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## El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

Newsletter Issue XVII

December 2008

### Message from the Principal

*The New School Opens*

El Cerrito Family,

We are eagerly anticipating the beginning of a new era to coincide with the birth of 2009. Our new school will be operational after the winter break. The new facility is a beautiful testament to the dedication of the community and school district toward our students.

Measuring over 250,000 square feet, we predict that some students initially will find it difficult to locate their new classes. We will be providing students with new schedules and maps of the school on Friday, December 19. Additionally, we will be hosting an open house for all on Saturday, January 3, 2009 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. During this time, leadership students, the architects and builders, as well as the school administration will be available to answer your questions about the new school. Parents and students are invited to tour the new facility at this time, become familiar with their new environment and enjoy the beginning of a new and beautiful era.

No reservations are necessary. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and at the new facility.

Best regards and happy holidays,

Jason Reimann

Principal

### ECHS Opening Day Celebration

*February 27,28, March 1, 2009*

ECHS Opening Day Celebration

February 27,28, March 1, 2009

Friday, February 27th

Theater show -8pm

"Going Through the Decades"

Saturday, February 28th

New School Tours 10AM till Noon

Flag Ceremony in Quad -Noon

New School Tours -1:00-3:00

Archiving Film in Small Gym -3:00-5:00

Dinner in Gym -6:00 -7:30PM

Theater show -8:00PM

"Going Through the Decades"

Sunday, March 1

New School Tours -10:00AM till Noon

Theater Price (only)

\$10.00/\$15.00 Student/w ithout ID

\$20.00 Adults

Dinner Price (only) TBD

Dinner/Theater Combo

\$50.00 per person

\$350.00 per table (\$43.75) (8).

**Please contact Donna Houser for more dinner and ticket information**

[houserini@sbcglobal.net](mailto:houserini@sbcglobal.net)



## Banner Hanging

In the fall over fifty alumni, students, community citizens and neighbors came to the new high school gym to watch the sport pendants being hung high over the gym floor. The pendants date from 1950 to 2004.

## Current Reunion Information

*Class of 1958 and 1968*

### Class of 1958

On October 18, 2008 at the Concord Hilton, the class of 1958 held their 50th class reunion. A total of one hundred twenty five people attended. Ninety-three were classmates.

Class President Ken Bottini spoke, "about the good old days at ECHS." Chairperson Ken Johnson thanked all of the committee members for their hard work and dedication. Ray Motta (old yell leader) lead the group in singing, "Down the Field," and in the Gaucho spell out.

Six grade pictures were on display, from the following schools, Castro, Harding, Kensington and Fairmont. --Good Memories.

Everyone had a great time and they are looking forward to the next Reunion.

### Class of 1968

#### Class of 1968 Reunion Deemed a Really Huge Success

Over two hundred people packed the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club for the Class of 1968's fortieth year reunion on Saturday night, November 1, 2008. After a fifteen year hiatus, the Class of 1968 reunion committee members were heartened to see so much enthusiasm among a broad cross section of alumni. Our theme was "The More The Merrier." Nice touches were evident from the start including nametags with extra large type designed to accommodate eyes that are now forty years older and perhaps not quite as sharp as they once were.

Festivities began with cocktail conversation accompanied by 1960s pop, rock and soul records played over the public address system. Many of the men displayed a sophistication, acquired since high school, similar to say Cary Grant, with perhaps less hair evident than Mr. Grant. Also, many displayed the self-assurance of a Bruce Lee, with perhaps a little more substance around the waistline than Mr. Lee. And the ladies were quite smashing, with the gaiety of an Audrey Hepburn combined with the overt confidence of say Michelle Obama. Oh my, how we've grown!

Many of us traded stories about our children, virtually all of them above average, like they are at Lake Wobegon as described by Garrison Keillor. You might ask: How can every child be above average? The answer is too complex for the limited space allotted here, so we'll pass on that one for now.

