

# May 2019 NewSnote

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*Skyline News Note*



May 2019

## Reunion Update

**90 Days!**

**We are on countdown!**

So get your checks in or pay on line. Saying you are coming no longer cuts it because we need to make final meal counts, etc. Remember the cost goes up to \$150.00 per person on June 1.

August 1, 2019  
55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion



Reunion Schedule

- Monday
  - Annual Birthday Party at Kasper's
- Tuesday
  - Lunch at Treasure Island or Fenton's
- Wednesday
  - Golf (Alameda Course) with a no-host luncheon for non-golfers at the clubhouse.
  - Contact [Tom LaMarre](#) regarding golf
- **Thursday**
  - **Main Event 55 Class Reunion**
  - **Chabot Science Center 6-11 pm**
- Friday
  - Picnic at Skyline HS TBD!!!

### Why Chabot?

The Chabot Science Center was picked for our venue for several reasons. Foremost is the belief and statement that science and science education is important - it is part of our journey, from polio vaccines to tv; from the moon shot/space programs to the Age of Information and all that entails. Beyond being a beloved Oakland institution, it is a critical asset that deserves our support and access by future generations.

Other than our individual connections to the heavens, we as a Class, have some other unique ties to the Center:

Anthony Chabot stipulated as part of his original \$3,000 gift that the telescope shall forever be available for public observation at no cost. The original location of the observatory and "Leah"

(8-inch Alvan Clarke and Sons telescope) was close to downtown Oakland in Lafayette Square— which today remains a square block of parkland, at 10th and 11th Streets and Martin Luther King Junior Way and Jefferson Street.



In 1915, Chabot Observatory, chased out of downtown by light and population, opened at a new site, with the addition of "Rachel", a new 20" Warner and Swasey telescope on Mountain Blvd. Most of us who attended OUSD schools visited the observatory in fifth or sixth grade. This site was designated as not earthquake safe and was on its way to oblivion.

The third site - which now includes "Nellie" a 36" Cassegrain reflector telescope, is

where the reunion will be and the telescopes (with staff astronomers just for us) will be part of the program.

The reason Chabot came to be is best shared with an extract from classmate Dan Wightman's father's obit, eloquently penned by Elizabeth Fernandez (SF Chronicle) in 2007:

"Known as the tall man in the white coat, **Kingsley Wightman** was a math and astronomy teacher but at heart he was a performer, someone who brought science to life for generations of children.

"In his 46 years at Chabot Space & Science Center, Mr. Wightman performed tricks with hydrogen and helium and lightning rods that would make his audience's hair stand on end. Then, with students in his thrall, he would show them the big telescopes and open their eyes to the universe.

"He would mix ingredients, stuff would skitter across the floor, and people would get all concerned about what would happen next," said Chabot board President Dick Spees, a former

Oakland city councilman. "He had a way of keeping kids on the edge of their seats. They hung on his every word. He was one of the great educators of the Bay Area."

"The man who embodied Chabot, who all but saved it from closing, died Thursday in Oakland after a long illness. He was 91.

"An instructor at Lowell Junior High in Oakland, Mr. Wightman began moonlighting as Chabot's astronomy instructor in 1948 -- hired by the Oakland school board. Over the years, he became Chabot's chief ambassador and fundraiser and even served as de facto director from 1976 to 1989.

"In laying the groundwork for construction of a new center on Skyline Boulevard, a process that spanned three decades, he devised new funding sources, gutting Chabot's biology lab to create the Bay Area's first computer lab in 1969.

"With charm and tenacity, Mr. Wightman lobbied for Chabot whenever the nonprofit science center's fate was in doubt.

"When the Oakland school board cut funding for his position, Wightman declared he would work without pay -- and did so for 10 years. In 1980, Mr. Wightman helped organize hundreds of teachers and students who voiced their distress when the school board chained and padlocked the aging center, then located on Mountain Boulevard, over seismic and liability concerns. The chains were removed the next day.

“By the time a series of strokes compelled Mr. Wightman to retire in 1994, he was performing, by one estimate, the equivalent of three full-time jobs.”

I want to go to the Reunion on August 1 at the Chabot Science Center.

How do I pay? And how much is it?

