

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS of 1966

AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER

Here we are folks! August 2012!! Not sure we spent much time in the years before (or even after) graduation from GHS thinking about August 2012. It has definitely been summer time in Grapevine, Texas these past weeks with about 30 days of 100 or more degrees by the end of August. I'm sure we are all looking forward to fall weather! I hope this summer has been a good one for most of you and that you've been able to spend time with family and friends and have had time sprinkled with GHS alumni too!

Now that we sort of expanded the Newsletter to three times a year rather than four, the thing I noticed most is that I spend time letting you know about difficulties more than about fun times. I would encourage you to share the fun times with me as well as those times we need to take classmates and friends and alumni to our times of prayers. I can not say enough to my classmates regarding the many times I hear people offer thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, etc. when one of us has had a tragic or difficult time. It is grand that we have stayed together and in-touch for these past 46+ years and maintained some wonderful friendships. Being an OLD GHS teacher as well and staying in touch with a large number of past classmates during our times in school along with those from the classes of 1970 through 1988 give me an even better perspective of how fortunate we are to still have so many of our class in communication with one another. Since many of these folks read our newsletter, I also want to commend some of the other classes that I know are doing a lot to keep in touch as well. The Classes of 1973, 1974, 1978, and 1981 are some of those who do a fantastic job of keeping in touch with one another – I know that they have come to realize how truly fantastic the results of those times together become.

I want to mention those who have departed over these past several months that we were notified about. I know that so many have expressed such appreciated sympathy and spent time in prayer, and visits to do our best to support our classmates and friends. In early April, Linda Elaine Flanagan Toyer, GHS '63 passed away at her home in Pilot Point, Texas. In mid-April, we received word that Stella Biggers, mother of Hank, passed away after losing a battle with cancer. Around that same time, an email from Alta Crowley Daniel informed me that her husband Teddy's mother Opal Daniel passed away in Denison, Texas at the age of 90, and we were all in prayer for the family: Alta & Teddy (GHS 67 & 65), Kenneth (GHS 60), Sandra (GHS 62) and Billy Don (he attended GHS before the family moved). In April we also received word that Liz Taylor, mother of Tommy Taylor (GHS 68), passed away – Liz was a long time employee of TP&L and worked in the Grapevine Main Street Office for many years. We received information after the service that Jay Stockstill (GHS 56) had passed away on April 21, 2012. On April 24th, I received an email from Caroline Cason Wilkinson that her brother, Joe Fred

Cason, Jr. had passed away that morning. Joe Fred had been beating the odds of Chronic Leukemia for 24 years and had been in the acute stage for the past five weeks. In June we received information on the passing of Eric Mitchell (GHS 67) who passed away from complications during surgery. In July, I received an email from Randy Robinson (GHS 66) that his mother, Carolyn Robinson had passed away on July 4th, a year after suffering a debilitating stroke during surgery. On July 8, 2012, I was notified by classmate Sharon Huffman Smith (GHS 66) that her older brother Gerry Huffman (GHS 61) passed away.

Classmates Randy Flanagan and Larry Cox continue to battle health conditions these past months. Not only Randy and Larry, but Larry Cox's wife Sheila Cox was diagnosed with a 90% chance of bladder cancer in late April. After tests, she received news that there was no malignancy. She had been ill since December and had experienced times of blacking out and Larry would have to carry her to the car and take her to the ER. Word was that these type of tumors often return and she will need to continue to have tests every two or three months. Larry was diagnosed in May that he now had diabetes to add to his heart condition. Larry tires quickly and takes lots of medication and I know that he and Sheila appreciate the emails, cards and calls that have come their way.

Another of our classmates, Randy "Mouse" Flanagan continues to struggle with his health conditions these past months. Randy was in the hospital twice during May, as well as once in Baylor Grapevine and once in Tyler. He has been diagnosed with a new kind of pneumonia that is antibiotic resistant, his medication were slowing down his kidneys and the end of May they discovered that the first type of pneumonia was returning. With all the pneumonia and medications he was tiring very quickly and losing weight. In early July, after another round in the Tyler Hospital he returned home and they believe that he was cancer free. The bad news at that time was that his body could no longer tolerate the IV antibiotics because they were causing his systems to "shut down" due to his energy level and weight loss. At this point the doctors didn't feel as though surgery was an option.

I know you will all continue to pray for Larry Cox and Randy "Mouse" Flanagan as they battle their conditions. I know you will also include their families in those thoughts and prayers.

In mid-June, I got a call that Cindy Frye Barnes (GHS 68) and wife of David Barnes (GHS 63) was taken to the ER after telling David that she didn't feel well. She was experiencing some numbness and generally feeling sick. She was kept overnight at Baylor Grapevine and they believed that she had experienced a mild stroke. Thankfully the tests results didn't reveal any damage. She was given a stress test and that too didn't provide anything to alarm the doctors.