Next, groups formed according the first letter of one's last name descended upon the buffet dinner in an orderly manner. The system worked. We Gauchos were the epitome of urbanity, moving through the buffet line and finding places to eat with admirable efficiency.

After dinner, live music was provided by El Cerrito's own garage band from the 1960s - none other than The Nite Owls. Their 1960s musical repertoire was delivered with enough aplomb to keep the dance floor close to overflowing all night. Highlights included playing that instrumental tune "Walk Don't Run" more or less as recorded by The Ventures, at the request of a reunion committee member.

Alas, all good things must come to an end and, of course, our fortieth year reunion was no exception. However, many chose to stay past the 11 pm closing conversing in small informal groups. Rumor has it there was some necking in the parking lot; but it must be emphasized that this is unsubstantiated, kind of like a Paris Hilton or Britney Spears escapade. In other words, nobody actually saw anything juicy, unlike forty years ago.

The diversity of attendees, the enthusiasm evident and the reluctance to say goodnight portend well for future reunion gatherings. This concludes our report from the scene. How sweet it was.

Respectfully Submitted,  
El Cerrito High School  
Class of 1968 Reunion Committee

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## **El Cerrito High School Athletic Hall Of Fame**

*First Inductions 1944 to 1969*

### Inaugural Year 2008

To recognize former ECHS athletes and others who have distinguished themselves in the field of athletics, the ECHSHOF committee has selected the following to represent the inaugural class of inductees. They will be honored on April 26, 2009

#### ATHLETES:

Ernie Broglio-1953, Les Cain-1966, Winters Calvin-1950, Harvey Dougan-1951, John Flavin-1959,

Gerry Giarimita-1957, Cornell Green-1957, Elijah "Pumpsie" Green-1952, Burl Grinols-1953, Lou Guida-1957, Phil "Bo" Hart-1958, Bob Kinnard-1947, Jack Kinnard-1953, Roddy Lee-1967, Dave Masters-1967, Bill Nelson-1966, David "Lefty" Peeler-1955, Larry Plantz-1964, Don Pryde-1952, Willie Reed-1950, John Thomas-1953, Floyd Woods-1956.

#### COACHES:

Frank Milo, John Nules, Larry Quirico, Hale Roach,

#### SPECIAL CATEGORY:

Sandy Berman

#### TEAM:

1951 Varsity Baseball

1956 Varsity Basketball

#### FAMILY:

The Green Family, Elijah, Credell, Travis, Cornell

All inductees been voted on and have meet eligibility criteria set forth by the ECHSHOF committee.

Sincerely Yours

Larry Quirico

ECHS Hall of Fame, Director

## Larry Quirico, ECHS '58

Born in 1941, Larry Quirico moved to El Cerrito in 1950 and then attended Castro Elementary School, along with his brother Steve (ECHS '64) and sister Barbara (ECHS '72). He then attended Portola Junior High School for grades seven through nine, starting in the second year the school was open. After that he attended El Cerrito High School for grades ten through twelve.

While Larry was at ECHS, Claude Sample was the principal and Dick Lovette was the Dean. At that time there was a principal, two vice principals, 2 deans and 5 or 6 counselors, as well as 1400 students in 3 grades. Some of Larry's teachers included the following:

- Math teacher Vivian Weatherhead who was happy to see Larry return as a teacher
- English teacher Maple Clayworth who simplified English for Larry
- PE teacher and distinguished track coach Hale Roach who served as a mentor for Larry
- PE teacher and baseball coach Dick Hunn who was in charge of the El Cerrito Recreation Department
- Civics teacher Marian Flynn who was called Momma Flynn and used the honor system, asking students what they thought their grade should be
- Civics and Family Life teacher John Tejehen who taught Larry the facts of life, gave straight answers and was honest
- Woodshop teacher Duke Dewitt, who was a tough hombre and taught Larry the value of safety around machinery and discipline in the classroom and
- Dean Dick Lovett, who lived two doors from Larry's best friend and helped kids but when kids left school during the day he saw both sides.

Larry has remained close to a circle of friends from ECHS, including the following:

- Rich Abel, ECHS '58, Larry's best friend, a principal in Lodi who married Larry's cousin
- Jerry Olivero ECHS '58, a plumber and a buddy with Larry ever since. Larry said, "God made Jerry Olivero and threw away the mould."
- Tom Kinnard ECHS '57, former Contra Costa College football coach, now retired
- Lou Guida ECHS '57, former ECHS football coach and Harry Ells head coach
- Ray Motta ECHS '58, a pharmacist
- John Pierotti ECHS '58, a real estate broker
- Tony Santarelli '59, a hard worker and loyal friend who was groundskeeper at the City of El Cerrito and UC Berkeley and the best groundskeeper in the East Bay who asked Larry to be the best man at his wedding.

After graduating from El Cerrito High School in 1958, Larry attended Contra Costa College until 1961 and then attended San Francisco State University, graduating in 1963. He received his teaching credentials from San Francisco State University in February, 1965. Larry next spent six months in the Coast Guard. While at ECHS, Larry had played basketball and baseball; however, he continued playing baseball the entire time he was in college and in the Coast Guard. He also worked for the City of El Cerrito Recreation Department from 1958 to the 1970s at in a variety of park positions.

After he left the Coast Guard, Larry began his life long teaching and coaching career. His first job was at Washington Manor Junior High in San Leandro. He then taught at Roosevelt Junior High and

then Richmond High School where he also coached football and baseball. In 1969 Larry moved to El Cerrito High School where he taught Physical Education and served as the baseball coach and assistant football coach. He served as the head baseball coach until 1984 and the athletic direction from 1980 to 1987.

In 1985 while still teaching at ECHS, Larry became the head baseball coach at Contra Costa College. After serving as head baseball coach at Contra Costa College for twelve years, he moved to Diablo Valley College in 1997 as assistant baseball coach so he would have more time.

All this time Larry taught full time at ECHS and also served as the head baseball coach at the college level. In 2001, Larry retired from ECHS and became the head baseball coach at Diablo Valley College. Today (2008), Larry still coaches baseball at DVC, holding the title "head coach emeritus".

Larry's coaching career has been quite distinguished. In 1979 ECHS won the first football league championship in the history of the school, while coached by Larry Quirico and Dennis Guintini. During the period 1980 to 1987, while Larry was athletic director, ECHS won 32 league championships in a variety of sports. With Larry Quirico as baseball coach, ECHS won 8 league championships in 15 years; moreover, in 1983 the team was voted California State Champions and Larry was voted the California State Baseball Coach of the Year, East Bay Baseball Coach of the Year, and Northern California Coach of the Year. Larry has been inducted into three halls of fame during his distinguished career - in 1997 the California Community College Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, in 2003 the San Francisco State Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 1993 the California High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Larry represents the best of El Cerrito High from his days as a student to his long tenure as a teacher, coach and mentor. Larry Quirico has dedicated his life to teaching and coaching. As a result he did not marry until he was forty six year old. At that point, he married his wife Barbara Norman. Having been married to a coach before she married Larry, Barbara understood his commitment to coaching. Larry has two step children - a daughter Cori and a son Michael. Michael has two daughters and a son.

By Janet Abelson

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## Greetings Gaucho Family

### *Volunteers*

New Campus to Open January 5th!  
Our students need YOU!

When: Two or more weeks for school opening  
Where: New campus!

Time: 7:30am or, 11:30 lunch, or 2:00pm

What: Parent or alumni volunteers needed to help students get familiar with campus and to direct them as needed.

Contact: Michele Jawad with availability and times/dates.

TRAINING DAYS: Full - Saturday January 3rd, 9:30 am - includes campus tour.

Monday January 5th, 7:00 am, first day of first shift!

Questions? Please feel free to contact Michele at: [EcMjawad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:EcMjawad@sbcglobal.net)

Let's show our students our Gaucho pride and welcome them to the new campus. I look forward to seeing you.

Michele

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## Alumni Information Needed

We are starting to plan for the New ECHS Opening Day. We need your information. Email your

information to ECarchives@aol.com. If you know any Alumni who have not subscribed to the ECHS Archiving Project New letter, please forward their information to ECarchives@aol.com.

## Reunion Leaders

Are you a reunion leader for one of our ECHS years? Please send us an updated class list.

We would like to ask for your help to notify us as to whom the reunion leaders are from each missing year. If you know of a missing alumni chair, please notify

David Bilyeu at [davidechs65@att.net](mailto:davidechs65@att.net).

1944-Howard Mackey -- [Howard2201@aol.com](mailto:Howard2201@aol.com)  
 1945--David Blackemore-- [dmbmore@foxinternet.com](mailto:dmbmore@foxinternet.com)  
 1946--  
 1947--  
 1948-Lee Brown Alice--[Tidblgr62@aol.com](mailto:Tidblgr62@aol.com)  
 1949-Jack McFarland-- [Hambone@intercomm.com](mailto:Hambone@intercomm.com)  
 1950-Harry Hanson --  
 1950-Nordahl Bonomi Lucy--  
 1950-Gorrell Carter Patricia--  
 1951---Tony Tezzi Pryde  
 1952-Pryde Tezzi Toni--  
 1953-Weller Miller Barbara-- [Eandbweller@aol.com](mailto:Eandbweller@aol.com)  
 1953-Don Pryde --  
 1953--  
 1953-Jerry Deuker --  
 1954-Nancy Teese --  
 1955-Bill Lawton --[whlawton@frontiernet.net](mailto:whlawton@frontiernet.net)  
 1956-Jackie Fonken --[j\\_fonken@hotmail.com](mailto:j_fonken@hotmail.com)  
 1957-Hein Fredrick Marlene-- [marlene2u6@aol.com](mailto:marlene2u6@aol.com),  
 - 1957 Richard Barker--[hrbarker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hrbarker@sbcglobal.net),  
 1957 Eileen Gregovich Brooks-- [eileenbrooks1@mac.com](mailto:eileenbrooks1@mac.com)  
 1958-Gerry Fraser Bertnick-- [gerrybertnick@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrybertnick@hotmail.com)  
 1958-Ken Johnson--[kbjlbj@comcast.net](mailto:kbjlbj@comcast.net)  
 1958-Joe Stadum--[joestadum@comcast.net](mailto:joestadum@comcast.net)  
 1959--  
 1959- Taylor Jim--  
 1960- Davis Smith Pennie--  
 1960-Phil Playle --  
 1960-Arkin Arthur Barbara--  
 1961-Richard Pryde --[richpryde@aol.com](mailto:richpryde@aol.com)  
 1961-Davis Courtright Bea--  
 1962-Creech Balas Juanita-- [rbalas@earthlink.net](mailto:rbalas@earthlink.net)  
 1962-Sherry Humphrey --  
 1963-Mark Bautista --[marcusec63@aol.com](mailto:marcusec63@aol.com)  
 1964-Leslie Gadwood --  
 1964-Jackie Olson --  
 1965-Dennis Kalis --[dkalis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkalis@sbcglobal.net)  
 1966-Sandy Berry Faccini--[sandy48@pacbell.net](mailto:sandy48@pacbell.net)  
 1966-Diana De Gracia, Denise Murphy Bradfield  
 1967-Roddy Lee --[lcp1967@aol.com](mailto:lcp1967@aol.com)  
 1968-Paul Bailey -- [paul@pbailey.net](mailto:paul@pbailey.net)  
 1968-Yvonne LePage Schwartz -- [Phoenixdancer1@aol.com](mailto:Phoenixdancer1@aol.com)  
 1968-Jeanne Lotta-Sellers-- [jeannels@earthlink.net](mailto:jeannels@earthlink.net)  
 1969-Malcolm Sproul --  
 1970-Cathy Nielsen --  
 1971-Gene Staus--[echs1971@sbcglobal.net](mailto:echs1971@sbcglobal.net)  
 1972-Jerry Dagna --[jdagna@cox.net](mailto:jdagna@cox.net)  
 1972-Al Gambetti --  
 1973-Dale Myer --[echs1973@aol.com](mailto:echs1973@aol.com)  
 1973-www.echs1973.com 1974-Belinda Jeffries --  
 1975-Robinson Tate Agnes-- [aggi657@yahoo.com](mailto:aggi657@yahoo.com)