**\$125.00 per person until June 1, then price goes up to \$150.00 per person.**

[Click here for payment at our website.](#)

Or make checks payable to **Skyline 64 Reunion**  
and mail to:

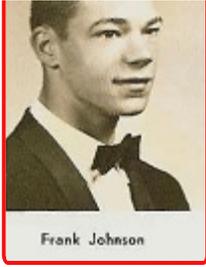
Carol Szymkiewicz  
809 Auzerais Avenue Unit 230  
San Jose, CA 95126



We have lost people along the way, the latest being **Frank Johnson** (whose memorial is May 7, 11:30 in the Tahoe Room at Rossmoor). In the process of updating contact information, also learned that **Bob Whitesides** passed a year ago. Shayne took flowers from the Class to Clem Daniel's viewing and **Tom LaMarre** attended the memorial. We also lost Father Jay Matthews, Skyline '66, who beautifully presided over **Neil Golden's** memorial. All this a reminder of not procrastinating in writing those cards and letters.....or attending the Reunion!



It is with the greatest of sadness that we report the



passing of one The Fines. Frank, we miss you so much already. Your Fellow Classmates from Skyline.

Click on that familiar picture for details of his services.



Frank doing what he loved best: duck hunting.



**May Events**

Kaspers May 6  
 May 27  
 Fenton's May 22

**June Events**

June 1 Last Day to pay for Reunion at reduced price!!!  
 June 10 Kasper's

**July Events**

July 3 Baseball Night at the A's  
 Contact [Tom LaMarre](#) for Tickets  
 July 8 Kasper's  
 July 29 Kasper's Annual Birthday Party kicks off Reunion Week

**August Events**

55th Class Reunion at Chabot Science Center

**Donate Here  
The Titan Trust**

We have been telling you about our class gift to Skyline High for the past few issues. The non-profit, The East Bay College Fund, is what we have chosen to support. With our financial help, EBCF will sponsor a deserving Skyline student to achieve their college goals. Look for a another, more detailed letter mid-May about this important gift. You can click on the red button and make a donation of any size. 100% of your donation goes to East Bay College Fund. We make it easy for you. Let's make some deserving student at Skyline High's life easier too!



And (so far) the best "excuse-for-



One of the best things about being the “mailbox” for Reunion reservations is the cards, notes, and phone calls:

Dear Carol:

I intended to go to the reunion, I wanted to go, I promised to go. But my pledge has become my problem.

I do keep in touch, though, through the Newsnote (which I noticed changed its format in the last issue). Is it you or Shayne, or both, who is putting it together now? Great job. You may recall a picture in the Newsnote in 2017; it was of Arch Horst, Ann Hitchcock, Bruce Quan and myself, taken during the last days of my 42 years in the US (Washington DC area). You may not know that I stayed with Arch's family during my year at Skyline.

I have seen a bit of Arch and Ann over the past several years, and last year Arch and his wife paid us a visit in Norway, both at our cabin and here in Oslo. His wife was here on business. Also, my wife and I were going to meet up with Ann and her husband in France this June at the house of another Skyline alumni, Margaret Morrison, but -- again -- I had to break my pledge.

Yes, I remember Miss Ward's class. Mark Buechley was there as well. I was sad to read about his passing. He and I exchanged e-mails some years ago. He sat next to me and would begin each class by saying "Hey, Gronlie, gimme a piece of

not-attending” note:

I do enjoy hearing about the activities of the class, but I have commitments that do not allow me to travel to Oakland at this time. My husband I are hoping that when our 13 month old grandson turns 3 his mother will enroll him in daycare/preschool as she did his brother. At that time we should be able to travel. We live in the south eastern corner of Washington and it is a 13-14 hour drive to Winters where my brother lives and Oakland is further.

I guess I have whined enough, sorry. Thanks, **Janet (Johnson) Feldner**

So to those of you who are experiencing the acquisition of new body parts



(knees seem to be in vogue this year), losing consorts, or are in a state of ennui, we will miss seeing you; meanwhile continue sending in words that describe your passion these days and if you can, look at

paper". He may have seemed disorganized, except his head was not. I also saw that Niel Golden had died. I understand (from the Newsnote) that he was part of the group of class-mates that would get together from time to time in Oakland. I knew Niel a bit; he and I were jogging together on the track when everything came to a halt as the assassination of President Kennedy was announced over the PA system.

My last visit to Skyline was not long ago (2014?) when a friend of mine and I stopped by on our annual motorbike trip, this time from Seattle to San Diego. Much was the same, and the Titans were practicing on the field as we drove up. As you know, even nerds ride Harleys these days.

