



BALD EAGLES ECHO

NEWSLETTER OF
FRANKFURT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES 1963-1966



SAN ANTONIO 2007

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The Reunion – Union - 2007
- San Diego -2008
- The Playlist
- Electronic Newsletter

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Prez Barbara's Comments

Dear FAHS Alumni,

Can you believe we have been doing this for 23 years? For those of you who were not there from the beginning, it really has not gotten "old or repetitive" to me at all. Each reunion has been new and different and always exciting. We had a first at this reunion...a wedding! Well, when you meet at our reunion and get to know each other at the next, how perfect was it to be married with all of us there to celebrate the love? Congratulations to Jim Chalsma and Shirley Clark! This year we were back in San Anto-

nio. What a great location...we could just walk to everything. This was truly one of those cities that



Barbara Motson Leiser '65

lends itself so well to our little group. Thanks to Leanne Corbin for once again finding the perfect place for our "gathering of Eagles". There were plenty

of wonderful restaurants, bars, shopping, and "sights" to visit, but most of all, our wonderful friends (new and old). One of my very best friends from Hanau showed up once again (after 20 years), Gary Trede. What a great visit we had! (See article Page 4) It was so fabulous to see him again after all these years. Rodney Kittrell, Mike McCall, Barbie Oberleiter, John Vozel, Calvin Smyre....we are coming your way to Savannah, GA in 2009.

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The Reunion—Union

1962 to 1964 Jim Chalsma and Shirley Clark attend Frankfurt American High School and live at Rhein Main AFB, Germany. Both graduate in June of 1964. **Chicago 1990**, **Chicago 1995** and **Chicago 2005**, Jim and Shirley share their Frankfurt American High School Reunion as friends. **Philadelphia 2006**,

Jim and Shirley share a Frankfurt American High School Reunion as a couple. **San Antonio 2007**, June 23, 2007, Jim Chalsma and Shirley Clark wed. Earnest Flowers (Class of 64) officiates. Nancy Brashears (Jim's sister and Class of 65) is maid of honor. Ken Lapin (Class of 64) is best man. Attendees

included Vanessa Lichvar (Shirley's daughter); Travis Hackett (Shirley's son); Friends of Shirley - Carolyn Duran, Shirley Daniels, David Aguayo; Suzen Cooper (Jim's daughter); Friends of Jim - Jack and Jane Pinkston; and approximately 90 Frankfurt High Eagles and family, including Bob and Jerry Bepko's mother.

The Reunion—Union (con't)



Wedding Party

To all who attended and shared the joy in the beginning of our life together, thank you for making it a memorable day. We celebrate our joining in marriage with friends and family. Sometimes it

is difficult to identify friend or family, as some classmates are as close as family. **Jim Chalsma & Shirley Clark, Class of 64** May your hopes be as high - as high as the skies highest star. May your star be as bright - as bright as your smile. May your smile be as warm - as warm as your place in the sun. May your place

in the sun bring you peace. May the peace in your heart bring you joy in your heart. May your heart know the meaning of love. May the love you will know when you know you're in love. Be forever and ever as true - as the love you have for each other. God bless your union and God bless you. **Ken Lapin, Class of 64**



"That Texas, it's quite a place."

A Reunion is More Than Seeing Old Friends...

FAHSAA reunions have become more than seeing old friends/classmates. The weekend has become a meeting place for Frankfurters who may not have been there the years you were but who still have that "Hi, my name's ..." syndrome. Our Prez, Barb Motson, a former Hanauian, has mentioned how the reunions are not only about greeting classmates but exploring each reunion city. My itineraries have included the Monet exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, the hand blown art glass of Chihuly in the Bellagio Hotel in Vegas, the Day Museum in New Orleans, enjoying the view in

the old fashioned wooden two seater swing on the water in the historic district of Charleston, SC and exploring the arid river basin park in Orange County, CA.

This San Antonio reunion was a few blocks from the River Walk. A 7:30 AM walk found the same location, nearly empty, enveloped in colorful blooms in pots and beds, waterfalls providing soothing morning background music, architectural creations from stone outcroppings to walls of mosaics and stone stages waiting for mariachi bands.