As July came around there was always activity with many of our class – due the number of birthdays our class celebrated. The month of July has the most birthdays of our GHS Class of 1966. And some of our number have turned from the normal celebratory activities in years past to take on the responsibilities of helping one another appreciate the age we are achieving. So, it

is rather normal among some of us who get together at times for a friendly game of cards to take upon ourselves to let one another know at these times – we are getting old!!! So as we approached July 20th – the Birthday of John Clinton Yancey, the emails began to flow in his direction, only to discover that John had been in the hospital for 9 days with a bad bacterial infection in his small intestine or he had developed Crohn's Disease. After a few days Crohn's Disease was ruled out and yet they could not determine the cause of this severe bacterial infection. I actually believe John spent his birthday in the hospital and was released on July 21st (Bob Havran's Birthday). I spoke with John on July 28th (he was home) and he said he was feeling much better, however, they still did not know what had caused the infection that he had been fighting for a month. He spent the next two weeks at home, continuing to take antibiotics. John went to the doctor on Tuesday, August 7th and he is scheduled for Surgery on August 15th when they will remove a portion of his small intestine and hopefully discover the cause of the infection. I know you join me in keeping John and Hilary in our prayers. I know that he and Rick Stacy have had conversations involving the intestine removal issue (Rick experienced that not too awfully long ago) and I appreciate them copying me so I could become nauseated reading all that!

Most days when I'm off and on Saturday mornings, I go to Lynda Yarbrough's Waffle Way for coffee. There I get to spend time learning from some of my "older friends" - Joe Wright, Jimmy Dossey, Bill Powers and the like. It is truly a "learning experience"!!!

Just a couple of weeks ago, Jimmy Dossey (Jeannine's older brother) told me that Jeannine was in the hospital but wasn't sure of the situation. The morning of August 12th I received an email from Mary Alering Wiggins that Jeannine had a stroke 3 weeks ago which has affected her right side and she is starting therapy next week (August 13th). Mary said that they almost lost her - she was flown to a hospital in Memphis where they were finally able to stabilize her blood pressure. She still has a long way to go. Mary and I know that she would certainly appreciate our prayers and support over these next days to come. Mary said she would help keep us up-to-date on her progress. The last day of August Mary talked to Jeannine and told her that the Class of '66 was praying for her recovery and her tearful response was "I thought they all forgot about me it has been so many years". Mary said it made her very happy. So, continue your prayers for Jeannine.

Some people, even outside our class do enjoy getting and reading our Class Newsletters...I honestly get a number of emails after each one is posted. Here are a few I received from the posting of the April 2012 Newsletter:

Love getting these! Thanks so much!!! Cyndi Powell (GHS 68)

Larry: thank you so much for the wonderful newsletters & keeping us all connected. I don't know what we would do without you. Blessings, BAM (Beth Adams Moore GHS 70)

Larry – thank you for your hard work on the newsletters. I'm not a 66 grad as you know but I read every word. Thank you also for all the updates on news from the hometown. Best wishes. Susan Post Sanford

I enjoy your website. The welcome letter is so reflective. We are the Pampa High School class of 1965. Since the Austin PHS group started gathering, one of our DFW classmates asked if we could have a "local" gathering. We had our 4th one last Saturday. Now the Houston and Colorado groups meet, too. PHS Class of 1962 is planning their 50th reunion and I want to get ideas from them. They actually are meeting at Austin Dude Ranch here in Grapevine! Small world. Thanks for sharing your website with me! Pma

Good newsletter, Larry. I really appreciate all that you do. You know who I really miss is Gail (Armstrong) Schneider. I met up with Gail in January '09, only a couple of months before my mother died. Then, when I came home for Mother's funeral, etc., Gail insisted on lending me a large vehicle all the time I was there. We went out to Southlake and walked around the shopping area, working out where our house had been, where the Armstrong, Anderson and Sheldon houses had been, etc., and we spent a bit of time in the old Easter cemetery that is in the middle of the car park there, which used to be in Mr. Jim Davis' field, across the road from our house. We had a great time, and I was kicking myself for having gone approximately 42 years without seeing Gail, who was virtually my oldest childhood friend (-- I never remember not knowing her). And then when she died so suddenly in August of the same year (2009), I felt SUCH a loss -- to have been with her again and picked up that friendship like it had never had a break -- and then for her to be gone so quickly; in short, I felt so cheated. I am in frequent e-mail communication with her husband, Rich, who I had never known before. He's a great guy. Anyway, I digress -- great newsletter. Keep up the good work, and stay safe and healthy! Big hugs, Mary (Banks, GHS 65)

Larry, Many thanks for the hours of hard work you do for the GHS class of 1966. While some of the news is heartbreaking, it does give each of us a moment to pause to remember old friends & family & hopefully encourages each of us to reach out to other class mates & share memories.

