San Juan Alumni Association

Established 1980

Issue 142, July, 2026

sanjuanalumniassociation.org

PO Box 103 Citrus Heights, CA

Upcoming Events

TBD in August, 2026
SJAA Board Meeting
Location, Time TBD

August 27, 2026
SJAA Newsletter Deadline

October 6, 2026
SJAA Board Budget Calendar Workshop
Location, Time TBD

October 29, 2026
SJAA Newsletter Deadline

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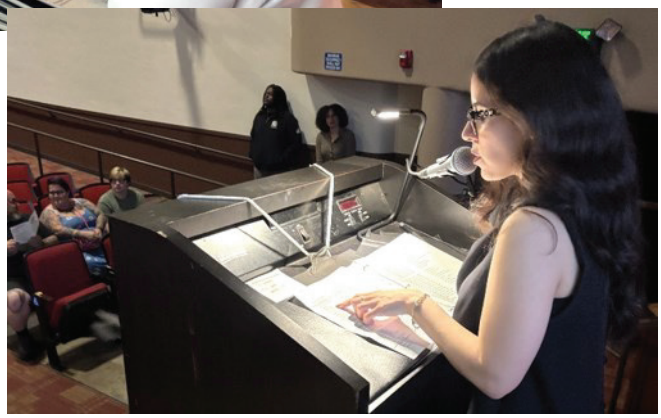
President's Article

This year, thanks to your generosity, the Alumni Association awarded a total of $64,000 in scholarships to 32 graduating San Juan seniors. This is the second year the SJAA was able to award a scholarship to every graduating senior who applied and met our requirements for a scholarship. We had to dip into our reserves a little to do this, but our board members feel it is the right thing to do. Please see page 4 for profiles of our new San Juan alums who received an SJAA scholarship.

Special thanks to Aime Milan, class of '13, Jocelyn Milan, class of '14, Pat Schmid '68, and Gayle Gaylord, class of '64, who comprised the scholarship committee. They reviewed applications and interviewed students to determine eligibility and the level of award. Scholarships, ranging from $500 to $5,000, were handed out at Senior Awards Night in May.

Gayle Gaylord presents Jordi Pulido Valencia, Class of 2026, with a $5,000 scholarship in honor of La Veda Loker-Doyle



Aime Milan, Class of 2013, announces SJAA Scholarship winners at the 2026 Senior

Continued on page 2

The 3rd annual San Juan Alumni Breakfast was a sold-out event. Sixty alums, faculty and friends gathered in the new Culinary Arts restaurant at San Juan for fellowship and a gourmet breakfast. The breakfast, catered by Greenhouse Café, was a blend of American and European cuisine. Greenhouse Café was founded by San Juan alums, Peter Mazur, Class of 2002 and his sister Suzanna, Class of 2001. They have restaurants in Citrus Heights and Penryn.

Greenhouse Café owner Peter Mazur (left), Class of 2002, reconnects with his metal shop teacher, Steve Hamilton (right), whom he hadn't seen since graduating from San Juan.

SJAA vice president Rich Giusti (left), Class of '65, receives a special recognition award from SJAA president, Larry Fritz,

Richard Giusti, Class of '65, was recognized at the event for his loyalty and longevity. Rich joined the Alumni Association in 1981, just one year after it was formed. He has served the SJAA in many capacities ever since for a total of 45 years! Thank you Rich for the many years of dedicated service that you have given to the SJAA.

Below, Patti Burden (far left), Class of '64, prepares drinks as former principal, Charley Berger, Laurie Salter, Class of '75 and Maria Brugger, Class of '61, look on.

Comingling of the decades: Gayle Rasmussen Gaylord (center), Class of '64, shares a lighthearted moment with Barbara Morarity Van Dyke (right), Class of '77 and Lana Olson (left),

Dick Cowan, Class of '64, regaled attendees with a lively talk about the early formation of San Juan High. Dick focused on how the local community came together to create San Juan, including several women who played key roles.

It was a fun breakfast. Everyone enjoyed mingling with fellow Spartans, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

Senior Awards Night photos by Larry Fritz, ‘73
Alumni Breakfast photos by Bev Patterson, ‘74

Legacy Exhibit

Gayle Rasmussen
Gaylord, ‘64
Legacy Manager
gaylegaylord
@sbcglobal.net

The Legacy Exhibit will be closed beginning June 16, 2026, and will reopen when school resumes in the fall. During this time, construction crews and equipment will be near the cafeteria as work begins on the “B” wing.

When we re-open, visitors must check in at the Principal’s Office and pick up a visitor’s pass before continuing into the campus. Parking is limited in the front lot, but additional parking is available behind the boys’ gym. If you need assistance when you arrive, please call ahead, and someone will be happy to escort you to the Principal’s Office.

One of my favorite things is seeing students stop by during lunch to look through the yearbooks. Recently, several students came in to share their thank-you notes for the scholarships they received from the San Juan Alumni Association, which made the visit even more special.

SJAA Membership

Richard Giusti, 65
trapshooter@softcom.net
(916) 332-2204

This is the membership report as of May 1, 2026. The total SJAA membership is 1,106.

Welcome to these new members, we are delighted you have joined us!

Wayne & Rosemary (Nemeth) Archer, 1960; Michael Shellito, 1972; Wayne Campbell, 1987.

Editor’s Shout Out

Does an article in the Newsletter spark a San Juan memory? Do you have a comment or an anecdote to add to an article? Is there a San Juan story or a friend from high school you want to highlight? **Send me an email, some photos, or your thoughts at** dcowancs@gmail.com. **.** I would like more Alum input for the next issue.

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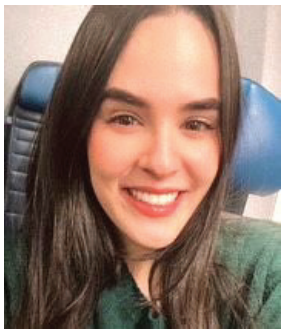
SJAA Scholarships

Aime Millan ’13

Scholarship Co-Chair

aaime.millan@gmail.com



Jocelyn Millan ‘14

Scholarship Co-Chair

joce-lyn.millan@sanjuan.edu

Congratulations to these 2026 Scholarship Winners!

