OCTOBER 2012

BALD EAGLES ECHO
NEWSLETTER OF
FRANKFURT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES 1963-1966

2012 PORTLAND

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Last Printed Newsletter to be mailed. See Page 11.**
- **Save the date - Wednesday, June 26 – Monday, July 1, 2013 in New Orleans**

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President's Message

In just a few short months, we'll be gathered again, this time to honor the Class of 1963. It's the 50th Anniversary of their graduation from high school and entry into an entirely different world, wherein they gained a whole lot of responsibility for themselves. Most went on to college, the military, or other endeavors. But all took with them a memory of a special time, in a special place. They were indeed special people, trained to get along under adverse conditions, to handle separation from friends and family, to function well in any situation, and to be able to keep moving forward regardless.

The strange thing is, however, that none of them knew they were special. They were just high school kids, leaving one environment for another, something they'd all done, all their lives.

"Chancellor" Frederick von Schloss

Not to take away from that, but we're all going to go through this 50th Anniversary thing, and sooner rather than later. It is now that the marks placed on us by the way we grew up show their effects.

So, what to do? Well, we're going to do what we do best: party our brains out. The first of the 50th's, that of the Class of 1963, is going to take place in New Orleans this June. I think by now, everyone knows that. What this message is meant to be is an appeal to our membership.

We all know that there are a few kinds of reunion attendees. There are those who would show up regardless of anything else; there are those who make an occasional appearance, and there are those who've gone to one or two and don't plan to make many more.

What I'm asking is that we all make an effort to attend as many of the up-coming gatherings as possible. Bring your friends and families. Let's really celebrate these milestones. After all, you only get one 50th reunion per lifetime. Let's support each class, from 1963 to 1966, and give them all a major turnout. I believe that supporting your friends is a noble endeavor. These reunions need to shine.

Fred Schloss
Class of 1964
President FAHAA
(Chancellor)

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Surkin Heidorn
Treasurer

2012 Treasurer's Report

Amount on hand as of 7/1/10	$18,724.58
Deposit Total	6,445.00
Expenses	(10,620.44)
Total amount on hand as of 7/31/2011	$14,909.14

$3829.78 in Reunion Aid Fund.

Expenses include the cost of the 2011 Reunion, the deposit on the 2013 Reunion and web maintenance.
Outstanding still is the cost of the newsletter.

"Spruce Goose, a photo taken from the cockpit area"

Spruce Goose

Of all the activities in our Portland reunion, only our visit to Joe & Alsje Ferguson's home for FAHS 1963 grads could equal the wild time we had seeing Howard Hughes "Spruce Goose" 40 miles southwest of Portland in McMinnville.

The short version of how Hughes aircraft ended up in McMinnville, beating out the Smithsonian among others, is that they were the only bidder willing to display the entire aircraft, creating a giant building to do so. In that building are scores of other classic aviation novelties, but the one that took my breath away was that Spruce Goose.

Due to wartime restrictions metals were not available for experimental aircraft, so laminated birch was used instead. "Spruce Goose" has a certain ring to it, but "Birch Bitch" might have been more accurate.

We were dazzled by our guide's knowledge and the supporting displays which included a working mock-up of one of the 8 engines, each with 28 cylinders and 3500 horsepower.

We were able to actually sit in the Hughes' pilot seat and survey the vast domain of the aircraft, wondering what it would have been like when Hughes taxied the aircraft on the water, doing an unscheduled takeoff on its maiden and only flight, getting about 90 feet airborne.

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Spruce Goose Continued....

Spruce Goose

The above view from the cockpit of the Ford Tri-motor to its right engine was what the pilot had if he wanted to read the oil pressure on that engine. Note the gauges to the right of the vertical wing strut.

We also saw the B-17G, the most advanced of that series during WWII, whose starkness really focused one's attention on its primary mission – dropping bombs and protecting itself with 50 caliber guns.

I am so happy we were able to make the trip and only wish that more of our classmates could have been able to join us.

Mike Rankin, '63

Class of 1963 - 50th Reunion in NOLA

It wasn't a tough decision selecting this fascinating city as we had already done so for our 40th reunion as well. There were 8 women and 4 men who attended that 2003 gathering.

