. We retired to Pennsylvania to be near him. Pennsylvania is beautiful, and I enjoy having seasons again.



Debbie (Pidek) Vane

Residence: Altadena, Calif.

dvane@jpl.nasa.gov

Husband Gregg, Son West, Daughters Katie and Robin. Still employed at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, project manager for the CloudSat Mission.

A few words to sum up your career: Lucky.

A few words to sum up your life in general: Also lucky.

Extracurricular activities that mattered: Wish I had done some. I danced when I was younger, but not during high school. Wish I had found hiking sooner. And skiing.

Classroom activities that mattered: Loved math, science and Mrs. Ghering's English class, with her fabulous readings of Shakespeare. Also Mr. ? who opened my eyes to the reasons the Vietnam War started.

Lessons learned that still serve you: Work hard. Be a good listener.

What do you wish you had done differently? Laughed more.

What day or event from your high school years would you like to relive? Not a single one!

In what ways are the school experiences of your children or grandchildren different from your own? I saw my kids struggle with the same peer pressure, but they had more confidence than I had.

What do you miss most about 1971? All I remember is that it was the height of the Vietnam War and many of our classmates were close to being drafted. I can't recall anything that brings me warm memories.

Reunion – AHS '71 50

Friday

Alumni gathered at the high school and then at the Hangar 101 Bar and Grill. The assumption at the school was that alumni could not tour the building because of construction. It turned out that janitorial staff had no problem with letting people wander the halls. Who knew?



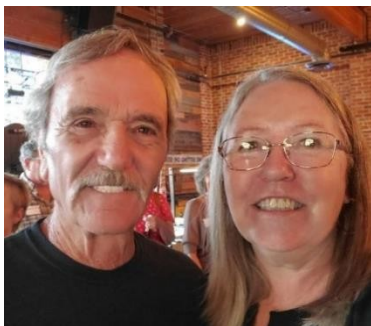
Debbie (Pidek) Vane, Ronnie (Burton) Lockaby,
Patty McIntosh



Julie (Gregory) Bredengerd, Pam (Spike) Lathrop

**Much thanks to Ted Chase and all who contributed
reunion photos. Many more to see at
Alameda1971.com.**

Les (Gillis) Clark and Ken Horn, reunion ring



Rick Warner and Jeannie (Ryker) Chesling



Jerry Donner and John Quinn



Ben Eastman and Pam (Exon) Schlue



Dave Fair and Terry Thompson



Deb (Hodgson) Engles and Ed Swartley



Identifiable from left: Cheri (Nathlich) Korstvedt, Dale Burkhart, Ray Nelson, Jeannie (Krieger) Mitchell.

Reunion – AHS '71 50

Saturday – The Link



Ken Horn and Les Gillis: Let's get this party started.

Bob Hicks, Bill Last and Mary Ann (Kidd) Gallagher pause at the list of AHS alumni who have passed.



Ron and Carol Stanislaw, Roxy and Tony Kanka, and Dale Burkhart



Bob Hicks, Debbie (Holzwarth) Mauck, Bob Hall



Angela (Foxhoven) Tollefson, Cheri (Nathlich) Korstvedt



Cathie Kohler, Mary Ann (Kidd) Gallagher



Joe and Ann (Devore) Guetlein



Jeannie (Krieger) Mitchell, Rick Warner

**Events organized by the
AHS '71 Reunion Committee**

Ken Horn

Les (Clark) Gillis

Bob Hicks

Michelle (Hurd) Sella

Angela (Foxhoven) Tollefson

Bob Hall

Steve Valdez

Jeannie (Ryker) Chesling

Benedikta (Bennie) Guetlein

Ted Chase

Debbie (Holzwarth) Mauck

John Young

Reunion – AHS '71 50

Sunday



Prayers and songs start Sunday's activities.



Wes Eisenhart, Robert Stokvis, Steve Valdez



Judy Downing lends her voice.



Deb (Holzwarth) Mauck, Judy Downing, Fred Schaefer, Brent Schlueter, Pam (Exon) Schlueter



Camille and Ted Chase



Dave Elstun entertains with his magic



Jeanie (Ryker) Chesling, Pat (Blosser) Ross



Mark Albers and Ken Horn



Tony Kanka and Ed Swartley

Alameda Class of '71

Those who have passed

Apologies for any and all omissions. Obituaries are from online sources, condensed in some instances. Email ahsreunion7@gmail.com with more information.

Chris Allen

Christopher Peter Allen was born in Denver March 30, 1953. He died peacefully on May 23, 2021 in Fort Collins from complications of pancreatic cancer treatment.

Chris was a multifaceted individual. His musical talents manifested at age 5, conducting the Grand Canyon Suite in the mirror. He started drum lessons at 7, and ultimately graduated summa cum laude from the Berklee College of Music with a degree in music education in 1976. His specialty was percussion and vibraphone. His musical career flowered in Albuquerque with three bands, one going to Cuba as part of a cultural exchange. He was a fabulous salsa teacher with a specialty in *rueda* (dancing salsa in a group).

Chris started climbing at age 14 with an ascent of Longs Peak. His lifelong passion for the vertical world led to bagging all of Colorado's 14ers. While working at forest mountaineering, he began rock climbing in Eldorado Canyon. The physical, mental, and spiritual intensity of rock climbing kept Chris fit and healthy throughout his life. His final climbing love was ascending rock cracks in Utah.

Chris was an accomplished woodworker, capable of building high-end cabinets and doing house remodels. However, the sawdust became problematic, and he left woodworking at age 40 to pursue science, 16 years after he finished his first bachelor's degree at Berklee. He received a degree in biochemistry from Whitman College in 1997 and his PhD in biomedical research from the University of New Mexico in 2002. His specialty was DNA and cancer research. A highlight of his scientific career was a two-year span of time featuring multiple trips to Japan where he conducted basic cell research using carbon-ion radiation. He leaves the legacy of an operational flow cytometry core to the CSU research community. Yoga, Buddhism, and meditation enriched his spiritual life. He lived and practiced at the Eldorado Springs Ashram for several years. He became more familiar with Zen Buddhism while living in Japan, visiting several of the temples, and in Zen meditation groups in Colorado.

Chris flourished in Fort Collins, supported by several cohesive communities. His joyful and generous spirit was able to emerge and blossom within the stability of these groups.

Tom Ball

Tom Ball died Feb. 10, 2015 in Lakewood.

Gene Benedict

Brad Bourquin

Brad Bourquin died in 1999 at 45. Born in Colorado on March 10, 1953, to Jules and Virginia Bourquin, Brad married Jan Turner in 1980. They had two children before divorcing in 1993.

Lugene Brehm

Ken Brown

Sandy (Brown) Rodenburg

Sandra Jean Rodenburg, 66, of Houston, passed away on Jan. 19, 2020, following a lengthy illness. She was valiant in her determination to get well and return to her normal family, church and social duties. However, a sudden change in her condition claimed her life. Born on Sept. 15, 1953, in Pocatello, Idaho to William Elwood Brown and Margaret McKay Brown, Sandy was the youngest of four daughters. She attended the Colorado College of Medical and Dental Careers, following which she assisted Dr. Peter Paulos as he started his orthodontic practice in Salt Lake City and helped manage the practice for over 20 years. Sandy and her first husband, Edwin McLain, had a son, James. After a divorce and many years as a single parent, Sandy met the love of her life, Al Rodenburg. Married in 1998, they moved to Houston in 2002. She assisted Dr. Michael LeCheminant, in setting up and managing his office. Sandy was kindhearted, compassionate and quick-witted. She helped others when she could and always maintained a positive outlook on life. She is survived by her husband, Al; son, Jim McLain; stepson, John Rodenburg and stepdaughter, Jenny Rodenburg Epstein.