Luna Gudino Soto, Class of 2026, receives a $2,000 SJAA scholarship.

Lougin Aboualseoud is the recipient of the Diane Markell-Wagner Scholarship. Lougin is set to attend American River College to pursue a career in pediatric nursing. Throughout high school, Lougin participated in AVID, Student Government, and Girls Club showcasing her commitment to her community and leadership potential. She also participated in several sports including soccer, volleyball, and track and field. Her teachers commend her for demonstrating a relentless work ethic and perseverance.

Brenda Alcaide Navarro has been selected as the recipient of the Joe and Roeley Giusti Family Scholarship. Brenda is a dedicated student set to attend UC Los Angeles in the fall with the goal of becoming a lawyer. In the future she also hopes to become a judge. She was an active member of her school and community through her participation in school clubs and organizations like Mock Trial Prosecutor, SJHS Student Ambassador Program, Student Government, Friday Night Live, Debate Club, SJUSD Youth Voice Advocates, Summer Civics Academy, and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Her teachers describe her as a natural born leader and as a student who makes a positive impact on everyone she meets.

Ana Alejandro-Matias is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Scholarship in Honor of the Class of 1960. She plans to attend UC Santa Cruz and pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. Throughout high school, Ana was actively involved in soccer, Band, Girls Club, and Community Service Club, while also gaining valuable hands-on experience as an intern at Blue Oaks Veterinary Hospital. She challenged herself through rigorous coursework and is recognized for her attention to detail, creativity, and commitment to excellence.

Robin Antonio Rodriguez has been honored with a Rob Silber Scholarship. Robin is a hard-working and caring student attending UC Los Angeles in the fall. He has aspirations of becoming a Civil Engineer. Involved in Community Service Club, Auto Club and Newspaper Club, Robin actively contributed to his school community. His teachers commend him for having great personal drive and morals. He is also described as a student who uplifts those around him with his positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning.

Marlen Badillo-Tellez is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend CSU Sacramento to pursue a career in Nursing. Throughout high school, Marlen was actively involved in Bilingual Scholars Club, AVID Club, Girls Club, and ASB, while also competing in soccer and volleyball. As a captain, she demonstrated strong leadership and a commitment to supporting her teammates both on and off the field. Her teachers commend her positive personality, strong work ethic, and ability to collaborate with others.

Taleen Bishona is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend CSU Sacramento to pursue a degree in Health Science. Throughout high school, Taleen was actively involved in soccer, track and field, cross country, Yearbook, Band, and Red Cross Club, where she served as president. She has also dedicated her time to serving others through volunteer work at her local library and participation in Pro Youth. Known for her positive attitude and collaborative spirit, Taleen is a team player who embraces challenges and continually strives for growth.

Anthony Boquiren has been awarded a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. Anthony plans to attend CSU Sacramento to pursue a degree in nursing. He served as founder and leader of the AAPI Student Union during his time in high school. He was also involved in Auto Club, Newspaper Club, wrestling, football and track. His teachers commend him for challenging himself with rigorous courses and for demonstrating leadership skills both in his academic and personal endeavors.

Victoria Bravo is the recipient of a Rob Silber Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Davis and pursue a career as a medical scientist. Throughout high school, Victoria was actively involved in Community Service Club, Red Cross Club, and Yearbook, while also contributing to her school's Mural Project. She also challenged herself through rigorous coursework and consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to her education. Her teachers commend her for being a caring and determined student, a dedicated team player, and a hard worker who approaches every opportunity with enthusiasm and purpose.

Mariam Chlek is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend American River College and is exploring career paths that will allow her to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Throughout high school, Mariam was actively involved in volleyball, filming school events, serving as a summer camp leader, volunteering at a Russian Language School, and participating in her church choir. Her teachers commend her determination, poise, and dedication to personal growth, as well as her respectful and kind nature.

Eric Cifuentes is the recipient of the Class of 1974 Scholarship. Eric is an aspiring psychiatrist set to attend UC Santa Barbara, aiming to make a difference in the medical field. Throughout high school, Eric was actively involved in Debate Club, Concert Band, and SEAT 350 Sacramento. Known for his thoughtful nature and ability to connect with others, Eric is recognized as a genuine contributor who helps build a strong sense of community.

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Alina Denisyuk has been honored with a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship in Memory of Bob Cornwell (faculty). Alina is an enthusiastic and diligent student planning to attend CSU Sacramento, aspiring to become a Special Effects Artist and Animator. Throughout high school, Alina was actively involved in AVID, Music Club, and SEVA, while also dedicating her time to community service through AWANA and Sunday School. She is recognized for her creativity and positive attitude, as well as her willingness to help others without hesitation.

Nuvia Garcia Placido has been granted a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. Nuvia is a talented student aspiring to attend CSU Sacramento State to pursue a career in business management. In high school, Nuvia was Junior Class Secretary and actively involved in AVID, ASB, Girls Club, Sport Team Manager, and Bilingual Scholars Club. Her teachers commend her intelligence, creativity, and genuine care for others, highlighting her ability to lead with both purpose and compassion.

Luna Gudino Soto is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend CSU Sacramento and pursue a career in Nursing. Throughout high school, Luna was actively involved in volleyball, soccer, and track and field, while also participating in Girls Club, Bilingual Scholars Club, Debate Club, and Red Cross Club. She also challenged herself through rigorous AP coursework, demonstrating strong analytical thinking and a consistent commitment to academic excellence. Her teachers commend her strong work ethic, reliability, and ability to collaborate effectively with others.