Kathy Bates '66 provided a tour of her new home and husband, James' hometown, the village of Goliad, population less than 2,000. At the rose

granite county courthouse we met a presiding judge, at the local greasy spoon we chow downed scrumptious real chicken fried chicken with much gravy and mashed spuds.

As we strolled the town square we were introduced to nearly all we met. One invitee made a birder's life list entry with a Mexican eagle, a caracara. It sat on a fence post ignoring us as we sped back to San Antonio.

John Sandidge '66, a first timer just last year, shared his "Round House", a circular vacation home he built at the age of twenty four: 3 Bdrms, 2 Bth with canoe on Madagorda Bay in Indianola, a desolate and wonderful fishing village.

San Antonio River Walk



A Reunion is More (con't)



In 1875 the population was 5,000 when a hurricane hit and killed 300, in 1886 another blew in off the Gulf of Mexico and erased the town and its occupants. Alligators

live in the canal behind his property; a large laminated "Beware of Rattle Snakes" hangs on the fridge.

My husband came to his first reunion and we took time to explore a tad more of Texas. The LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, the magnificent state capitol, the only US capital building not paid by tax payers but bartered: 3 million acres of the Panhandle for one ornate granite

edifice. With no other gardeners in site I was exploring Lady Bird Johnson's Wild Flower Center one late afternoon and cut short my walk down an isolated garden path when I spied: "Caution! Bobcats and Cougars in Vicinity. Do Not walk alone". That Texas, it's quite a place.

The Reunions are such fun!

Susan Milstead Murphy,
Class of 66

Galaxy of Friendship

At the Saturday night dinner and celebration, what struck me is seeing all of these people in their mid-50's + getting a little long in the tooth. We were no longer trying to impress each other with our accomplishments, instead we were impressed with each other because we are survivors and being a survivor is all about character. Implicit

in all of our communications, there was a silent salute to one another. When we sang the Frankfurt Alma Mater, and as you know I am not a gung ho, rah, rah type, I found my eyes getting a little moist because I realized we were singing about an institution that no longer existed except in us. Then there were these little sparkling lights

each one of us wore and it made me think of that song "We are stardust, we are growing . . ." What I saw was this constellation of connected stars forming a galaxy of friendship, respect, and life long loyalty.

Phil Fleming, Class of 66

"I realized we were singing about an institution that no longer existed except in us."

The Playlist

One of the highlights of our reunions is the Saturday night Dance. We get a DJ and usually stay on the dance floor until we drop or the music stops, whichever comes first. Every now and then, we get a DJ who just doesn't get who we are and what music we want to dance to. They're usually pretty good about taking

requests, but they can't play music if they don't have it with them. In an effort to remedy the problem, we are asking for your input. I'm going to compile a Master Playlist that can be given to any DJ before they show up on Saturday night...what a concept! *So, what do you want to dance to?* Can you make a Top 25 list of favor-

ites? Would you email it to me?

jkbader@hotmail.com

(No whining if you don't participate!)

Thanks for your help...see you on the dance floor!

Judy Kellond Bader
Class of 66



"I write the songs (playlist) that make the whole world sing (dance)!"

Schilo's Delicatessen



King and Queen of Dance – Marshall & Cindy Spencer

As has become the custom, our annual reunion - this time in San Antonio - was a non-stop treat of renewing old friendships, splendid food (Schilo's Delicatessen with its pea soup, REAL sauerkraut, warm potato salad and wienerschnitzel for \$7.50 was delicious and a steal!), riverwalks, golf, shopping, ascending the Tower of the Americas, exploring its diverse museums, visiting its cornucopia of military bases (our own base being just outside the

Alamo's walls and right next to the Imax afforded easy access to the latter's fine depiction of those hal-lowed events of 1836), Saturday dinner dance/sock hop featuring its own Texas flavor. My Class of '63 managed but four attendees although a fifth, my wrestling buddy and footballer from '62 Adrian Bancker, was able to drop in and loan us his '61 Focus from which we photocopied and distributed several of its initial pages

which depict the early Dependant Schools in Europe after WWII. One of our four attendees was a first timer: Marlene Cantrell Lockwood along with her husband Phil whom she met there in Frankfurt. Football star Michael Myers and dancing king Marshall Spencer and queen Cindy joined us once again. Looking forward to San Diego!