As we did 10 years ago, we stayed with Leanne's excellent choice of the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street, in the middle of the French quarter. Our Hospitality Suite was (and I assume will be) on the second floor with its long balcony taking in a huge swath of the action below.

During that time Ann Mayers and I visited the beautiful New Orleans Glassworks and, with her assistance, I ended up with my rabbit chairs (yes, you can actually sit comfortably I them) that now grace the entry of my home.

If there's one thing I've learned from our reunions, it's that a little vetting or insider information can be invaluable in focusing our attentions. Sure, everyone has different interests, but what I'm hoping with New Orleans is that our core group of '63'rs – Marcia Morrison, Marshall & Cindy Spencer, Bob Leftwich, Bill Evans, Rolf von Hellens, Joe and Alsje Ferguson, and Larry Slade(not to mention other friends from the Class of 63 attending the 2012 Santa Fe reunion the last 5 days of October - Marc Goldenberg, Chuck Huff, Ann Mayers, Diane Lamb Muhlfeld, Mike Myers, Kay Strieber Schodek and Linda Topp Roberts) can visit and vet portions of New Orleans that interests them and share their findings with the reunion group at large.

I welcome all of our FAHS grads to join us in 2013 for the Class of 1963's 50th anniversary reunion in New Orleans.

Mike Rankin

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Sue Milstead's Hanau - - Then and Now

My third trip to Hanau was actually my 60th birthday present.

I first lived in Kesselstadt, as an eleven year old. We lived on the first floor with a living room and two bedrooms, the kitchen was communal. Frau Paquin, our landlady, was delightful, sophisticated and spoke 5 languages fluently. Her garden grew flowers, fruit, and even celery. She tried diligently to improve my German and often told me: "drink with your eyes".

Christmas Eve, Frau Paquin invited us to her lovely basement quarters where swags of fresh firs adorned the walls as real candles were lit and flickered on the branches of her freshly cut Tannenbaum. We partook of goose with all the trimmings amid gracious hospitality and a beautifully set table. Her Mother, "Omi", bore a faint scar across her forehead, evidence of a stray Polish bullet. A beautiful cherry armoire held miscellaneous pieces of Dresden and Meissen porcelain that the soldiers hadn't broken as they ransacked their Bavarian farm.

Our house and a few nearly identical were three story stuccos with steep, red shingled roofs. Directly across Landstrasse, large rough stones created the stable wall of Philipsrue, a lovely 18th century palace. My mother and I would often walk down to the river and through the palace gardens. Wednesdays and Saturdays found us in the town square buying fresh vegetables and flower bouquets. The Brother Grimm statue stood in front of Town hall. A special treat was stopping at a konditorei to enjoy a slice of pflaumen kuchen, a yeast based crust with small purple plums quartered and perkily standing flesh side up. As I roamed downtown I was amazed and disturbed by the utter destruction of so many bullet ridden buildings. The Dutch-Walloon Church from the early 1600s, bombed by our British allies, still stands as a tall, desolate, mostly demolished edifice as a memorial to all those who died.

As a child I was often sketching and it must have been Frau Paquin who recommended Herr Kraus, an artist of great talent, to come to her home and teach me drawing. A treasure of mine is an impressionistic watercolor of a water glass filled with red poppies signed: To Susan from C.A. Kraus, Steinheim, Main, Germany, 1960.

In 2008 on our first day in town and 48 years later, I found a local art exhibit in the old town hall. Showing photographs of my three Krauss paintings to the three artists in attendance, I asked if they knew of him. I explained he had taught me long ago in Kesselstadt at Frau Paquins. In Hanau today they hadn't heard of him but two of the women had known Frau Paquin. Our second day we toured Phillippsruhe, walked through the stables and beyond the stone wall. Crossing Landstrasse I stood trying to identify my house. A bicyclist turned into the driveway. He confirmed it was Paquin's and that he and his wife had turned it into a one family home. He then graciously invited two unknown Yanks inside for coffee.

As a child I learned not everyone speaks English. The rolling stone that I am, has gathered the best of mosses in sights, sounds, scents, and people. I have learned to drink with my eyes. I so enjoy farmers markets, fresh flowers, beautiful china and walking. Getting to know people of diverse backgrounds adds such dimension to one's life. I abhor violence and war.