Osamah Husam Aldeen is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. He plans to attend UC Davis and pursue a career in Dentistry. Throughout high school, Osamah was actively involved in Newspaper Club, AAPI, Auto Club, Community Service Club, and Yearbook Club, while also participating in Volleyball. He also challenged himself by taking numerous AP courses, demonstrating strong academic commitment and determination. His teachers commend his reliability, dedication, and strong willingness to help others.

Steve Ibarra is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. He plans to attend American River College and pursue a career in the Electrical Industry as an Electrician. Throughout high school, Steve was actively involved in AVID and the CTE Construction Pathway while also challenging himself through enrollment in AP courses. He balanced his school responsibilities with part-time work, showing maturity and strong time management skills. His teachers commend his respectful nature, goal-driven mindset, and natural leadership abilities.

Emily Juarez is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Berkeley and pursue a career as a Pediatric Doctor. Throughout high school, Emily was actively involved as a co-founder and Vice President of Girls Club, as well as a member of the SJHS Student Ambassador Program, Newspaper Club, and serving as a Team Manager for the tennis team. Her teachers commend her hard-working nature, genuine desire to learn, and her consistent effort to understand and support others.

Karen Martinez is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Santa Barbara and pursue a career as a Corporate Lawyer. Throughout high school, Karen was actively involved in Yearbook Club, Newspaper Club, AVID Club, Red Cross Club, School Site Council, ASB, and served as a Soccer Manager. She was also an active contributor to Community Care Hub events. Known for her curiosity and empathy, Karen consistently demonstrated a caring and respectful approach toward others. Her teachers commend her genuine kindness, strong interpersonal skills, and commitment to positively contributing to her school and community.

Lawrence Nacpil is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. He plans to attend American River College and pursue a career in Mechanical Engineering. Throughout high school, Lawrence was actively involved in Auto Club, AAPI, and Newspaper Club, while also dedicating his time to tutoring fellow students. His teachers commend his dedication, motivation, and strong work ethic, noting his commitment to both academic achievement and helping others succeed.

Sandi Naing is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend CSU Long Beach and pursue a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Throughout high school, Sandi was actively involved in AVID and Band while challenging herself academically through AP courses and Dual Enrollment classes. Her teachers commend her positive attitude, strong work ethic, and dedication to her goals. Sandi is recognized as a kind and caring student who consistently approaches challenges with perseverance and grace.

Magnus Neufville is the recipient of a Diane Markell-Wagner Scholarship. He plans to attend CSU Sacramento and pursue a career in Nursing. Throughout high school, Magnus was actively involved in AVID, cross country, and Poetry, while also challenging himself through AP coursework. After moving to a new country as an eighth grader, he demonstrated resilience and adaptability as he adjusted to a new environment and continued to excel academically. His teachers commend his creativity, trustworthiness, and well-rounded character.

Homayra Noorzahi is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship in Memory of Sally Edwards. She plans to attend American River College and work toward her goal of becoming a dentist, while gaining experience as a Bilingual Instructional Assistant supporting students in local schools. Throughout high school, Homayra has been actively involved in the San Juan High School Student Ambassador Program. She has also dedicated her time to serving her community through volunteer work at her mosque. Her teachers commend her incredible perseverance, curiosity, and passion for learning.

Jordi Pulido Valencia is the recipient of the La Veda Loker Doyle Scholarship. He plans to attend UC Los Angeles and pursue a career as a psychiatrist. Throughout high school, Jordi was actively involved in AVID for four years, serving as an AVID Tutor, Community Service Club Treasurer, and Newspaper Club Secretary. He has also participated in Red Cross Club, ASB, track and field, cross country, Pro Youth and Families, while challenging himself through AP coursework. Jordi is known for his strong love of learning and commitment to academic excellence. His teachers him as a dedicated student who consistently strives to grow and make a positive impact on his school and community. Continued on page 8

Maria Reynoso is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship in Memory of Mike Riley and Thora Riley. She plans to attend CSU Sacramento and pursue a degree in Early Childhood Development. Throughout high school, Maria was actively involved in Friday Night Live, Girls Club, Community Service Club, the SJHS Student Ambassador Program, and served as a Student Mentor Intern and Catechist. She also participated in AVID and challenged herself through AP coursework. Her teachers commend her exceptional work ethic, determination, and perseverance.

Billie Riley is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Davis and pursue a career as a scientist. Throughout high school, Billie was actively involved in Drama Club, Art Club, and Culinary CTE, while also serving as President of the Queer Student Union and Vice President of FCCLA. She demonstrated strong leadership across multiple organizations, contributing positively to her school community. Her teachers commend her kind and respectful nature, as well as her natural leadership skills and caring personality.

LaShaun Rodriguez Jackson is the recipient of a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend Sierra College and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. Throughout high school, LaShaun was actively involved in basketball, volleyball, and cheerleading, where she served as Cheer Captain. She also demonstrated exceptional leadership as President of the Black Student Union, ASB Rally Director, while balancing a part-time job. Her teachers commend her outstanding work ethic, perseverance, and collaborative leadership style.

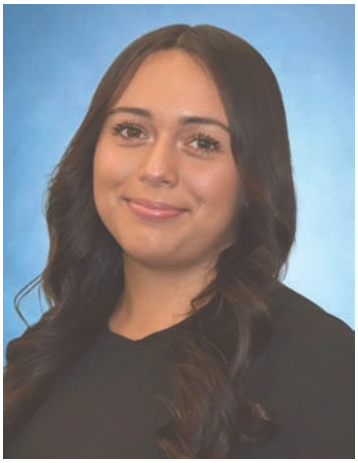
Luis Rodriguez Perdomo is the recipient of a Rob Silber Scholarship. Throughout high school, Luis distinguished himself as both a leader and a scholar, earning recognition as an Honor Roll student while competing on the varsity soccer team. He is known for his excellent leadership skills, strong academic achievement, and dedication to success in all areas of school life. His teachers commend his diligence, kindness, and hard-working nature, noting the positive influence he has on his classmates, teammates, and peers.

