

## ***THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2017-10 OF OCTOBER 1, 2017***

Hello Hornets! Here are some items that might be of interest:

### **1. CLASS OF 2020 SPONSORS ALL-CLASSES HOMECOMING ON OCTOBER 28.**

The very active Class of 2020 (sponsor of the recent and very successful Community Day at the School in which the Foundation participated) is sponsoring an All Classes Homecoming tailgating celebration on Saturday October 28. Here's hoping representatives of all current and past Classes from Surrattsville will be able to participate. Here's the announcement from Class of 2020 faculty sponsor, chorus teacher Marcus Davis:

“Forever a Hornet Tailgate for All Surrattsville Alumni!

I need for every class president/point of contact to organize the tailgate for your class and bring it to Surrattsville for this year's Homecoming! Contact me ASAP at [marcus.davis@pgcps.org](mailto:marcus.davis@pgcps.org). In your planning make sure you include everything needed for a fun filled tailgating experience. That should include your tent, your tables, your chairs, your food, your drinks, your grills (maximum of 2), your charcoal, your utensils, and any and everything that you would need to make this event memorable (class shirts, etc.) Alcohol and tobacco products are prohibited!

Date: October 28, 2017

Time: 11:00am - 4:00pm

Game Time: 2:00pm

Location: The practice field in between the school building and the football field.

Purpose: To restore the Hornet Pride, to build bridges between the past and current classes, and to support the Class of 2020.

Come in your Surrattsville paraphernalia or green, yellow and white. If you don't have any paraphernalia, some will be sold on site.

Sponsored by the Class of 2020! Donations for the Class of 2020 are welcomed!

Please RSVP if your class will be participating to [marcus.davis@pgcps.org](mailto:marcus.davis@pgcps.org) by close of business on October 20, 2017."

**2. SURRATTSVILLE COMMUNITY LOSES BELOVED EDUCATOR.** We were sad to learn of the death last month of one of Surrattsville's most beloved educators, Ben Collins. Ben taught at Surrattsville from 1967 until 1995, and inspired generations of SHS students. A memorial gathering is being planned for later this Fall in Accokeek. The following is a brief overview of Ben's extraordinary life.

Benjamin F. Collins, July 8, 1940-September 12, 2017. Ben's favorite homily was "I've gone to look for myself. If I should return before I get back, keep me here." Ben took a fascinating path

through life. Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee to Benjamin, a Baptist minister, and Nancy Jones, an educator who shared a love of learning with Ben and his younger brother Jim, he approached life as an adventurer, explorer and seeker of knowledge who shared what he knew. Ben graduated from Carson Newman College in 1962 with a degree in history, which became a lifelong passion, and headed east to teach high school in Prince Georges County, Maryland. There he met his wife and lifelong partner Judy. Together the couple joined the Peace Corps, and from 1964 through 1967 served in Turkey, where they became immersed in the fascinating history and culture of the region.

Upon their return Ben joined the staff of Surrattsville High School, where he taught challenging and demanding college-level social studies classes. Also a sponsor of the Student Government Association and a Cross Country Coach, his students immediately embraced him, both as a teacher and as a kind, caring friend. During the summer months in the 1970s and 1980s, Ben led some twenty groups of students on study trips to the Mediterranean, including Italy, Greece, Turkey and Egypt, sharing his immense knowledge of history and culture as well as his inquisitive desire to learn.

In 1983 Ben was honored by the Washington Post as a recipient of the first Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. And in 1987 he was featured in the Washington Magazine article "How to Change a Life: Great Teachers Have a Gift." Along the way he earned a Masters in Area Studies at Georgetown University, and enjoyed all that Washington DC had to offer. Ben shared his love of travel, learning and enjoying life with his sons Chris and David. Among their best memories are trips to Capitals and Bullets games accompanied by their favorite friends and their father. Who else would take a bunch of elementary kids to a game alone?

Ben truly believed and taught that, in the words of Harry S. Truman, "for our day and our children's day, education must become a continuing adventure in human understanding, shared by all." When retirement time arrived, Ben and Judy chose Pagosa Springs, Colorado as their home, where many friends and students visited and continued to keep in touch. Ben had lots of time to read, to enjoy the new friends he made there, to volunteer as a docent at the Fred Harmon Art Museum, and, above all, to continue his search for knowledge. His years were a rich tapestry with friends from all walks of life, whom he always treated with dignity while accepting and enjoying their individual differences.