Virginia Brown

Connie (Chavez) Brendlinger

Connie Chavez Brendlinger was born October 30, 1953, and passed away June 12, 2013 from lung cancer in Westminster. She was survived by husband Jim (who died in 2020) and by two sons.

Sheldon Cobos

Carmen Condino

Cindy (Lewis) Clark

Dale Dalton

Dale Dalton died May 10, 1998, in Aspen Park, Colo. He was born in Denver Oct. 30, 1952, to Elmer Dalton and Rae Jean Edith Crouse.

Jim Donaldson

Jim Donaldson was born Jan. 11, 1953 and died Aug 27, 2017. He is survived by wife Deidra; daughters, Rachel Davila (Brett), Sarah Donaldson; and sister, Nancy Lindsey (Sam). "I knew Jim from the wonderful websites he created and maintained, The Schilke Loyalist and The Trumpet Gearhead. Unlike most others, Jim never sought to monetize his websites but created them and filled them with a wealth of information that has been of significant help to thousands of trumpet players, including me, over the years. His writings and articles on his websites made it clear to everyone who read them what a fine, intelligent, and good humored gentleman he was." "It has been nearly a week since I received that text message of Jim's passing. I

feel cheated of a good two decades of Jimisms. He left way too soon.” As a performer he was a staple to worship on Sundays. I feel grateful to have performed one musical number at Christmas with him on trumpet but I'd selfishly hoped for an encore.”

Dave Downing

Pam Eubanks

Jake Frank

Steve Hinkle

Deacon Steve Hinkle passed away May 18, 2018. He ministered at Spirit of Christ Catholic Church in Arvada. He was born to Clyde and Esther Hinkle in Hugoton, Kansas, March 6, 1953. The youngest of five children, Hinkle and his family moved to Denver when he was 6. After high school and attending Red Rocks Community College, he start a construction business in 1986. While in high school, he met his high school sweetheart, Terri. They married in 1979. They were blessed with two wonderful daughters, Ashley and Lindsay, and three grandchildren. Steve was reluctant to join the Catholic Church, but with the prayers and urging of Terri and the children, he finally answered the calling of the Holy Spirit, “with tears in his eyes” and received the Sacraments of Initiation. He applied to be deacon in 2006, was ordained in 2011 and assigned to Spirit of Christ Catholic Parish, where he remained throughout his ministry. He assisted with prison ministry and would make mission trips to help needing housing. He was an advocate for annulments, and loved working with the elderly. “Deacon Steve was a wonderful minister with a simple task: Take care of those in need. His ministry was blessed with beautiful accomplishments that give beauty to the characteristics of a deacon,” said Joseph Donohoe, archdiocese director of deacons.

Rick Hubler

Rick Hubler passed March 23, 2017 in Lakewood.

Tony Kanka

Anthony "Tony" Kanka, 68, of Grand Junction, died October 31, 2021, at his home. He was an insurance inspector. Services will be held in spring 2022. He is survived by his wife Roxeen, daughter Thristina, his sister Leann and his stepfather Anson. He was preceded in death by his mother Bertie and his father Bill. Tony grew up in Lakewood, Colo., graduating from Alameda High School in 1971. He had a career in banking and insurance. He loved to sing and play guitar. He expressed his faith on his YouTube channel and Only to You Ministries, both of which he founded. He also loved sports cars and traveling to tropical locations. He helped to coordinate the AHS 50th class reunion prayer service where he led the worship in song.

Kit Klancke

Kit Klancke passed away November 24, 2001. Born October 13, 1953 to Kelly and Delores Klancke, he had three siblings, brothers Kim and Kirk and sister Jill. He lived in Fraser, Colo., after high school graduation, There he married wife Nancy. In 1981 and they founded Zephyr Contracting, a construction firm. He

also served on the Board of Directors of the Fraser Sanitation District.

Skip Kruse

Born January 23, 1953, retired MSgt Laurs “Skip” Kruse, of Havelock, N.C., passed away Dec. 11, 2020. Skip served 23 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and another 20 years in federal service. He was married wife Dee for 45 years. He was an avid hunter and loved the outdoors. He was also a professional bowler and had two PBA titles. He is survived by his daughter Kimberly, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

John Malensek

Jacques McConaha

Jacques McConaha was born May 25, 1952, and died March 4, 2000, in North Carolina.

Jerry McGinty

June (Mohlman) Gemar

John Myers

Janice Nunley

Rick Ohlemeier

Frederick Carl Ohlemeier passed away on Dec. 2, 2016, shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. Rick was a graduate of CU Boulder with a degree in psychology but had a lucrative career in oil and gas after many years of mentoring by his late father Eugene W. His most recent position was that of associate operations manager at IPT in Golden, Colo. He loved woodworking and made some beautiful furniture like his favorite enclosed TV cabinet that, at a push of a button, rose up, exposing not only a flat screen but all the components such as cable box and DVD players. It sat at the base of the custom four-poster bed he also made. Of course that all came second to driving around town in his beloved Corvette, which he meticulously kept shiny and spotless. Rick is survived by his mother Shirley M. Ohlemeier of Denver, a brother and sister, nephews and a grandniece, but will truly be missed by all.

Gary Pfeifer

Garrett Joseph Pfeifer died Sept. 9, 2020. He was born of March 19, 1953, in Fargo, N.D., to Raymond Francis Pfeifer and Dolores Eva Wosick. He lived with his family in Moorhead, Minn., until June of 1968 when he, his parents and two younger siblings moved to Lakewood, Colo. There he graduated as senior class president at Alameda High School in May 1971. He attended the University of Colorado where he studied physics, French, and computer science. After graduation he spent most of his professional career as an SAS programmer for the University of Colorado. Gary was an avid bicycler and often biked over 16 miles to and from his job at the university from his home in Nederland, Colo. He occasionally biked 40 miles on the Peak to Peak Highway.

Additionally, he took several European vacations to bicycle across the Alps, across England, and along the route of the Tour de France. He loved soccer and watched games whenever he could. He was also a rare book collector. In the early 1980s, friends of Gary were moving to England and could not take their Doberman, Cinnamon. He adopted her and had a Doberman or two for the rest of his life.

Steve Philyaw

Mary Porter

Mary Suzan Porter passed away Oct. 18, 2010. Suzy to her family and Mary to her friends, she was born Nov. 21, 1952. Growing up, she was alternately teased and envied for her bright, curly hair. She loved taking mountain trips with the family in the Colorado Mountains, especially delighting in watching eagles. In junior high school she broke her right arm and would not allow this to slow her down. She learned to use her left hand so well we couldn't tell which hand she had used to write. She was always good with her hands, and it showed in her work making home fire alarms for the world and plastic canvas gifts for her friends and family. She also loved working on jigsaw puzzles, with lighthouses, hot-air balloons, and eagles being her favorite subjects. After the company for which she made fire alarms closed, she worked in inventory control and attended school to learn computer skills. Even a car accident on the way home from a job on the Western Slope could not slow her down as she fought to get back to work. She took trips to Nashville, Branson, and Albuquerque to listen to the music and watch the balloons. Some of her greatest joys were times with her friends and family and the fun of connections with them. Her laughter will be missed.

Pat Presley

Patrick Presley of Lakewood passed away Aug. 7, 2009. Pat was born in Pueblo, Colo., on Oct. 28, 1952. Survivors include his beloved son, Jon Patrick Presley of Lake Havasu, Ariz., brother, Bruce (Terri) of Denver; and sisters, Linda (David) Rivera of Scottsdale, Ariz. and Cathy (Ron) Diodosio of Pueblo.

Maureen (Hendricks) Reed

Maureen Elizabeth Reed passed away on Oct. 17, 2017. She was born on August 30, 1953, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Don and Betty Seagram Hendricks. Maureen loved music, played guitar, and had an amazing voice. One of her passions was travel, and she spent the last few years celebrating birthdays in New York City. She is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Mel Reed, five children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rita (Roberts) Giarusso

Ken Schneider

Don Shkapich

Don Shkapich died Nov. 16, 2008. He was born Aug. 23, 1952.

Gary Shriver

Faith Smith

Tommy Tan

Cristee (Weir) Wagner

Cristee Dee Wagner, 52, returned home to her Heavenly Father early August 27, 2005. She passed away due to injuries from an accident in horseback riding. Cristee fulfilled many roles in her life, a loving wife and mother, a friend and neighbor, a gifted teacher, a skilled dental hygienist, a patriot and dedicated military wife, a community-minded citizen and secretary of the Hunter's Run Neighborhood Association, an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. Cristee dedicated her life to emulating her savior Jesus Christ, serving her family, friends, and fellow man with a genuine joy and pure love. Her happy spirit will be sorely missed by those she has left behind: her best friend, soul mate, true love and husband of 32 years, Lloyd Steven Wagner; her five children, Brian, Paul, Cerissa, Jacob, and Eric and their families; her mother and step-father, Jack and Dimetra Mitchell; her sister, Clarissa Weir; and her brother, Adam Weir. Please join us to remember one of God's choicest daughters, and to consider the invitation that Cristee's life represents, to come unto Christ and have an eternal family.

Glenda (Winchester) Bailey

Glenda Bailey passed away March 22, 2014. She was the wife of 1st Lt. William C. Bailey II, U.S. Marine Corps.

Linda (Winchester) Evans

Linda S. Evans passed away Nov. 17, 2010. She was mother of Michael Evans (Amy) and Felicia Micek, and grandmother of Jayla Spradling.

Debi (Witaschek) Buehn

Debra W. Buehn passed away March 3, 2022, after a lengthy illness. She was born on Aug. 31, 1953 in Lakewood, to Fred and Betty Witaschek. She graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in journalism. Not long after graduation she went on an adventure to Florida and on a lark took a job at The Stuart News in Stuart, Fla., as a reporter. There she met Bob Buehn, who was also a reporter and about to start his own adventure as a Navy pilot. They married Jan. 20, 1979, while he was in flight school, starting a 30-year Navy career that took them around the world. Debi was the consummate Navy wife, moving the household 13 times, raising sons Tim and Will, finding a way to continue her newspaper career and being engaged with military life. Starting during the Cold War, she cared for military families through long deployments in the days when letters were the primary form of communication. From various squadrons to USS Constellation to U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay in the difficult days following 9/11, she was there for the families. In 2003 the Army awarded her the Commander's Award for Public Service for her "ceaseless efforts" to support the troops and families. Somehow she found time to teach Jazzercise, too! She served on the board of St. Johns Country Day School for a number of years, and in 2006 was honored as Volunteer of the Year there. She worked on newspapers in Meridian, Miss., and San Diego, as well as in Jacksonville, Fla., and Jacksonville Magazine.

'71 to Now



Jim's Postscript

In his responses to the AHS '71 questionnaire, Jim Kenshalo (above) mentioned two things he'd been longing to do: reunite with classmate Steve Valdez (below) and visit and honor the grave of revered football coach Frank Rino. Missions accomplished. On a frigid February day, the two went to Fort Logan National Cemetery and found Rino's grave.

Wrote Jim: "We cleaned his headstone which profoundly honors his patriotism and the wounds he suffered in the Korean conflict. I hope Coach Rino's spirit will judge me by my children's character, their accomplishments and see the hope that my grandchildren bring to our country. I will ask him for his forgiveness, thank him for his encouragement and whisper a wee prayer for the both of us. Steve and I left two small stones on top of his dandy marble grave marker."