Ernesto Sifuentes Roman is the recipient of the Wayne Lyons Scholarship. He plans to attend CSU Sacramento and pursue a career as a high school mathematics teacher. Throughout high school, Ernesto was actively involved as a Pro Youth Mentor, a member of Newspaper Club, cross country, and Community Service Club. Through his writing, Ernesto showcases passion and empathy, reflecting his thoughtful approach to connecting with others. His teachers commend him for being a polite, intelligent, and respectful student whose positive personality makes a meaningful impact on those around him.

Anna Sukholitko is the recipient of the Pendergast Family Scholarship. She plans to attend Sierra College and pursue a degree in Business. Throughout high school, Anna was actively involved in tennis, the Media Team, and her church. She challenged herself with AP courses and dual enrollment classes at American River College. Her teachers commend her responsibility, dependability, and kindness.

Martin Vargas Gonzalez is the recipient of a **Rob Silber Scholarship.** He plans to attend American River College and pursue a degree in Construction Management. Throughout high school, Martin was actively involved in the Construction Technology program while also participating in soccer and football. His experiences in both the classroom and athletics have helped him develop strong leadership skills, discipline, and a commitment to excellence. Teachers commend Martin for his outstanding character, academic dedication, and the positive example he sets as a student-athlete.

Monzerrath Vargas is a recipient of the San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. She plans to attend UC Riverside in the fall and pursue a career as a school psychologist. Throughout high school, Monzerrath was actively involved in AVID, Hispanic Heritage Club, Community Service Club, and Red Cross Club, while also participating in softball and soccer. Her teachers commend her strong academic abilities, dedication to personal growth, and meaningful involvement in both her school and community.

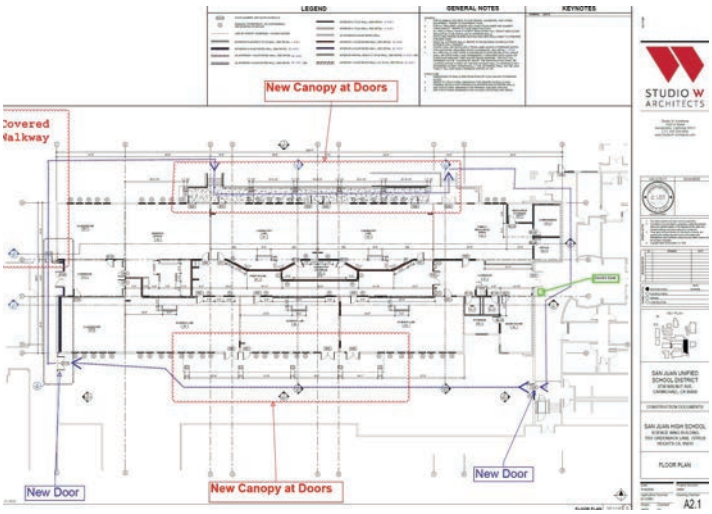


April Vogal has been selected as the recipient of the **Mary-Lynn Ferguson McHugh Scholarship.** She is a dedicated student who plans to attend Sierra College and pursue a career as a veterinarian. Throughout high school, April was actively involved in basketball, tennis, and the school band, where her love for music was evident. Known for her helpful nature, strong problem-solving skills, and perseverance, she consistently approaches challenges with determination and a positive attitude. Her teachers commend her passion for music and commitment to achieving her goals.

Viniana Volavola been awarded a San Juan Alumni Association Student Scholarship. Viniana is a dedicated student set to attend American River Community College in the fall. She aspires to become a nurse. Throughout high school, she actively participated in basketball, swim, Black Student Union and Drug Awareness Club, while also volunteering at her local church, demonstrating her commitment to both athletics and community service. Her teachers commend her for her extraordinary balance of individual academic success and collaborative leadership.

More Campus Improvements On the Way

Prinicpal Levis shared some big news at the Annual Breakfast Meeting. B Hall, first built in the 1930's will get a huge makeover beginning this summer—expanding the science classroom and prep room space and switching from interior corridor to exterior entries fro each classroom, cutting down noise. Other improvement sot other campus wings will occur over the next two summers.



Looking for Class Representatives

Rita Hauf '64
Membership Recruiter
Chair

If you received a copy of this Newsletter, you are a member of the San Juan Alumni Association , and I could use your help.

Association President Larry Fritz contacted me recently about finding a way to identify the Class Representative for each graduating class. We need an organized method to provide information to those who attended San Juan who do not receive the newsletter or the mass mailings we sometimes send out. If we can identify the Class Representative and alternate for each class, we would be able to send them information that they could then share with all their classmates so that they can participate in events or receive important updates. The last listing of Class Representatives was dated 2012 and is very out of date.

I will be attempting to contact representatives using the current outdated listing. However, if you know of a classmate who is (or previously was) the Class Representative for their graduating class, please provide their name and contact information to me so that I may contact them directly. Not only will this listing assist us in reaching all graduates, but we can also let them know the many advantages of joining the Alumni Association.