I do have some good news from my home front. I retired last June 15th after 39 years with Dial Finance, Norwest Financial & Wells Fargo. We've spent the last 10 months traveling in the 5th wheel, an Alaska cruise & many visits to the boys & grandkids. About finished with the "honey do list" @ the house & in between I've played some bad golf with Jay Starnes, Dennis Little & occasionally Kerry McCombs. Overall Life is Good! Our best to all our classmates! Ronald Blackshear (GHS 65)

Larry, thank you for all you do for us (the GHS grads of the 60's). You are a wonderful friend. I do not tell you often enough how much you mean to me. Sincerely, Bob Havran (GHS 66)

Larry thank you for all you do in keeping us informed. You are right this has been a tough year but God is still in control. All though the news lately seems to be about death, I am glad you are keeping us informed. Thank you! Blessings to you and Linda! Bobbie Mitchell (GHS 66)

As I had told classmates a few months back – Darrell & Donna Faglie sold their property in Southlake, purchased a house in Bowie (while the contemplate building in Forestburg) and as advertised, they hit the road traveling. Most recently they have returned from almost two months of travel.

Darrell & Donna left home on June 28th with their son Ray and his wife Deanna headed for Salem Baptist Church in Cochran, Georgia. Along the way they stopped in Meridian, Mississippi to visit Jimmy Rodger's Museum and rode the Denzel Carousel. In Montgomery, Alabama they toured the first White House of the Confederacy, first Capitol building of Alabama and the Hank Williams Museum and of course ate a hotdog at Chris's. In Tuskegee, Alabama they visited the Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver Museum. From there we went to Salem Georgia and worked on a church for a week with a really fine congregation that Donna said fed them too well!

Their next stop was Savannah, Georgia for a city tour and a visit to Paula Deen's restaurant and gift shop. They visited the birthplace and museum for Juliette Gordon Low who founded Girl Scouts of America. In Charleston, South Carolina they toured the city with a mule carriage ride and a cruise trip to Fort Sumter Island. They then proceeded to the coast in South Carolina for 5 days of kayaking, fishing, crabbing and watching the dolphins swim around Ray's kayak (not sure why).

Ray and Deanna headed home and Darrell & Donna headed to the Blue Ridge Parkway. They started the trip up the parkway at Asheville with a Bluegrass Festival in the park on July 16th and were on the parkway until July 26th. They enjoyed camping, river kayaking, amazing scenery and many side trips off the parkway to visit the communities and attend festivals to listen to bluegrass music. They said they found out why Kent and Beverly Kennedy love that part of the country - great summer temperatures and wonderful friendly people. They finished the parkway in West Virginia.

Then they headed to Ohio, Indiana and Illinois winding up in Iowa for a reunion on August 5th. They made a short side trip to Nebraska and headed south for hotter temperatures. Donna said they traveled 4609 miles and visited 17 states. They are planning on spending another week in Ardmore, Ok working on the Rawhide Cowboy Church and then start their Forestburg house in September. When it is finished they said they may lock the doors and head out the other direction. They said that they felt so blessed to live in this beautiful country filled with such fine loving people and are having the opportunity to see it! OK, we are all envious!!! Sounds like a great trip – with more to come!!!

Info just out on **Homecoming 2012** for Grapevine High School:

Thursday, October 11, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. – Parade down Main Street

Friday, October 12, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. – Hall of Fame Reception in GHS Library

Friday, October 12, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Homecoming Game GHS vs. Irving at Mustang Stadium

Saturday, October 13, 2012 – 5:30 check-in starts, dinner at 6:30 – GHS Ex-Student Association

Banquet at Austin Patio Ranch, 2009 Anderson-Gibson Rd., Grapevine.
Cost of the Ex-Student Banquet is \$30 per person and seating is limited – I want to encourage classmates to send in your reservations NOW – seating is limited – it is a great opportunity to see some of your life-long friends!!

Name _____ Class _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

_____ People will be attending the banquet (\$30.00 each)

Please Accept my gift of \$ _____ for the Scholarship fund.

Make checks payable to: GHS Ex-Students Association

Mail checks to: Sarah Sanders 3337 Pine Tree Ct., Farmers Branch, TX 75234
sarahbsanders@tx.rr.com

LATE ENTRY: On Sunday morning, September 2, 2012 I received a phone call from Darrell Faglie who informed me of the passing of our friend and teacher Harlan Jewett. At the time of this Newsletter, all of the arrangements had not been made. I know you all join me in thanking God for Harlan Jewett who impacted most of the lives in our class – some during those years in the sixth grade, seventh grade, Industrial Arts or even later in life. Thank you Harlan for your dedication to education and your continued love of Grapevine and the life we all shared together. May You Rest in Peace.

OK, it is time to start thinking FALL and COOLER WEATHER! I want to encourage each of you to pick up the phone and call, or sit down at your computer and email, or even pull out the old ballpoint and paper and contact one of those life-long GHS friends - or better yet....get together with some of your classmates and enjoy talking old times and new times. As Mary Banks said in a recent email to me, “we really didn’t realize what a wonderful life and time we were experiencing during our days in the Grapevine Public Schools”! Help experience those times again with those friends of years past – it will do your heart and mind good!!

May God Bless GHS Class of 1966 – Friends, Classmates, and Families!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver