

ANN ARBOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963

50TH REUNION

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH, 2013!

NEWSLETTER #2

TO: The Ann Arbor High School Class of 1963

FROM: The 50th Class Reunion Steering Committee
Stan Bidlack *Charles Larkins*
Bill Bond *Louise Salamin*
Betty Brown *Rick Weid*
Mary Lou Covert *Chuck Wilkins*
Pete Dodge

SUBJECT: **News & Updates About Everything!**

DATE: April – May, 2011

Hello again, Class of 1963. Greetings from the 50th Reunion Steering Committee!

This is “general information” Newsletter #2, and it will update you on everything your steering committee is talking about. We had so many responses to Newsletter #1 in February — emails, phone calls, and *hundreds* more web hits — that we’re doing this one to give you the latest news & info. During the second half of February, the website had over 500 unique visits & more than 2600 page loads! So keep on visiting our site for additional stuff (<http://www.aahs63.com/>). More and more of you are getting in touch with questions, comments, and advice. Don’t hold back. And, *please*, if we don’t have your contact information, *or if it has changed*, let us know. As always, contact us via email [here](#), or USPS mail at:



Class of '63 Reunion
PO Box 2229
Ann Arbor MI
48106

We’re meeting regularly until our 2nd **Annual Event** this July, and we post the minutes of each meeting on the website, right [here](#).

YOUR 50TH REUNION
STEERING COMMITTEE

After 35 years of creating outstanding Class Reunions, the wonderful *original* Class of '63 organizing committee decided to retire and offered to assist anyone that wanted to pick up the ball. Yup, that would be us! And believe it when we say to our excellent predecessors, THANK YOU SO MUCH! We've had a good model to build on, so we feel like we kind of know what we're doing. As Rick Weid puts it, "The ideas are many, the discussion is deep, and the consensus is amazing. The group works well together and reaches out when more expertise is needed. We are a steering committee that's transitioning into the actual workings of a world-class reunion. Seeing the help we have received to date with finding classmates, providing insights, and picking up projects, our next phase will have a number of classmates jumping up and doing whatever is asked."

Lately, we've had some requests to provide you with a few details about what individual committee member's responsibilities are ... so here goes:

"Chief Fiscal Gurus": BETTY BROWN AND BILL BOND

Betty and Bill have their capable hands on the Steering Committee's money. (Not that there's a lot right now!) Their job is keeping track of every penny we've spent, are spending, or will spend. Plus, they are meticulous budget-balancers, who have advanced degrees in dough handling. They are in charge of our ongoing budget development — due to become pretty complex as we approach 2013. Best of all, Bill & Betty are expert at explaining it all to us.

"Classmates & Missing Persons Gumshoe": RICK WEID

Rick latched on to the ever-changing Classmates List and is in charge of tracking down precise contact information for all of our class members. His most challenging job is heading up the search for our "missing" classmates. See Rick's article on pp. 4-5 about how he goes about this important quest.

"Committee Attorney & Counselor": PETER DODGE

Pete jumped in to help a few months back, when we asked for an opinion on a legal issue. Ever since, he's been advising us on all matters legal. Pete took care of the articles of incorporation for our non-profit status, our application for federal tax exemption, and it's a relief to have an expert to keep us on the lawful straight and narrow.

"Documentarian, Analyst, & Idea Translator": LOUISE SALAMIN

Louise is the one who documents our progress, planning, thinking, and debating. She takes our agendas and discussions — they often range over a humongous number of subjects — makes logical sense of them, and translates our ideas into understandable logic. We then know what happened.

“Reunion Historian”: *CHUCK WILKINS*

Chuck has excellent insight into all features of reunions past — organization, planning, pitfalls, and triumphs. Plus, he remembers everything the rest of us can't. Right now, Chuck is putting together some “nostalgic statistical data” on the differences between our Ann Arbor High of 1963 and today's much different, i.e. “modern,” setting. (See Chuck's sample on pp. 6–7.)

“Washtenaw County Community Liaison”: *MARY LOU COVERT.*

Mary Lou is our Ann Arbor area expert. She's been a community activist for decades and is connected with virtually every local industry and business enterprise whose assistance we are seeking. In fact, we're pretty sure that she actually knows every person in Southeastern Michigan. Mary Lou handles our “connections” research, makes our business contacts (e.g., Zingerman's Roadhouse, Weber's Inn, etc.), and just plain gets things done.