The new information will also be sent to the keepers of our Association Master Listing. If you are able to assist me in this endeavor, please call or text me on 916-208-2611. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

The Rev. Heather M. Mueller

155 Cross Rd.
Kula, HI 96790

808-446-3545
808-430-0120 cell

heathermaymueller@yahoo.com

A Huge Thank You to Members Who Donated Since the Last Newsletter

Donors Since March 2026 SJAA Newsletter

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Marjorie Margge Taylor	1951
Michael Durbin	1953
Bob Fisher	1953
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Sheila Bayley	1958
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Wayne & Rosemary (Nemeth) Archer	1960
Leon Atkins	1960
Judie Cooper	1961
Frank & Martha Showers	1961
Marcia Le Doux	1961
Gordon Pulse	1962
Connie Corcoran	1964
Dick and Carol Cowan	1964
Linda (Decker) Shannon	1964
Rich Giusti	1965
Albert Maldonado	1965
Robert Dreyer	1966
Linda Fischer	1966
Mary (Rasmussen) Garrett	1966
Catherine (Greenfield) Nickeson	1966
Rebecca Corson	1967
Diane Markell Wagner	1967
Janice Noble Barney	1969
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Mary Woolheaater	1969
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Dave Patterson	1974
Laurie Salter	1975
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Kathleen Foley	1976
Cory Worthington	1976
Barbara Morarity-VanDyke	1977
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Donors Continued

Cindy White-Guzman	1977
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Marnie Fenton	1980
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Jayden Tracey Duncan	2022
Nanik Tagore	2022
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Michael Sanches	
Susan Underwood	
Gina Ward	
Carolyn (Vincent) McAulay	

REUNIONS

Hey, **Classes of '61, 91, '96, 01, 06, and '11,** let us know your plans for a reunion and look on our website for tips for organizing reunions.

Ranae Blake Bybee '56 says the local members of the **Class of '56** get together every so often, but might also hold a reunion for members from away. Contact her at ranaebybee@surewest.net

The Class of '66 will hold their reunion at Stones Casino at 1pm on September 20. Contact Jackie Rittenhouse by phone or text at 916 296 5758 to RSVP.

Debbie Wadsworth Thompson is putting together a **1971 Reunion**, see the flyer. They also invite members of the class of '72 to join them. Contact her at knitnurd@gmail.com

The **Class of 1976** will be celebrating their **50-year class reunion** on **Saturday, October 10, 2026, Sierra View Country Club**, **Roseville, CA.** If you're interested in participating in the planning of our reunion, or you would like more information, please reach out to: **Kim Delgdo** (kim@blossomsballoons.com

Rob Howell is asking about putting together a Class reunion on the 1981 Class Page. Several Ideas are being discussed. If you are **Class of 1981**, please join your Class page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/SanJuanClassOf1981

Class of 1986, **Jennifer Zins** says SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 1, 2026, Make plans to attend the SJHS **Class of 1986** 40th Reunion. Dinner & Drinks, Band/Dancing at a Local Venue. More info to follow! Who's in???

The Class of 1987 is preparing an **All-Class Alaska Cruise** and has 22 cabins of Spartans and Spartan friends signed up. Spartans of any year are invited. Visit webpage **expediacruises.com/waynecampbell** to see ship info and click on "Contact Me" to get pricing . Or Facebook **San Juan Spartan 2027 Alumni Cruise**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1428112525333463

Contact Wayne Campbell '87 at wcampbell@expediacruises.com for questions.

The Class of 2016 is planning a reunion. Contact **Endiya Jackson-Hill** at 530 323 3907 or ndiea1107@gmail.com

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AT SAN JUAN HIGH

The TV show ***Friends*** is a big hit. The Euro currency is introduced; goodbye to the Italian Lira and the German Deutschmark. The 9/11 attacks spark US reaction in Iraq and Afghanistan. Disneyland opens a new park—California Adventure!

The Homecoming game is a victory over Marshall High 42-26. Homecoming Queen is Christina Gonzales, the King is Billy Condon.

Students are working at part time jobs, many for the minimum wage of $5.25 per hour.

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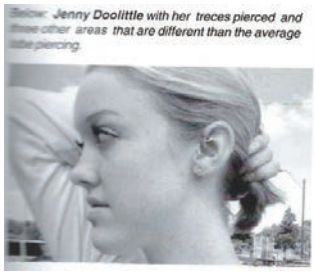
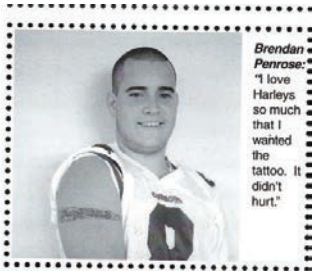
Tattoos for young people are a new thing, photos show San Juan students are trying them out.





There are thirty different cultures and ethnicities at San Juan.

The Alumni Association awards a $2000 Bob Cornwell scholarship to McKenzie Oliver who will attend San Diego State University

San Juan Sports include golf, girl's volleyball, and softball.

The yearbook is black and white only. Very artsy.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AT SAN JUAN HIGH

Spartans celebrate the Bicentennial of the USA. Two new companies are incorporated—Apple and Microsoft, maybe they will do well. Jimmy Carter defeats Gerald Ford for the US Presidency.

The musical group ABBA has a breakout hit with **Dancing Queen.** Men and boys sport long hair and polyester bell bottoms.

The Greenback Notes for '76 is dedicated to Mr. George Sakamoto. George had been forcibly interned at a camp for Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain, Wyoming with his mother, father, brother and two sisters from 1942 to 1945.

The Wrestling Team are CVC Champions, Don Phipps and Glen Cooper are stars.

A foreign exchange student from Costa Rica, Orlando Pacheco, attends San Juan as does Eva Renning from Norway.

Sports teams include water polo and women's gymnastics, bowling, and badminton.

DAVID HAIGH acted as Drum Major of the San Juan High School Marching Band for the 1975-76 school year.

San Juan activities include the Cadet Corps and a Black Student Union. The marching band has fancy uniforms; the drum major is David Haigh.

MARY MEGINNES, CORA CORTEZ, KRISTEN RAUCH and JANET HOUSER all played their very best at Homecoming.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO AT SAN JUAN HIGH—Mr. Mooney Resigns as Superintendent

as published in the October, 1956 Spartan Hi-Lights Newsletter

The resignation of Mr. William T. Mooney, district superintendent, was accepted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting October 17, to be effective July 1, 1957.

The very backbone of San Juan for 35 years, Mr. Mooney told the board he felt a younger superintendent would serve the district better in solving the new and heavier problems which have arisen.

Mr. Mooney came to San Juan in 1921 as a teacher of history, in 1927 was vice-principal, and in 1938, principal. By 1950, he was superintendent of a district which included two fast growing schools, to which a third was added in 1955.