1976-Reiss Grunau Nancy-- turtlereiss@hotmail.com  
 1977- --  
 1978-Bill Reichle --bill@twistsf.com1978  
 1978-Anna Smithey --  
 1978-Donna Nordahl --  
 1979-Adriene Stinson --  
 1979-Gina Gallop --  
 1980-Karl Pierce --elosito2@aol.com  
 1980-hampton Lewis Marilyn-- hampton@acclanes.k12.ca.us  
 1981-Denise Hamma --  
 1982-Roger Grubb --rogergrubb@comcast.net  
 1982-Lisa Larkin --  
 1982-Smith McCarthy Charlotte--  
 1983-Donald Chew --dnsenterp@home.com  
 1983-Lisa Boblitt --  
 1984-Eric Hardy --  
 1985-Roschelle Jones --  
 1985-Jennifer Mitchell --  
 1986-Kurt Yoshi -- kyoshii@juno.com  
 1987-Michelle Barrocca -- barroccamm@cooley.com  
 1987-Sherman Tucker Trina--ech87@aol.com  
 1987-Griffiths Smith Sheldon-- SHELDENG@FASH.NET  
 1988-Nicole Jones --bignik@comcast.net  
 1989-Amber Smith --  
 1990-Larry Fox --larrydafox@hotmail.com  
 1990-Christina Lee--christina\_lee\_98@yahoo.com -  
 1991-McDonald Barton Chakay-- OAKLAND@yahoo.com  
 1992-Ranetta Ledet --  
 1993-Laivian Coleman -- mrlgcoleman@hotmail.com  
 1994-Nancy Quick --nequick@yahoo.com  
 1995-Caulkins Rivera Karyn-- karyn\_calkins@hotmail.com  
 1995- Vivian Lau --VivDog8@aol.com  
 1996-Ebony Lewis -- echsclassof1996reunion@yahoo.com  
 1997- Evan Soloman --discop@gmail.com  
 1998- Echsclassof98@yahoo.com  
 1999- --  
 2000- --  
 2001-Brian Anderson --BDOGSS83@aol.com  
 2002- --  
 2003- Julie Oshiro Regalia -- joshiro@berkeley.edu.  
 2004- --  
 2005- --  
 2006- --  
 2007- --  
 Reunion Leaders, To change or add your contact information please email, Roddy Lee--  
 ECArchives@aol.com.

[ECHS Alumni Website](#)

## Museum Hall of History

### El Cerrito High School's Own Museum Hall of History Update

Activities around connecting the old school with the new school are on the increase! In September, over fifty people visited the new gym to watch the old sport pendants re-hung. Over 110 sport pendants were hung with cable so they may be enjoyed for another 65 years! Current high school students strung the cable through the pennants and a scissor lift was used to raise them high above the gym floor. The large gaucho on his horse was spiffed up and hung. Former graduates had their picture taken under the 38 year old gaucho. Thank you to Larry Quirico '58 and Jackie Fonken '56 for all their help in preparing and organizing the pendants. Also to be hung in the large gym are the large EL CERRITO letters. Thanks to Greg Mayer '76, David Bilyeu '65 and the Fabini's for doing all the touch up work that needed to be done to make look renewed!

Sundial

For many years, there was in front of the old high school a waist high slender concrete stand. Everyone knew it had at one time been the base for a sundial. When the Archive Project committee was gathering items to be saved before the school was torn down, a box was given to them that contained a beautiful old sundial. To have the sundial displayed again, a new base had to be designed and approved by the school's architects. Mark Canapa, local metal artist and '74 ECHS gradate, designed and is now constructing the new base. The sundial and its base will be placed prominently in a public area on the campus for every to enjoy.