We returned stateside, when I was 13, and then went back to Hanau to start my junior year at FAHS. As an older teen I didn't savor the experience of Germany nearly as much. I had football games to attend, a jock laden activities bus to survive, a yearbook to edit, Chemistry homework to deal with and luckily, some of you to meet. It was only when I returned for the third time did I realize what an impression Hanau had made, how it had become a part of me.

Susan Milstead Murphy, '66

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The 2012 FAHSAA Gathering of Eagles in Portland, Oregon

The 2012 Gathering of Eagles was held in the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon. Known as "the Rose City", we quickly discovered many interesting things to do and see as well as fun places to shop and eat.

Our headquarters hotel was the historic Benson Hotel, located in the heart of downtown. The public transportation was amazing. The MAX light rail actually ran on time (were we back in Germany?), and open-air streetcars criss-crossed the downtown area.

Our weather was near perfect, except for the showers one day. But then that was to be expected when they stock each guest room with an umbrella!

Almost everyone went to see the famous Rose Gardens and/or the Japanese Gardens.

Dick Bartelt '65, Bob Begg '65 and Bob Wisenbaker '64

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Some travelled away from the city a little to McMinnville, site of the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, and home to the spectacular "Spruce Goose" (see the article and photos by Mike Rankin pages 2 & 3).

Some were interested in wine-tasting, while others searched out the famous Powell's Bookstore or the sites and shops in the Pearl District.

Exhibit at a small art museum close to the hotel. 1st place for Fred Schloss look alike

Classmates gathered throughout the weekend in the spacious hospitality suite for plenty of conversation, a little food, a little drink and a lot of laughs.

We had a nice surprise on Saturday morning when the class of '63 provided donuts from the famous Voodoo Donut shop. There is a very good reason why there is always a line to get in the shop for some of those yummy donuts!

Our "business meeting" set the record for the shortest meeting ever (only 15 minutes)!

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Starting next summer, the classes will be celebrating their 50th reunions. The class of '63 is first and has chosen New Orleans as the location. Each class will be choosing their reunion location as their year comes up. Nothing has been finalized for any of the other reunion locations.

Here are the 8 women and 4 men who attended that 40th Reunion in New Orleans in 2003

Class of 1963 attending the 2012 Portland Gathering

Ansje spouse of Joe Ferguson, Marcia Morrison, Bob Leftwich, Mike Rankin, Marshall Spencer & spouse Cynthia

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The Saturday night dinner was delicious and the dancing was spirited, thanks to the music played by our personal DJ, Frank Benton '66

John LaTorre' 66 (first timer), Frank Benton '66. Head DJ, Danny O'Connor '66 Assistant DJ

Joyce Moore McDougall '65, Dennis McDougall ' 64 and Janet Surkin Heidorn ' 65

Gary Sams '65, Linda Kettlewell Blinde '66., Travis Sams (Gary's son), Danny O'Connor '66

Nancy Chalsma Brashears '65, Sue Turnage Hilbert '64 and friend Joe Yount

Penny Lopez, spouse, John "Speedy" Lopez '65, with Diana Dwight Miles '65, and spouse Gordon Miles

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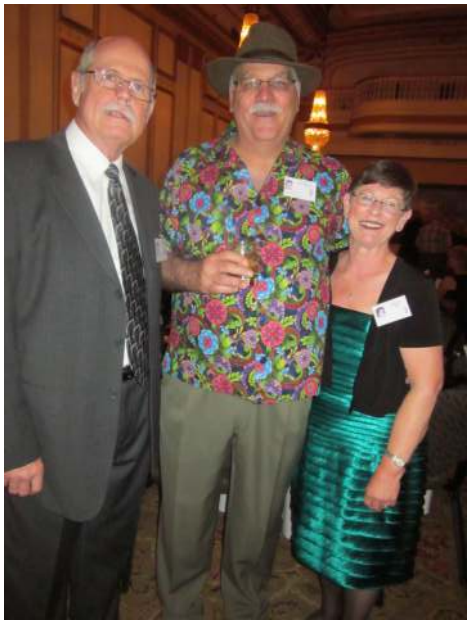

Dave Ratcliff '65, Greg Thurman '65, Donna Sill Willett '66

Diana Miller Daggett '67 (first timer), Kim Thurman '66, Nancy Miller Brachbill '66 (first timer)

When Sunday morning came around, it was time for one last breakfast together before rushing off at the last possible moment to get to the airport.