“Webmaster Virtuoso”: *CHARLES LARKINS.*

Charles is our computer guru and can create just about anything with a Macintosh. “Butch” (as we knew him in school) has taken responsibility for our website, and it gets complements from you '63 classmates all the time. On rare occasions when he runs into a problem, Butch contacts a back-up guru, his son in Grand Rapids, and the two of them get it fixed.

“Writer & Editor”: *STAN BIDLACK*

Stan takes the ideas that are generated in our meetings & brainstorming sessions and turns them into English. He creates and edits the newsletters & communications for the group. He also handles contacts with our former teachers.

JULY 9TH!
SAVE THE DATE!!!

Here's a reminder to put next July 9th on your calendars! That's the date of our second “Annual Event” at Zingerman's Roadhouse in Ann Arbor.

Here's The Scoop:

If you're anywhere in Southeastern Michigan on July 9th, for old times' sake drop by Zingerman's Roadhouse (kitty-corner from Vet's Park at Jackson & Maple) between 4:00 & 7:00. Have a beer, a glass of wine, or a Coke & a bite to eat. Last year we had 35 classmates and 8 teachers, and this year we expect a lot more of us to stop in. If you haven't seen the photos from last time, [look here](#). We even have a “50/50 Cash Raffle.” Look at the next page — that's a picture of lucky Dennis Crawford winning **\$100** last year! Hey — that could be *YOU* this time!



Look for the Annual Event banner in front of Z's Roadhouse.



Dennis Crawford wins 100 BUCKS!

Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Avenue, 4:00–7:00PM

Last July was so much fun that we're doing it again!

- ~~George Clooney and Sandra Bullock are dropping by.~~
- It's informal. It's exciting. It's moving. It's easygoing.
- ~~The Chiffons are coming to perform "One Fine Day"!~~
- We've got a cash bar & tasty cash food.
- Come and say "Hi!" to Class of '63 teachers.
- Plus — just sit, relax, and catch up with old classmates.

SEARCHING FOR CLASSMATES

by
Rick Weid

Rick Weid and Butch Larkins have taken on the task of finding classmates. They've also had the help of Lance (Mike) Gillingham, in Arizona, and Pat Deanhoffer (Mrs. Rick), here in Michigan. In fact, we can *all* help out by [taking a look at our missing list](#) from time-to-time and informing Rick & Butch of people that we've been in touch with or have heard about. Even if you only have a clue, it might help.

Here's Rick's description of this continuing process:

Loosing contact with Classmates is very easy compared to finding them after they are lost. Diane Lindemann spent untold hours searching for contacts in preparation for the 45th Reunion, and because of her work we had around 100 at that get together and over 200 "found." But the quest continues.

Mike is using his extensive computer skills to track down elusive classmates and add them to the list of The Found. Pat has had success with her own reunions and has insight into classmate-finding techniques from a different angle. They are both responsible for many of the successes we have had. Pat suggests, "Some classmates just don't want to be found." And that's fine, too.

How it happens is a process. The list was developed from old documents like the year book, Alumni Directory, Graduation Program, and old notes from past committees. It has over 100 names more than we had in our class. They are all welcome.

Classmates.com, Facebook, and Google Search, all provided a good start. Plus, people-search sites like White Pages, Switchboard, ZABA, and Spokeo are godsend.

We combed back through the list, focusing on middle names (because they make “Johnny Elbert Jones” unique), along with DOBs around 1945, and cut the number possibilities down to a reasonable few. But we still get stymied from time-to-time. Even though William Rogers Coleman Brassfield is unique, we cannot seem to make contact. That one is a work in progress. Anybody know where Bill is?

Finding women in our class sometimes adds a challenge, because so many have changed last names. Often there is no listing; sometimes names got changed after our list was created. Often we have a listing of others in the home. If there are people around their age with the same surname, chances are it’s not our classmate. If there are people around 20 years younger with the same surname, it may not be our classmate. But with those filters, plus year of birth and some middle names, we can sometimes zero in on a “missing person.” We also rely on other classmates, and sometimes we get lucky with a “chain reaction.” For instance, we found Ed Goldman by contacting his brother. Then Ed led us to Margo Hughes, and then Margo opened the door to several other classmates she’s in contact with.

If we have a phone number, we call. If we get an address, we send a note. And if the number is bad, or the letter is returned, we start over. We now have 233 mailing address and are replacing that list with emails because of cost. We now have 356 emails, and that is our current focus. If you can help us find the missing, we would appreciate it. The process can be tedious, even frustrating at times, but the rewards are amazing. The joy in the voices when we find classmates is great. Even spouses convey delight when they find out why we called.

The real reward will happen when every classmate shows up in 2013 at the Reunion.

Well, OK ... it’s a goal!

A CALL FOR PROFILES!

Here’s another way you can help out. Slowly but surely, the Classmates’ Profiles section of our website is growing, but we need more. We are all intrigued by what our classmates have been up to for 50 years, and we really want to have a bunch of Profiles. Remember, a spouse, a partner, a classmate, a family member, a friend, or anybody else, can write one for you if you want. It doesn’t have to be very long, either. Look at the ones we’ve posted for some ideas.

BUT! If it’s a little too much hassle, or you just don’t have the time to come up with a Profile, you can simply use our super-easy **CLASS OF ‘63 QUICK & HANDY QUESTION & ANSWER PROFILE FORM**. All you have to do is go to the [“Profiles” part of the website](#), take about 15 minutes, and answer 10 questions ... TA-DAA — you’re done!

A HOPE FOR ASSISTANCE!

In February's Newsletter #1 we mentioned finances, and how we would shamelessly accept donations to help fund the Reunion Budget. Despite Steering Committee members continuing to chip in "seed money" as expenses occur — see the [April Treasurers' Report](#) — no matter how many times our excellent treasurers, Bill & Betty, add up the figures, we'll be \$7.00 in **the red** at the end of April.

So ... if you'd like to help out the budget with some financial assistance, we'd sure appreciate it! Since our February request, several classmates have let us know that they would like to make a donation.

You can send us a check anytime you'd like, made out to *Ann Arbor High School Class of 1963 Alumni Association*, the non-profit entity we've set up. We will apply all donations to planning and organizational expenses, and they are separate from admission fees for the actual Reunion event. (Donations are not tax deductible.)

Ann Arbor High School
Class of 1963 Alumni Association
P.O. Box 2229
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

THEN AND NOW! Boys' Swimming *by* Chuck Wilkins

My, how things have changed at ~~Pioneer~~ Ann Arbor High in the past 50 years. This is an attempt to gain insight into how activities and programs have changed since we were in high school. It's not intended to diminish the talents or accomplishments of our fellow classmates, but rather to acknowledge the challenges and opportunities of today's high school students. Here's a look at Boys' Swimming.

How long does it take to swim four lengths of the pool using the butterfly stroke? It is easy to compare our classmates' times with today's very best. But, that doesn't tell the whole story...

Now, serious swimmers train all year around, where our classmates spent considerably less time in the pool in the off season. Coach Paul Clifford did not believe in weight training, yet it is now a major part of the year-round program. Weights are used to strengthen core muscles and to better support tendons during the swimming motion. Emphasis is on using lighter weights and high repetitions to improve strength, yet maintain flexibility. Stroke techniques have been refined, and even in-season practices are very different. Short sprints, like 20 reps of 50 yards, have been replaced with longer distances and a short rest between intervals. Coach Denny Hill, the amazingly successful mentor and swim coach at Pioneer High for over 40 years, observed that his kids work very, very, hard to be competitive — and even harder to excel.

Regrettably, it was not until the 1970s that girls' swim team programs and competitions began in Michigan's high schools. What a shame that our classmates did not have the same sports

opportunities that the girls enjoy today! Here is an interesting sampling of swim stats from state meets — 1963 & 2010:

| Event: | 1963 | 2010 |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| 200-yard Freestyle Relay | Mike Jewell, John Baird, Mike Tefft, and Mike Fink: State Record: 01:32.3 | 01:26.3 |
| 200-yard Freestyle | Mike Royster: 01:54.3 Rick Porter: 01:57.4 | 01:45.7 |
| 50-yard Freestyle | Mike Jewel: 24.2 | 21.27 |
| 200-yard Individual Medley | Jim "JD" Walden: 02:19.7 | 01:54.2 |
| 100-yard Freestyle | Mike Royster: 49.7 | 44.71 |
| 100-yard Backstroke | Dave Blanchard: 58.7 | 51.86 |
| 400-yard Freestyle | Rick Porter: 04:15.0 | [Now 500-yard] |
| 100-yard Breaststroke | Jim "JD" Walden: 01:06.2 | 58.12 |
| Diving | Ken Genova: 149 points | 187 Points |



It appears that, yes indeed, records are made to be broken! In future Newsletters, we'll compare other modern-day Pioneer High sports — along with vocational & technology programs, music, and academics — with what they were in the days of the early '60s.

REMEMBERING JIM POPE

by
Nancy S. Smith

We recently received this touching remembrance of our late classmate, Jim Pope. It's from Nancy Smith, Jim's wife at the time of his death in 1974.

We thought that the class would be interested in reading Nancy's tribute. Sadly, as you know from our ["In Memory" page](#) on the website, we've lost nearly 80 classmates over the years. We would be happy to publish similar tributes in future Newsletters, if you would like to send us one.

Here's to Jim:

Jim Pope graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1963. I met him at a summer dance at AAHS on August 2, 1963, through a mutual friend when I was 14. Jim had already enlisted in the Air Force and left Ann Arbor for basic training on November 20, 1963. Two days later, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. But my tears were for the young man heading west from the Ann Arbor train depot to San Antonio.

Every six months for the next four years, Jim returned home on leave; our relationship was sustained by love and letters. When I was 16, Jim gave me an engagement ring that came from the commissary at Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah. Jim also did tours in Turkey, Germany, and California as an aircraft mechanic. Jim's last tour of duty was at Tan Son Knut Air Force Base in Saigon, Vietnam, and when he returned to Ann Arbor, I and our three-month old daughter, Susan, were waiting for him. Jim went to work at the Post Office, first as a letter carrier and then a mechanic. We bought a tiny yellow house on Platt Rd. and had our son, James Jr., almost two years to the day after Susan was born. These were our best years — lived simply, lovingly, and without separation.

Early in 1970, Jim started having fevers, night sweats, and weight loss. His usual high energy was waning, and he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, Stage IV B — cancer of the lymphatic system. Because he was within a year of final discharge from the Air Force, he qualified for VA disability benefits, and was considered 100 percent disabled. That category provided spousal GI Bill education benefits to me, and I enrolled in Eastern Michigan University's brand new nursing school to prepare for the future.

Jim's initial treatment with radiation and chemotherapy was effective; he was in remission and kept busy with work, raising his family, going fishing, doing home improvements, listening to blues, and rebuilding a 1934 Ford Victoria. He had been an avid deer hunter, but lost his enthusiasm for it as life became more precious to him. His was destined to be short: the cancer rallied, Jim could not, and he died on November 12, 1974, a few months before his 30th birthday.

I wonder often what he would be like if he was still with us, and I wish that time wouldn't erode my memories of him. He would be so proud of our children — they were only five and seven when he died, too young to predict the paths their lives would take. Today, Susan is a Registered Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator (her father developed diabetes from high prednisone doses) and the mother of Jim's only grandchild, a truly beautiful four-year-old named David James. Our son James inherited his dad's mechanical proficiencies and is a bona fide PhD rocket scientist who has worked at NASA since his student days at the University of Michigan.

I met another Ann Arbor High graduate, Doug Smith (Class of 1966), at a Parents Without Partners meeting and married him and his two daughters.

But the first ring on my finger and nearest my heart is the narrow gold wedding band Jim placed there so many years ago.

OK ...
WHAT'S NEXT
FOR THE
STEERING
COMMITTEE?!?!?

This is where we are headed over the next couple of months:

- We're paying our final installments to Weber's Inn & Zingerman's and finalizing our agreements with WCC.
- We are meeting with Fabulous Food Inc., of Ann Arbor —caterer for the big 2013 Reunion Night at Washtenaw Community College — to create a moderately priced & really tasty buffet menu for The Big Night.
- We are in the process of nailing down “logistical details” — e.g., insurance, non-profit banking matters, consulting with former reunion committee members, preparing bulk-email mailings, and printing & snail-mailing postcards (to classmates in Michigan, northern Ohio, northeast Indiana & southeast Illinois) about this year's Annual Event.
- In an ongoing effort, we continue working on & refining The Budget.
- And, we're looking in our crystal ball hoping to see some classmates' donations in our future!

Remember — we hope to see many of you at our Annual Event on Saturday, July 9th. As an incentive, we'd like to mention that our classmate Bev Greey is coming all the way from Phoenix, Arizona. She has arranged a July visit to her Ann Arbor family so that she can be here on July 9th. *Great idea, right?! See you in July, Bev!* Not only that — we've just heard a rumor that Margot Hughes may be dropping in ... from San Francisco.

Until **NEWSLETTER #3**, so long for now. Thanks for reading!

Your 50th Reunion Steering Committee,

Stan Bidlack

Charles Larkins

Bill Bond

Louise Salamin

Betty Brown

Rick Weid

Mary Lou Covert

Chuck Wilkins

Pete Dodge