Thus, Mr. Mooney had stood not only as a driving force, but the very symbol of all the district means. Most people give 50% of themselves to their job, some give 60%, perhaps a few 75%, but Mr. Mooney has given almost 100% of his time to the San Juan District. In his years here, no student, teacher, nor administrator has ever been brushed aside, no matter how tired Mr. Mooney was, because no particular problem was too small to be worth the busy administrator's time. Likewise, no task though it seemed insurmountable to others, has been too large for him to tackle.

Through the lean years, it was impossible to give to all everything that was wanted, but each person knew that because Mr. Mooney was burning the midnight oil, the tax dollar was being stretched to almost impossible limits, and all were being treated fairly.

During the war and post-war years, he conducted a building program despite the handicaps of priorities, and with one demoralizing strike following after another. These heart-breaking disappointments which would have discouraged a lesser man only spurred Mr. Mooney on to greater efforts.

The last phase of his activity was amid the inevitable growing pains of a rural community being too speedily converted to an urban area.

Mr. Mooney in 1938.

In the future, the San Juan district will continue to be benefitted by the experience and judgement gained from Mr. Mooney's long years of service for the Board of Trustees, realizing his value, has retained him in an advisory capacity and as an assistant superintendent.

Now, Mr. Mooney, with these three fine schools, you can look with pride on your strenuous years, for we are aware that through the very greatness and kindness of your heart, they have grown. And we of San Juan, who claim you as especially our own, know that because we have known and loved you, our San Juan spirit has a heritage of high ideals, honesty, kindness and courage.

Meet Professor Bob Gifford ‘64

This may well be the first SJAA newsletter article about a San Juan alum who made a full career in the world of academia. Bob Gifford’s parents were adamant that he would attend college for the educational opportunities they didn’t have as children growing up during the great depression. Bob’s father started as a mechanic, then aircraft mechanic, and grew into a self-taught efficiency expert, working to improve production in the industrial shops at McClellan Air Force base. Bob’s mother had been a Rosie the Riveter during World War 2. Both parents read voraciously and took college courses in the evening as Bob grew up. Bob’s father also loved tinkering with cars, from 1930s jalopies to then-exotic cars such as the Porsche 356 that Bob learned to drive in, an MG TD, and the Jaguar sedan that was the family driver. Bob still has his 1978 Porsche 911S nicknamed “Fritz.”

Bob’s father hoped Bob would get an engineering degree and was pleased when Bob started at UC Davis in that field. A vocational test given when he started at UC Davis suggested that psychology would be a good career for him. Continued on page 14

Finally, two years into engineering, Bob finally took a psychology course and knew immediately it was the field where he would make his career. He changed majors to psychology and still managed to get his degree in four years. Bob was very active in protests against the Vietnam War during his Davis years and had decided he would not serve in the US military for reasons of conscience. He knew he wanted to continue studying psychology and applied to the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada and was accepted for a master's degree. He remembers crossing the border in his VW camper van and the official at the border said "Ok, you are now a permanent legal resident eligible to apply for citizenship. All you must do is get a physical exam done within 6 months."

Most psychology students and practitioners work in clinical psychology, and Bob started that way at UBC. He proposed a master's thesis on whether practicing psychiatrists show a bias in diagnosing patients of different socio-economic status. The one psychiatrist on his thesis committee turned the idea down flat, so Bob dropped out again (he had earlier dropped out of kindergarten halfway through that year!) Now married, Bob and his wife decided to lead a simple life on Hornby Island, a small island off of Vancouver Island. They built a house together with no power tools and settled in to raise sheep. But Bob's brain soon objected to that much peace and quiet, so he applied to Simon Fraser University (SFU) near Vancouver to finish the master's degree and go on for a PhD. At SFU he embraced the influence of a mentor professor at Davis, Robert Sommer, a pioneer in environmental psychology and switched to that field of psychology, how one's surroundings affect one's behavior and how we affect our surroundings. Between his master's study and his doctoral program, Bob took a 10-month trip around the world, mostly hitchhiking, busses, and trains. He has visited 37 countries so far. He then returned and completed his PhD in 1975 and started the long path to becoming a university professor.

Bob says it was easier in those days to find a starting position as a psychology professor, but even so he had to start with temporary positions.

One of several houses Bob designed and built. This one was a pioneer solar house, 1979, where he lived for 25 years.

He taught at UBC (yes, where they had refused his proposed thesis a few years earlier!), Simon Fraser, the University of Guelph University in Ontario, then the University of Prince Edward Island on the east coast of Canada, and finally a tenure track position at the University of Victoria (UVic) in 1979. It's there where he built his career. At every step there was pressure to have research papers published and to be invited to speak at conferences, but for Bob, the pressure was not negative. He loved doing the research and took to the combination of teaching and publishing immediately. A professor's duties also allowed some independent consulting which helped pay the bills and could also provide research topics and results worth publishing. Bob started his

Bob and some of his best graduate student advisees in San Francisco

consulting firm, Optimal Environments, in 1987. Among his consulting clients were institutions and architects who wanted to improve the effectiveness and outcomes of schools, libraries and other facilities for persons with special needs. One client in particular wanted to renovate an electronics warehouse into a school for people with multiple sclerosis (MS). Bob and his assistant made over 150 recommendations to

the designers, including eliminating door thresholds which would have caused “two bumps of pain” when people with MS in wheelchairs would have crossed over them. Among other clients, he and his partner brought their insight to the future design of the International Space Station. Bob feels he worked in a golden age of the acceptance of psychology in the design of special places.

Bob had a long 45-year career at UVic, leaving just this last year. He admits he would have preferred to continue teaching, but his age and budget pressures worked against him. Early on, he served for one year as assistant department chair but was glad when that year was over. He served 14 years as the editor of the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. His textbook, *Environmental Psychology—Principles and Practices*, is in its sixth edition, and is the most widely used book in his field. Bob’s work has led to many keynote invitations to speak, from Australia, Japan, and Taiwan to Russia, Norway, and France…and beyond.

Bob speaking in Taiwan

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2019. His most famous research involved why many of us find reasons, excuses, and justifications for not doing what we should about climate change, even while thinking that we *should* be doing more. He identified twenty-nine “Dragons of Inaction” and described them. His paper on that subject is among the most-cited articles ever published in *American Psychologist*. He expanded on that work, and now there are 44 Dragons. He then focused on ways to slay the dragons for self and others. Some of those solutions involve 22 different messaging strategies. Different people may be suffering from the same dragon of inaction, but the message needed to slay their dragon varies with their demographics or life experience.

Bob stayed in touch with two other San Juan 64 grads who migrated to Canada, Harvey Janszen who has passed away, and Dave Denning, besides quite a number of other Sacramento or UC Davis folks. Bob hopes old friends will contact him at rdgifford@gmail.com. He is the very proud father of three successful children (biochemist, lawyer, and mental health-oriented occupational therapist) who have given him six wonderful grandchildren, and the gratefully valued partner of a “fascinating and beautiful Marseillaise.”

For the last 47 years, from his two different houses in Victoria, Bob has been able to gaze across what is now called the Salish Sea to the shores of his native USA because those residences are below the 49th parallel. Bob says he is bicultural now--“very Canadian” as well as "still American." He is still asked to explain to other Canadians why Americans are doing one thing or another. To many people outside the USA, Americans are viewed as not thinking in an international sense compared to Canadians and Europeans. To explain Canadians to Americans, he sometimes uses this true example: “Canadians say ‘I’m sorry,’ when *you* accidentally bump into *them.*"

MEET THE FAMILY OF THE MCARTHUR FIELD NAMESAKE

In the September 2025 issue of the SJAA newsletter was an explanation of how McArthur Field got its name and a brief story of Edwin H. McArthur who passed away while serving as San Juan's principal, leaving behind his wife Betty Anne (Ward) McArthur and three children, below Richard, Nancy, and Robert.

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Before becoming Principal, when coaching basketball at San Juan he never lost a single game in six consecutive seasons. Edwin had served in the US Navy during World War II from 1942 to 1946 and what did the Navy do with an athletic coach? They very wisely assigned him to getting all the brand-new sailors in physical condition as part of their "boot camp" training. Of course, he excelled in this and was advanced to full Lieutenant.

At the recent rededication of McArthur Field and the ribbon cutting of the artificial turf track and field, the three children now in their seventies and eighties were introduced and Robert (Bob) McArthur '62 gave some remarks while Richard (Dick) McArthur '61 helped cut the ribbon. The newsletter editor sat down with the three siblings the day before the rededication to learn a bit more about their life with the man behind the name.

Bob McArthur '62 speaking at the re-dedication of McArthur Field.

When their father passed away after an eight-month battle with cancer, Dick was only 12 years old, Bob 11, and baby Nancy 6. So, a personal perspective of their father is limited. The boys and Nancy do remember enjoying the run of the gym when dad needed an after-hours trip to the school. One of the brothers also remembers a rare occasion on the American River just down from their house when dad went fly fishing. Dad was a deer hunter, as well, so there were also two rifles in the house tucked away in a closet which were rarely thought about. Bob does remember one time when he took the .22 down to the river with some friends and shot at a target or two on the rocks. But that was just about it. They lived on the river side of town in the same house in Fair Oaks (Village) all the years of their memory. Their grandparents lived just across the street in the house where Nancy now resides, and she still owns the "old homestead" as well.

It was said of their dad by the editor of the Rotary Club paper, "I never knew a man who had as many friends as Edwin H. McArthur." "Mac" was the endearing name given to him because of his friendly personality. In Memoriam was written, "No matter what the day or the occasion, 'Mac' could smile, make fun, and put everyone in good humor. Many a serious 'bubble' was burst by his humorous 'wise cracks' that put at ease the strained relations of others." Besides his positive good humor personality, he was also a man of unusually good judgment.

And for the three children, this good judgment was defined by his marriage in 1941 to Betty Anne who graduated from San Juan in 1934 and was honored as valedictorian of her class. She was an extremely talented musician. After her husband's death, she picked up the pieces, went back to teaching, and got her three children through high school, college and beyond; raising her children who all entered very service-oriented careers: Law Enforcement, Ministry, and Healthcare. Dick lettered in varsity sports all four years at San Juan, was president of his senior class and played the clarinet in the band. After graduating from UC Davis, he joined the Air Force and flew combat missions in Vietnam. He then became an FBI agent, retired from that and was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. Bob followed in his brother's footsteps and was President of his junior class at the same time his brother was President of his senior class. He then became San Juan's Student Body President and was awarded by his coaches with the trophy for the Outstanding Senior Athlete. He also played the trumpet in the band. After graduating UC Davis, he entered a three-year program for a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and became an author. Daughter Nancy attended the brand new Del Campo High School where she enjoyed her involvement in music and was also the first foreign exchange student from Del Campo. After high school and a stint at Davis she transferred to UC San Francisco and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. She retired form pharmacy after 50 years.

Betty Anne helped her children through all these stages of life (getting them to every practice and event in H.S.) as a second-grade teacher and while playing the organ at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. The children say, "Dad, you did well." But did we mention that one week after her husband died, Betty Anne's father also died, and she took her mother into their household as well. At the end she and her children were debt free. How was that possible? If one measure of a man is the quality and strength of the family he helped shape during his life, then part of the credit for the family's success after Edwin's death can be shared with him.

Continued from page 16

Betty Anne never remarried and remained a widow for 56 years dying in the same bed in which her husband also passed. The night Edwin died the children took turns entering his bedroom where he was lying and gave him one last kiss good night not really understanding that would be the last time they would see their father alive.

But his name lives on with 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, and a beautiful renovated stadium where thousands of students he loved and would have loved have gathered and played and

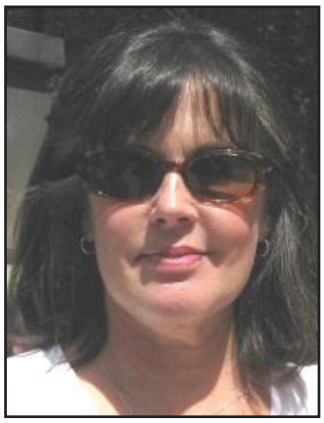
Dignitaries cut the ribbon on the re-dedicated McArthur Field. Dick McArthur is third on the left in letter sweater, Principal David Levis is center in Spartan red scarf.

Spartan Memories Linger On

Lynn Townsend-

Adams, ’73

lyn3ada@aol.com



The Alumni Association’s goal in our memoriam section is to inform you of San Juan Spartans who have recently passed. This only allows the mention of the alum’s name, grad year and birth/death year. We try to include our source of information aiding you in further research. Donations in memoriam of an Alum or SJ Faculty can be made to San Juan Alumni Association.

1962 Laura “Snooks” Sanford Dawson 7/20/1944-1/24/2026 Survived by her siblings **Chuck ’60** and **Sally ’64** as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Shared by Jerry Still ‘60

1962 Shirley Conkling Isola 1944-6/20/2026 Survived by her longtime friend from school **Gary Putman ‘62**

1964 Mike Shepherd 1946-3/2026 Survived by many friends and the Sisters Rodeo community.Nuggetnews.com

1964 Hal R Hartzell 4/19/1946-11/27/2023 Survived by wife Betsy of 32 years, his children Alex, Laura and Anna, as well as 4 grandchildren. Also survived by his sister Holly and brother Steve. Chronicle Staff Report

1964 Harvey Goss 10/28/1945-4/14/2026 Survived by his wife Erica and children Rosa, Jacob (Angela) and Ashley (Josh) as well as 2 grandchildren and his brother Eugene ’64 (Susan). SJAA Facebook and echovita.com

1968 Gregory Kane 1950-4/26/2026 A highly decorated Army veteran. Survived by many friends. Shared by longtime friend Ron Cowan.

1969 Michael John Cody 7/29/1951-6/5/2026 Survived by his siblings **Patrick ‘63**, **Sally ’65** and **Mary ‘68**, as well as his daughter Julia and her mother and 1 granddaughter. Also survived by his nieces/nephews and families. Preceded in death by siblings William and James. Legacy.com

1970 Michael Sylvia 1/19/1952-2026 Survived by his wife Susan, daughter Lauren and mother Beverly. Also survived by siblings **Rob ‘72** (Eileen) and **JoAnne ‘76** (Ken) including many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his father Joseph. Legacy.com

1975 Shane Schilling 12/26/1956-6/10/2026 Survived by his wife Debbie, daughters Kelsie (Mason) and Alex (Collin) as well as his mom Marilyn, brother **Scott ’76** and nephew. Also survived by many San Juan HS friends he kept in touch with. SJAA Facebook and Laura Lee (Imrie) Watson

1981 Brian George Eckert4/12/1963-4/29/2026 Survived by his parents and brother Bret (Cathy). Legacy.com

1989 Angelique Wind Kalinowski

1971-2026 Survived by her husband Jay, her mother Hendrika and sister **Monique ‘82** (Steven) and her daughter Adriana as well as a niece. Preceded in death by her father. SJAA Facebook

San Juan Alumni Association Leadership Roster

Person/Position	Phone	Email Address
Larry Fritz '73 Board Member, President	(916) 802-7241	lfritz@surewest.net
Jocelyn Millan '14 **Aime Millan '13,** Scholarship Co-Chairs	(916) 971-5300 (916) 792-0331	joceyn.millan@sanjuan.edu aaime.millan@gmail.com
Dave Patterson '74, All Class Picnic Chair, Board Member	(916) 799-0231	duckboat63@gmail.com
David Levis San Juan High School Principal	(916) 971-5188	dlevis@sanjuan.edu
Gayle (Rasmussen) Gaylord '64 Treasurer, Legacy Manager, Board Member	(916) 769-9059	gaylegaylord@sbcglobal.net
Richard Giusti '65 Membership Chairman, Board Member	(916) 743-8498	trapshooter@softcom.net
Dick Cowan '64 Newsletter Editor	(916) 217-4386	dcowancs@gmail.com
Jerry Still '60 All Class Picnic Co-Chair, Board Member	(916) 725-2069	whiskeystill@comcast.net
Rita Van Coutren Hauf '64 Membership Recruiter	(916) 208-2611	ritahauf.rh@gmail.com
Pat (Midkiff) Schmid '68 Postmaster, Board Member	(916) 903-6504	nana_schmid@comcast.net
Lynn (Townsend) Adams '73 Memoriam Editor, Board Member	(916) 622-1899	Lyn3ada@aol.com
Rick Engvall '73 Web Master, Board Member	(916) 769-6832	rickengvall@att.net
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San Juan Alumni Association

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What's Inside?

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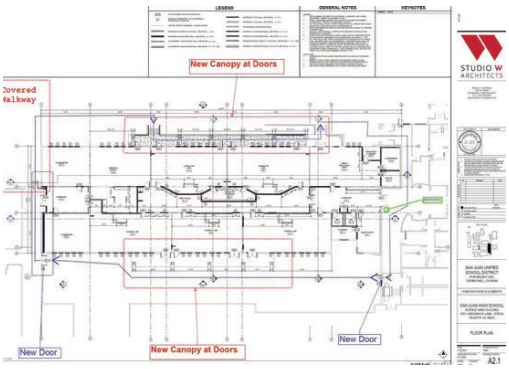
What's the last name of this man speaking on McArthur Field? Page 15

What project do these blueprints represent? Page 9



How long was this man at San Juan High? Page 12