Sometimes it's so hard to say good-bye, but there is comfort in hearing those sweet words, "see you next summer".

Janet Surkin Heidorn '65, Leanne Corbin, Honorary "Eaglette" (spouse of Hal Corbin '65), and Judy Kellond Bader '66

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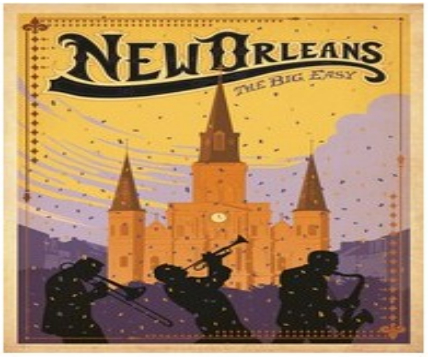
'Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler!' ('Let the Good Times Roll!')



The class of 1963 is extending an invitation to all alumni, family and friends, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation.

Join your fellow Eagles at Frankfurt American High School's reunion/business meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, Wednesday, June 26 – Sunday, June 30 at the five-star Royal Sonesta Hotel.

As we saw in 2003, New Orleans offers so much in the way of regional food (Brennan's, Acme Oyster Bar, Café du Monde and Emeril's), drinking, shopping (antiques, galleries, Riverwalk Marketplace) and historic architecture—that we had to make a return visit.

Reunion Headquarters is at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, a five-star hotel located in the heart of the French Quarter right on Bourbon Street. We have secured a room rate for $149 (13% tax, plus $2.00 per room per night occupancy tax = $170.37 per night). Make reservations by calling 504-586-0300 or 800-SONESTA using rate Code: FRAN062613. OR paste this link into your browser: https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=12667&Chain=5157&arrive=6/26/2013&depart=6/27/2013&adult=1&child=0&group=FRAN062613

The block of rooms is being held until Wednesday, June 5, 2013. Our suite has a wonderful balcony overlooking the sights and sounds of Bourbon Street, and will be open from 4 PM on Wednesday, June 26 through noon Sunday, June 30. Download a registration form from either our Yahoo Group (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fhs63-66/) site or our FHS 63-66 site (http://fhs63-66.org/next_reunion.html). Up-to-the-minute planned activities and information will be posted on the Yahoo site.

Mark your calendars now. Your FAHS classmates look forward to seeing you in NOLA on June 26, 2013!

Leanne Corbin, Honorary Eaglette
and Reunion Coordinator

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The End of an Era

This will be the last newsletter printed and mailed by our association, as most people can access the newsletter by electronic means. There are very few who cannot.

We would like to update the way we get the newsletter to our membership. It will now be created, reviewed, and sent electronically. The vast majority of our membership has computer access in one form or another, and this will result in a savings of time and money to our group.

Paper copies of the newsletter will no longer be mailed to those members who simply have not provided e-mail addresses. If you have not given your e-mail address to Frank Benton, our webmaster, you can send it to him at FrankOB66@AOL.com.

If you do not have computer access, your local library may be able to help. Most have computers for public use, and you can find the newsletter at www.fhs63-66.org.

If a member genuinely does not have access to a computer, we will send that person a printed copy. Please send a letter to Shirley Clark, 240 Pumice Drive, Sherwood, Arkansas, 72120, and request a paper copy.

Shirley Clark, '64
Newsletter Geek

Frankfurt American High School
Alumni Association

President (Chancellor) - Fred Schloss '64
Vice President—Judy Kellond Bader '66
Treasurer—Janet Surkin Heidorn '65
Secretary—Kathy Bates Johnson '66
Reunion Coordinator—Leanne Corbin
(Honorary Eaglette)
Sgt at Arms —Ken Lapin '64
Webmeister—Frank Benton, '66
Newsletter—Shirley Clark '64
Alum Locator—Dan O'Connor '66

FAHSAA OFFICERS
Elected at Business Meeting
Chicago 2010

2013 Reunion in New Orleans Louisiana Class of 1963 50th Reunion

Download Registration Form for New Orleans Reunion from web page

http://www.fhs63-66.org

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