Artist Canapa asked what should be written on the finished base's designation plate. This simple question revealed some interesting information. Thanks to the guidance of Howard Mackey, ECHS '44, he introduced us to Alice Brownlee, ECHS '48 and to Richard Jones, ECHS '47. Between the two of these former students, they researched their old yearbooks and El Caballeros to search for clues as to what class gave the sundial to the school as their class gift. A side discovery was that from 1945 through 1948, there were two ECHS graduating classes, each of whom had their own yearbook. In the school's museum or library you will be able to see ECHS yearbooks from January and June of each of those years. We concluded that the sundial was a gift from the June Class of 1946. From the June 1946 yearbook, there was no sundial in front of the school. In the January 1947 yearbook, the sundial appeared. The final concluding piece of detective work was the line written in the El Caballero #16 Volume 12 January 1947 stating the following in an article titled Seniors Look to Past Activities "the senior gift has not been decided" upon

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## How to donate to the ECHS Archiving Project

The ECHS Archiving is in need of continuous monetary support! In addition to restoring, preserving and displaying the many artifacts that were saved from the wrecking ball, this year we were able to give four ECHS seniors \$1000 each in scholarships toward their college expenses.

We would like to continue our work in the future and here is how you can help. Contact Diane Chambers [dianneminard@yahoo.com](mailto:dianneminard@yahoo.com) or just mail your check to; ECHS Archiving Project 2234 Lupine Rd, Hercules, CA 94547. All donations are tax deductible.

Diane Chambers

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## Newsletter Subscribers

Newsletter Subscribers Increasing! Hey, why not pass our newsletter on to other ECHS supporters and ask if they want to subscribe. Email [ECarchives@aol.com](mailto:ECarchives@aol.com) to get on the distribution list!

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## Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Celebration

*January 18-19, 2009*

FULFILL FULFILL YOUR DREAM FOR A NEW ERA DREAM FOR A NEW ERA

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Celebration

### SUNDAY, Jan. 18

5:00 p.m. Civil Rights Movie Night FREE!  
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater  
10070 San Pablo Avenue

### MONDAY, Jan. 19

9:00 a.m. Parade Begins D.M.V. Parking Lot (not confirmed)  
6400 Manila Ave @ Kearney  
March new parade route to El Cerrito High School Gym  
10:15 a.m. Rally and Program Begins to El Cerrito High School Gym  
12:30 p.m. 540 Ashbury Avenue



Entertainment, music, dance, singing & family fun  
 Speaker: Michael E. Parker, President of Stellar Enterprise and Founder of lifeskills 411  
 Rally & Program at the new El Cerrito High School Gym

For more details, call Patricia Durham at (510) 234-2518

Special thanks to our Sponsors:  
 City of El Cerrito Human Relations Commission  
 St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
 El Cerrito Branch NAACP  
 West Contra Costa County Unified School District

#### Follow up Links

- [El Cerrito High School Online](#)
- [The El Cerrito High School Archiving Project](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#)

#### Executive Board

President Patricia Durham,'68; Vice President, Secretary, Alumni Coordinator, Jackie Folken, '56; Treasurer Dianne Chambers,'69; Oral History/ Community Liaison, Janet Abelson; Consultant/ Cataloging/Museum, Joann Steck-Bayat; Newsletter Editor, E-Tree and Database Manager, Roddy Lee,'67; Product Marketing, Donna Houser; Consultant/Museum/WCCUSD Strategic Planning Scholarship, Lu Tipping; Alumni Web Coordinator, Rebecca Boe; Event Site Coordinator/Alumni Coordinator, David Bilyeu,'65; SAF Liaison/Music Coordinator, Gregg Mayer,'76; Athletic Hall of Fame Coordinator, Larry Quirco, '58; Website Committee, Alumni Liaison, Kathie Weinstein, '58

El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement:  
 Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School - Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.

email: [ecarchives@aol.com](mailto:ecarchives@aol.com)  
 phone: 510-525-0234

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