Mike Rankin, Class of 63

My life since FHS

"Making new or renewing old friendships was well worthwhile."



GARY TREDE

Gary Trede
Then and
Now



I was delighted to attend the latest FHS reunion in San Antonio. It was great! Surprisingly, I recognized most of the folks that had been class of 64-66. Some - just had no clue but that's not important. I found what you all already knew. Making new or renewing old friendships was well worthwhile. Several people were always very special to me. Folks like Barbara Motson, since we and a few others supported each other in the Hanau area. Also old friends like Gary Sams, Rod Kitrell, Mike Rojas, Sue Milstead, Bob Bepko, Janet Surkin, and loads of others. My life since FHS, well

I attended college in Oklahoma and played football and field events in track for a few years, partied hardy, and ended up in the Navy. Toured the world for years as a Navy Corpsman, licensed as a Registered Nurse in California, and worked for several top physicians. Worked for the World Health Organization a few times in Asia, and had a ball. Returned to college and earned a degree at Cameron State University in Oklahoma, and a Regular Army Commission. Served a total of 34 years in the military, retiring as a Colonel. One of the highlights was being Chief of Logistics for Department of Defense for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake -

what a toot! Currently, I am a GS15, Chief of Sustainment, for US Army North at Fort Sam Houston, TX, working Defense support to Civil Authorities in the United States. I spend my spare time kayaking in Texas rivers, hunting and fishing. I'm happily married for 21 years, have a 17 year old at Texas A&M Galveston going into Marine Engineering and will enter the Merchant Marine after graduation. My other son is 16 years old and active in HS sports and debate.

I will definitely be attending the San Diego reunion and look forward to seeing more FHS grads.

Gary Trede '65

Treasurer's Report



I am pleased to report that after all expenses have been for the 2007 reunion in San Antonio, our treasury stands at a healthy \$16,566.77. This

includes \$2,744.93 in Reunion Aide Fund monies. We will still have this newsletter cost before year end. This year no one requested aid from the Fund, which saddens alumni, who have given from their hearts, so that those who cannot attend due to financial restrictions might be able to join them. Please remember that the Reunion Aide Fund is available to any **ALUMNUS**. It can be used to cover lodging and all scheduled activities. It **CANNOT** cover travel to the reunion or be used more than

once every five years. The request for aid is strictly confidential. If there are those out there reading this and think they would love to attend, PLEASE contact me. We would love to see anyone who wants to be with us!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you who promptly sent in your registrations. Having to collect at the reunion, diminishes the time I can spend enjoying myself!

Janet Surkin Heidorn Class of 65
Treasurer

Prez Barbara (con't)

It's time for Hanau to be better represented so start making your plans NOW!!! Next year we will be back in San Diego....this is a fabulous city. If you have never been there, you have no idea what you are missing. I just loved it and can't wait to go back, and what better way to visit but with my classmates, the

most fun loving group I know!!! We do know how to have a great time wherever we are, but add a great location, water, sunshine, ocean breeze...and WOW!!! Don't miss this one. We are hoping that all our FAHS friends and family are healthy (some of you were really missed this year). Let's gather again

in June of 08' in San Diego....hope to see you all there.

Love,

Barbara Motson Leiser Class of 65'

*Thanks to
Leanne Corbin
for once again
finding the
perfect place
for our
"gathering of
Eagles".*

Melloteens



Leanne & Hal Corbin with Dick Bartelt on the Riverwalk



John Fullencamp & Irene Ruehle Ottersbach



Hal Stieber



Gregg Thurman



Bill & Linda Correa



Hospitality Suite Friends



Jackie & Ken Brown



CLASS OF 64—Kneeling: Earnest Flowers; 2nd Row: Marilyn Betit Redenius, Fred Schloss, Honor Bailey Wiggins, Peggy Hendrickson McGough, Shirley Clark, Jim Chalsma, Sue Turnage Hilbert, Jerry Bepko, Hal Stieber; 3rd Row: Sonny Clifton, Ken Lapin, John Fullenkamp, Harlen Durgen and Bob Begg (65)



CLASS OF 65—Seated: Gary Sams 2nd row: Janet Surkin Heidorn, Irene Ruehle Ottersbach, Cheri Boyd Cassell 3rd Row: Sue Harlan Alley, Barbara Motson Leiser, Steve Downs, Gregg Thurman, Bob Begg, Hal Corbin, Buzz Grogan, Gail Lewis Smith, John "Speedy" Lopez, Nancy Chalsma Brashears, Dick Bartelt, Diana Dwight Miles 4th Row back left (behind Sue): Gary Trede, Ken Brown



CLASS OF 1966: Kneeling—John Sandidge, Carol Danko, Maureen McCormack, Bernie Black, Nonie Flores, Maureen Flynn and Linda Kettlewell; Standing—Elaine Turpin, Gary Word, Nonie Counts, Mauro Nava, Nancy Healey, Jackie Glass, Bob Bepko, Dan O'Connor, Mike Dacy, Kathy Bates, Phil Fleming, Susie Bischofs, Cindy Ravitsky, Pete Patrick, Sue Milstead, Frank Benton, Wedding guest Shirley Daniels (66 Grad)



SPOUSES—"Good Sports of the Year", along with Earnest Flowers and Hal Corbin kneeling in front



Saturday Night Dinner



Well-attended Saturday business meeting

See you at the San Diego Reunion

June 27 to June 29, 2008

SAN DIEGO IN 2008!

We had such a wonderful time in 1999, we decided on a return visit to San Diego. San Diego is California's second largest city, where blue skies keep watch on 70 miles of beaches and a gentle Mediterranean climate begs for a day of everything and nothing. Bordered by Mexico, the Pacific Ocean, the Anza-Borrego Desert and the Laguna Mountains, San Diego is a visitor's paradise. Party with your classmates and friends, or take in some of the local splendor. Some of us will be early arrivers coming to town Wednesday or Thursday. You're invited to attend any or all of the exciting events.



Courtyard by Marriott

Headquarters for the reunion is the downtown [Courtyard by Marriott](#), an upscale, 1920s landmark located at 530 Broadway Street, in the heart of downtown San Diego. It's a short walk to the waterfront and the San Diego Convention Center. Or, take a cab to SeaWorld or the San Diego Zoo. The Marriott is right in the heart of the Gas Lamp Quarter with all the restaurants, nightclubs, and bars you could ask for.

Upon arrival, you'll be greeted in the magnificent 32-foot-high lobby. After sightseeing or meetings, catch up with friends while enjoying delectable American cuisine at Lincoln's Bar & Grill. And whenever cravings strike, grab a snack at the 24-hour food market. The special FHS room rate will be announced soon. Please call 1-800-321-2211 to make your reservations. Be sure to mention the Frankfurt American High School Reunion in order to secure the negotiated rate. Reserve early so we know how to plan our activities.

San Diego has a wonderful Double-Decker Bus Tour that includes stops to the following locations:

- Cruise Ship terminal (Broadway Ave. & Harbor Dr) Includes Maritime Museum
- USS Midway (Main entrance) Admission price included in ticket
- Seaport Village (Pacific Highway Ave.) Good shopping and ambiance.
- Lots of chic night clubs, fancy restaurants, etc.
- Horton Plaza (Broadway Circle near Citi Bank) Great shopping center!
- San Diego Zoo (Main entrance) You've heard of this, right?
- Balboa Park (Plaza de Panama) Art, aerospace, natural history museum displays etc.
- Old Town (San Diego Ave. and Twiggs St) The original city partially restored with the Hispanic/Mexican culture/heritage.

The \$35 ticket is good for 48 hours and includes admission to the USS Midway Museum (this has become San Diego's most visited sight). So from Friday-Sunday you can come and go as you desire to all the local tourist sights. It can be great fun with friends and classmates. Wonderful views, weather and lots of flexibility.

There's also the Padres, who could be playing and some folks might want to take in a 7:05 PM game on a Thursday/Friday at PETCO Park. It is within walking distance to the hotel.

And remember, Tijuana Mexico is just 15 minutes south of San Diego for the truly ambitious and brave...

There will be reunion activities planned for Friday and Saturday nights. **Details will be available later on the FHS website, where there is also a registration form that can be downloaded.** So, find yourself a 2008 calendar and reserve the last weekend in June to be with your FHS classmates in San Diego.



Leanne Corbin, Honorary Eaglette and Reunion Coordinator