I remain a US citizen (I have a Norwegian "green card" -- Norway does not allow dual citizenship) and thus I will have the privilege of filing US tax returns (no taxes) for the rest of my life.

Best, **Olav (Gronlie)**

the list of "missing" on the website ([www.skyline64reunion.com](http://www.skyline64reunion.com)). Any clue you might be able to share - a married name, a sibling's name, etc would be appreciated.



Since graduation we have accumulated 39,600 years of living which means 1,345,480 days (and probably some "wasted nights"). I'll leave the computation of minutes and seconds to you. What is important is that everyone has a story and they run the gamut of human experience. **So as Gay Parker is wont to say, "Come meet people you knew for the first time!"**

#### **Al Kyte**

My most recent blog entry is about my one-week movie career. If interested, check out:

[www.alkyteslifetakeaways.blog](http://www.alkyteslifetakeaways.blog)



And then there is our classmate **Prof. Neal J. Evans, II** who has focused his research on the origins of stars and planets. A Skyline'64 grad, he earned his bachelor's



On the way to grad, he earned his bachelor's degree and doctorate in physics at the University of California, Berkeley and did a year and a half of post-doctoral work at Caltech. Although initially interested in high-energy and particle physics, he later became interested in astrophysics and worked with a research group started at Berkeley by Nobel laureate Charles Townes. Evans joined The University of Texas faculty in 1975, and taught several astronomy

courses there, including a class about the search for extraterrestrial life. "John" (to us) worked with an international team of scientists that use data from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope to study the formation of low-mass stars and their accompanying planets and led a team executing a large key project on the ESA Herschel Space Observatory. He is working with a team to map the plane of our Galaxy in the emission from dust at 1 mm and retired as the Edward Randall, Jr. M.D. Centennial Professor in Astronomy for the Department of Astronomy at UT Austin.

Among many memories, the best is sitting between **Beth Beeby** and John in Chemistry (11th grade) where he and **Bob Brewer** shortened the teacher's professional life with John's corrections to her lectures and Bob's lab antics.....



I want to age like sea glass. Smoothed by tides, not broken. I want the currents of life to toss me around, shake me up and leave me feeling washed clean. I want my hard edges to soften as the years pass — made not weak, but supple. I want to ride the waves, go with the flow, feel the impact of the surging tides rolling in and out.

When I am thrown against the shore and caught between the rocks and a hard place, I want to rest there until I can find the strength to do what is next. Not stuck — just waiting, pondering, feeling what it feels like to pause. And when I am ready, I will catch a wave and let it carry me along to the next place that I am supposed to be.

I want to be picked up on occasion by an unsuspected soul and carried along — just for the connection, just for the sake of appreciation and wonder. And with each encounter, new possibilities of collaboration are presented, and new ideas are born.

I want to age like sea glass so that when people see the old woman I'll become, they'll embrace all that I am. They'll marvel at my exquisite nature, hold me gently in their hands and be awed by my well-earned patina. Neither flashy nor dull, just the right luster. And they'll wonder, if just for a second, what it is exactly I am made of

and how I got to be in this very here and now. And we'll both feel lucky to realize, once again, that we have landed in that perfectly right place at that profoundly right time.

I want to age like sea glass. I want to enjoy the journey and let my preciousness be, not in spite of the impacts of life, but because of them.

### May

05 Andrea Thompson  
 06 Bruce Goddard  
 07 John Close  
 12 Laynee Melmet Goodstein  
 19 Ken Hood  
 25 Marti Heath



### June

1 Elaine Hendrikson  
 11 Phil Saunders  
 13 Kathleen Lofing Crawford  
 19 Bob Nordgren  
 22 Bill Giacometti  
 26 Craig LaBarbera  
 Russ Union  
 Jennifer Morag Keene  
 29 Sue Gracie Lanphear



Pic is from early 70's of my Dad,  
 Grandpa, and Uncle on top of the

Grandpa, and Uncle on top of the  
hunting and fishing store on W  
McArthur and Telegraph. That  
billboard was huge!!  
David Siegle



You are receiving our new format for the the Skyline News Note. Please share your thoughts about how you like/dislike it. Send messages to [carol@george-carol.com](mailto:carol@george-carol.com)



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