



# Lawndale High School

Class of 1974 - 40th Reunion

## Newsletter

July 7, 2014



### Congrats to

**Edith Mennella and Calvin Langford**

winners of 2 Disneyland Park Hopper tickets each in our June 1st drawing!

Sign in to the LHS Website:

[LawndaleHS74](http://LawndaleHS74)

## Excited, Delighted and Reunited!

Our newsletter is here to connect you with what's happening as the 40th Reunion of Lawndale High School's Class of '74 approaches. Some interesting things have been going on in the lives of many of our classmates and teachers, and a variety of activities are planned. There is also much to remember from the past. Take a moment to get caught up, stroll down memory lane with us, and put on that Cardinal spirit!



Becky Hildebrandt Reinis

### Free Drawing!

Buy a ticket between now and midnight July 15th and you will be eligible for our drawing for 1 night's stay for 2 at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach.

The drawing will be held on July 16th at 9:00am.

### Why Should I Go to My 40 Year Reunion?

- You are remembered and classmates want to see you again!
- To reconnect with people you have a history with. You never know who will come back into your life, or who you may get to know for the first time!
- To reminisce, share memories, and have a good time!
- You really do make a difference!

We want YOU there!

**Our 40th reunion will be held on Saturday August 16, 2014 at the RENAISSANCE LONG BEACH HOTEL in Long Beach, CA**



### Upcoming Birthdays



- **Monae Larson (Pugh)** 7/6
- **Garry Delano** 7/13
- **Becky Hildebrandt (Reinis)** 7/17
- **Laura Martin (Farris)** 7/22
- **Bob Sargent, Jr.** 7/24
- **Susan Lane (Capozzoli)** 7/25
- **David Noah** 7/26
- **Janet Dennis (Neitzke)** 7/27
- **Maria Austin (Walden)** 7/28
- **Vickie Smelser (Lane)** 8/1
- **Melody Bilbrey (VanPelt)** 8/2

## Cardinal of the Week Merrilee Willis Greene



Well, a lot of you already know the story,

but it's kinda cute even now, so I will share all the little details with you:



Merrilee Willis (Greene)

In December of 1993, I received a call from a guy. "Hello," I said, and he said, "Hello, do you know who this is?" All the while I'm thinking, I just know if I listened long enough, I could figure this out. I was single at the time, and I was very intrigued about this caller. Then he asked, "What if I said I knew you from twenty years ago?" Now I was really intrigued. Who could this be? It kinda felt weird. "What if I asked you about Injun Joe?" he said. I knew immediately it was Stanley Greene. Our history actually went back to the third grade. I lived across the street from his cousin, Steve Greene, and we went to Billy Mitchell School together, so we had some memories from that time. My family had moved to Virginia and returned to California when I was in the 6th grade. While in 6th grade, we had some classes together, and one day I came in with a new pair of moccasins (remember?) He began to call me Injun Joe. Other than Lillian Garcia, who was there, and my mom, I had told no one else about Injun Joe. What a blast from the past. Our paths crossed again at Will Rogers Junior High. In 8th grade I moved again and went to Jane Adams. When we entered High School, we once again became friends.

My sister, Susan, was living with me at the time, and I yelled to her room, "Stanley Greene is on the phone!" All my sisters had a history with Stan, as well, at different times in the past 20 years. She picked up the extension (Yes, extension. We really have come a long way, haven't we?) and was on the phone with him the next three hours.

When we finally got the chance to talk to each other again, he explained he had received the information regarding the 20th reunion. My name was on the list of people to contact for information, and he called me. We started talking every day for about a month and really got to know each other. He was a single dad of a darling little 7 year-old daughter, and I was raising my two sons. We had always been friends, however, I had secretly carried a torch for him. About a month into it, we asked each other if we wanted to try a date. Not wanting to ruin the friendship we were building, we really thought about it. We went on our first date in late January, moved in together in July, bought our house in August, and were married in our back yard in October. We blended our families, and today have three kids, a wonderful daughter-in-law, 5 amazing grandkids, and a cute little grand-dog.

## Teacher of the Week Mr. Skip Effler

When asked what memories he had of teaching and coaching at Lawndale High, Mr. Effler said, "Above all, was the overriding sense of pride and identity at LHS." A well-remembered baseball coach and teacher, Mr. Effler left teaching in 1979 to pursue a career in the high-tech industry. It took him to Northern California, specifically the Bay Area, where he now works as a technical professional in Silicon Valley. He is currently working on secret projects for Amazon.com while living in Sunnyvale.

Mr. Effler is looking to retire the from high-tech field and return to coaching and sports photography, which has held his interest over the years. His serious hobby pursuits included working for the San Francisco Forty-Niners staff for ten seasons, and publishing sports photography for the NFL, MLB, PGA, IMSA, and IndyCar.

He lived for a couple of years in Austin, Texas where he learned to appreciate country music, in addition to his enjoyment of rock. "I've been fortunate to travel extensively through Asia, Europe, South America, and Africa for both business and pleasure," he told the reunion committee, and in addition, golf, skiing, photography, and racing occupy his interests. Although Mr. Effler has no children, staying connected to a large family of ex-students has provided him with tremendous gratification.

What does the future hold for Mr. Effler? He would love to coach baseball again, break par in golf, photograph Monument Valley, and dive the Great Barrier Reef. Believe it or not, he would also like to own a Shelby cobra!

Thanks for keeping in touch, Mr. Effler! We appreciate you so much.



Mr. Effler will be our guest at the reunion! Look for him.

Post your business under Classmates' Professions on our Lawndale HS 40 Year Reunion Website

Congrats to Susan Lane Capozzoli

for winning a free night's stay for 2 at the Renaissance Hotel in our April Give-away!

## Onward Cardinals!



Can you identify any of these classmates before they became a LHS Cardinal? Answers next week!

## Looking Back to the 1970's



### FACULTY FIGHTS FUEL FOUL - UP

The Inquiring Reporter for the Cardinal has questioned members of the faculty concerning ways in which the gasoline shortage has affected them.

Their response follow:

Mr. Vegher: It doesn't.

Mr. MacKenzie: It doesn't.

I think it's great; it gets all the motor boats off the water.

Mrs. Perry: It ruins my weekends.

I like to go to the mountains, and now I can't.

I don't feel patriotic; I feel angry.

Mr. Cordero: I have to restrict my driving.

We have enough gas, but too many cars. It's sad because people lose their jobs because of it.

Mrs. Delgado: I don't use my car for pleasure.

Mrs. Curto: I cut out the frills and walk to the store. My husband and I use one car on the weekends.

Mr. Lawson: It's rough, because I have to travel 60 miles round trip. I have just started a car pool with 2 other people to save gas.

Mr. Varnado: I am finding it more difficult to buy gas. I have gone into a car pool with others. I travel 52 miles a day.

Mrs. Pink: We can't go anywhere.

I travel 20 miles a day and I get 10 1/2 miles to the gallon and fill up every week and a half.

Miss Boyd: I travel 6 to 10 miles a day and sometimes travel in a car pool. I get 14 miles to the gallon and fill up every 2 weeks.

Mrs. Lynch: Car pool? If you know anyone else who lives in the northwest corner of the San Fernando Valley, drives through Topanga Canyon, through Santa Monica, Ocean Park and Venice, on to the San Diego Freeway VIA the Marina Freeway, south to Lawndale....let me know!!



Reunion Tickets: \$85.00

Tickets may be purchased securely online with Credit &/or Debit Cards, or by PAYPAL, or by mailing your check. Please make sure you complete all the necessary info for your registration and choose your payment option.

Your name will be on a list at the door.

## Did You Know?

**What professions did Cardinals** most likely choose in the years after high school? According to responses on employment on our personal profiles, the vast majority of '74 graduates and forty guest members in classes near ours, sought employment in the private sector. Forty percent went on to work in skilled professions and labor related fields such as construction, mechanics, banking, retail, bookkeeping, and contracting.

Careers in aerospace, engineering, and high-tech fields drew 14 per cent of our graduates, while 9 per cent of our classmates chose education. That statistic is comparable with those who went into social work, including the ministry, at 8 per cent, and those who served in government related professions and public service, also at 8 per cent. Seven percent of us went on to own our own businesses in a variety of creative fields. And the arts drew 2 per cent of the class.

Retirement? A couple dozen of the respondents are already enjoying the fruits of their labors as retirees, some even on to a second career. Go Cardinals!

## MISSING CLASSMATES

HELP US FIND OUR LONG LOST CLASSMATES!

There are many from the class of 1974 whom we have not been able to contact. Chances are you may know one of them. If you know how to get in touch with any of our missing classmates, help spread the word about our reunion, direct them to our website, and encourage them to set up a profile. Sometimes missing LHS students in other classes will know their whereabouts, too. The more classmates that attend the reunion, the more fun it will be!

For a complete list of missing classmates visit our website.



## ADDITIONAL REUNION EVENTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED:

- \* FRIDAY NIGHT NO-HOST MIXER (August 15th)
- \* SUNDAY PICNIC/BBQ (August 17th)
- \* MONDAY GROUP FUN AT DISNEYLAND (Aug 18th)



T-Shirts are available to purchase online until SAT, JULY 19TH, 9PM.

To order your T-Shirt go to the "REUNION T-SHIRTS" page in the black column on the LawndaleHS74 official website

3 color options to choose from in a variety of styles ranging from basic, to athletic, to v-neck, to hoodie!

Reunion Committee:

Leslie Carlisle Hamburger, Janelle Lewis James, Mary Rezutti Sutherland, Merrilee Willis Greene, and Rosie Proper Blada