Ben leaves behind his wife Judy, sons Chris (wife Maria) and David (wife Sandi and granddaughters Christina and Damia), and his brother Jim. He will be dearly missed by all of those who called him Mr. Collins, Dad, Grand Daddy and Gentle Ben. As the sign on Ben's desk says, "Keep smiling it makes people wonder what you are up to."

**3. CLASS OF 67 REUNION IN THREE WEEKS!** We received this latest report on the upcoming Class of 67 golden reunion: "The Class of 67 is fast approaching last call for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion Oct. 21-22 in Ocean City MD. Make your room reservation now before the hotel sells

out. Room reservations are made directly with the Dunes Manor Hotel by calling 410-289-1100. You must mention Surrattsville to get the discounted room rate of \$119 a night. The cost of the reunion is \$80 a person, payable to Surrattsville 67 Reunion LLC. Mail your check for each person attending payable to Surrattsville 67 Reunion LLC, c/o Nancy Miller, 8808 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, MD 20735. We look forward to seeing you there! The Reunion Committee: Chris Parker, Janet Brown, Jimmy Mead Hanson, Sally Soderburg Mueller, Ron Stout, Cassandra Creighton Clouser, Kathy Malkie, Bob Oechsler, Nancy Miller, Jeff Buckler, Stephanie Nowak Morton.”

**4. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT FEATURED IN HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE AND BOCA GRANDE, FL NEWSPAPER.**

Some of our readers noticed references to 2003 Foundation Achievement Award recipient Kevin Fitzgerald in an article in the Fall 2017 Home & Design magazine for DC/MD/VA. Specifically, in the article entitled “Waterfront Idyll” about architect Marta Hansen’s “dream house” on Whitehall Bay, a photograph of the kitchen containing a large painting by Kevin carried the caption “The living space is anchored on one end by the kitchen (right) which showcases an oil painting by Kevin Fitzgerald.”

And here are some lovely excerpts from a full-page spread (with color photos) by art collector Barbara Hughes about Kevin’s paintings that recently appeared in the Boca Grande, FL Beacon: “Once in a great while, we come across an artist who stands far above and apart from the others. We take special notice of this one and follow their progress. If we are fortunate, they stay on mark and don’t deviate from where their spirits guide them. It’s difficult, if not impossible, to hide disingenuousness when someone lives and expresses as an artist, simply because their core is out there for everyone to see. Artists live lives of transparency, which few among us have the courage or tenacity to live.

I’ve known Kevin Fitzgerald and admired his paintings for many years. His work mesmerized me back in the late 1990s and my appreciation has only grown. Enchantments are wonderful things – sort of like stepping back into Druid-time or someplace long past – deep and full of earthiness. Fitzgerald’s paintings come at us with a quiet, but sure, contemplation – a haunting familiarity, which silently celebrates the immense intensity of our natural world, begging us to move into them, unafraid to surrender so they can take us on their moody journey into the heart of wherever they have decided to go – we are willing participants ...”

Quoting Keith Bellows from National Geographic Traveler Magazine, Barbara notes “People are desperate for authenticity ... and Kevin is very real. Many artists do what is fashionable, but not him. He looks at landscape and channels the energy of the place into the painting.”

**5. FOUNDATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING.** The Foundation’s 2017 Campaign is in full swing. (As can be seen from the list below the generosity of our early donors has remained in full force for 2017!) If you’re moved to make a contribution to the Foundation, don’t forget that you can designate your contribution to go to:

- The Foundation’s General Operating Fund
- The Roland Coluzzi Memorial Scholarship
- The General Fund Scholarship

- The Charlie Waddell Memorial Scholarship
- The Esther Clifton Miller Memorial Scholarship
- The Thomas V. Miller, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Many thanks to our wonderful donors who make the work of the Foundation possible (and many of them year after year). Remember: No donation is too small (or too large) to help benefit the great kids at Surratts! You can donate easily on-line at this link: [surrattsville.org](http://surrattsville.org) (and click on the Donate button).

**6 SEEKING CLASS OF 70 REUNION INFO.** We received an inquiry from Sheila Faraday Moore (70) asking that folks contact her at [mooresheila89@yahoo.com](mailto:mooresheila89@yahoo.com) if they have any information about upcoming Class of 70 Reunions.

**7. SUBJECTS OF SURRATTSVILLE-RELATED ACCLAIMED DOCUMENTARIES CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL PRESS.** As we have reported previously, two new acclaimed documentary films have Surrattsville connections: “Anacostia Delta” and “Rumble.” (The former features, prominently, 2011 Foundation Achievement Award recipients John Previti (72) and Dave Chappell (75). The latter features Teen Club performer Link Wray, and there are on-screen comments by Hornets Sherry Wray and the film’s technical advisor Greg Laxton (81).)

Some of our readers noticed that the monthly “bible” for guitar players, Guitar Player magazine, in its October 2017 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, recognized Southern Maryland’s Danny Gatton (a primary focus of “Anacostia Delta” and considered by many to be the finest electric guitar player of all time) in three places. (John Previti (72) was Danny’s bassist for 18 years.) On page 40, the magazine lists Danny as one of the handful of greatest guitarists of the decade of the 1980s. On page 44, the magazine features Danny’s 1989 cover shot as typifying the guitarists being celebrated in 1989. Finally, on page 54, the magazine notes Danny’s “Unfinished Business” CD (on which John Previti played bass) as being one of the great guitar albums of all times, quoting Danny with this perfect (for this e-Notice item) six-degrees-of-separation comment: “Part of the ability to play various styles correctly is attitude. There should be nothing condescending when you play something simple. I appreciate Link Wray’s ‘Rumble’ as much as I do Les Paul’s ‘How High the Moon.’”

**8. UPDATE ON CLASS OF 64 GATHERING!** We received this latest update from the Class of 64: “Class of 1964 Get Together Planned for October 13-14, 2018: We are sorry that Durango, CO is now not happening. The cost and time to go to Durango became too much and we decided to change the venue. We are now planning another outing at former classmate Bill and Theresa Adam’s Mauertown, VA homestead. Plans are in the initial stages and we have sent an email to all classmates with another all-class email to follow. (NOTE: these emails are sent under the name of “Mary Surratt.”) If you are reading this notice and want to be added to our “interested” list for future e-mails, please let Ginger Trapanotto know at

[gingersnap699@gmail.com](mailto:gingersnap699@gmail.com) or call 301-318-6544. We always have such good times when we get together and this one in 2018 will not be any different. So far, there are about 30 planning to attend. Please think about joining us.”

**9. MORE PRICELESS TREASURES FROM “GREEN LIGHT.”** As we previously noted, in 2015 Duke Coleman (53) donated to the Foundation’s Archives a number of copies of an early SHS student newspaper, the “Green Light.” Those editions provide a fascinating glimpse into student life at Surrattsville during the 52-53 academic year, 65 years ago! Here’s an interesting excerpt from the May 7, 1953 edition of Green Light:

“Boomerang Honors Mrs. Holland: Mrs. Holland was the name on the dedication page of the attractive yearbooks which arrived this week. For four years, Mrs. Holland has sponsored this class which becomes increasingly important these next few weeks. One of the highlights of their activities was the Killarney Katch, originated by this very same group. Much of the credit for the new and original treatment of material in the book is due to the efforts of the staff and Mrs. Robin who has a reputation, well-deserved, for sponsoring fine yearbooks. The Boomerang itself is cased in the traditional green and white, and is chock full of excellent photographs, scandid and posed. Subscribers seem well pleased and this new tribute to Surrattsville is in keeping with the progress in our school of which we are all aware.”

**10 MORE SURRATTSVILLE MEMORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY.** The following is the latest installment of Wayne Tatum (74)’s always evocative memories of his time at Surrattsville Junior High in the 1960s. (We’re running Wayne’s reminiscences as a serial that started in the July 1, 2016 e-Notice, and we’re sure Wayne’s stories will stimulate lots of memories of times likely long gone-by among our readers. Wayne can be reached at [manymiles@netzero.net](mailto:manymiles@netzero.net).)

Coolness Primer for Young Clinton Teens of 69-70:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu0OT3IAD7M>

Alright everybody, let’s get the plan cleared up: For homes, it’s wood paneling and shag carpet. Or glow in the dark paint, paisley design if possible. Black light posters. Black lights. Steppenwolf. The Rolling Stone’s offering was just too evil sounding. (“Their *badcreepyguy* majestie’s request”). For men’s fashion, bellbottoms or flares, stripes and patterns if hip, braided faded jeans if in full hippie mode. Bright wide collared shirts with billowed sleeves, or if tapered, straight sleeves rolled up a notch or two. Or a military long sleeve, khaki green with pockets. Wide belts, big buckles. Desert boots or tennis shoes. No chucks unless you’re a greaser. Guitar player or drummer? You guys were in a completely different universe, and predictably soon to join car and motorcycle aficionados.

Coollest guy to be: 1. Musician. 2. Athlete (see Joe Willie Namath, NY Jets, QB) 3. A stage or screen actor. Say what?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmZSkWBJwBU>

And why not? Science fiction movies, war movies, western movies, western plays. In December of 1969, the English class of the foresighted and beloved Miss Daugherty (none of that ‘Ms’ stuff back then) brought us to the Marlow Heights movie theater in order to enjoy that rollicking winsome cinematic musical charmer of a Dicken’s tale, “Oliver!” On that particular day, I was busily charming the winsome Miss E... well, let’s just leave that alone, but the same female cohort from Murphy’s class of the previous spring, the baseball playing gal who amazed me from a distance at her teams pool party. She and I entered the theater only to find seats in the front row, which to any normal person is agonizing and worthless, even at Marlow. But we sat in the left front straining our necks back during the entire film, loving it while in pain. Even from that tough vantage point, Ron Moody was spectacular:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96rC4X\\_KWl4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96rC4X_KWl4)

The rest was a musical that included a brutal guy named Bill Sykes. Some of you may have confused Fagin with this guy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTWI0TvnfQ8>

Kind of nice for the school to send us to a flick for no reason other than airing the classroom out.

The play is the thing:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUe\\_Pi8NfT4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUe_Pi8NfT4)

(And as a general sound track for the above, Wayne suggests:  
[http://www.amandfmmorningside.com/wpgc\\_airchecks\\_table.html#1969](http://www.amandfmmorningside.com/wpgc_airchecks_table.html#1969))

[ ... to be continued]

**11. CLASS OF 87 REUNION.** We received this item from the Class of 87 Reunion Committee: “Class of 1987 looking for Classmates—Planning 30 year reunion for October 2017 and searching for classmates. Please join Facebook group Surrattsville Class of 1987 for updates <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurrattsvilleClassof87/>.

For non FB users e-mail Mike Cassidy at [mike-cassidy@hotmail.com](mailto:mike-cassidy@hotmail.com) or Stacey Fowler at [Stacey.fowler8@gmail.com](mailto:Stacey.fowler8@gmail.com).”

**12. PAINLESS – AND VERY EFFECTIVE! -- WAYS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FOUNDATION.** Thanks to the many of you who make your Amazon purchases not through “regular” Amazon, but through smile.amazon.com, with the Surrattsville High School Foundation designated as their charitable beneficiary. The smile.amazon.com prices, products and Amazon website are identical to “regular” Amazon, but Amazon makes a charitable contribution to the designated charity for every purchase made on smile.amazon.com.

And thanks to those of you making your internet searches using the goodsearch search engine. It uses the yahoo search engine (which we’re told rivals google and apparently has never failed any

Foundation user) and, like smile.amazon.com, makes a contribution to your designated charity for every internet search. Here's the link: <https://www.goodsearch.com/causes/surrattsville-high-school-foundation>.

**13. SEEKING YEARBOOKS FOR FOUNDATION ARCHIVES.** Thanks to the generous gifts from several of our readers noted in prior issues of the e-Notice, the Foundation's yearbook collection is becoming more complete all the time. However, the Foundation Archives is still lacking:

- All yearbooks before 1951
- 1983-1989
- 1995
- 1998
- 2000
- 2001
- 2004
- 2005
- 2007-present

If anyone has extra copies of any of these missing links, we would love to have them.

(And the Foundation has surplus Boomerangs available for \$10 (including shipping) from these years: 1991, 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2006. Please send me an email at [hsmith@smithdowney.com](mailto:hsmith@smithdowney.com) if you would like one.)

**14. COPIES OF 1929 AND 1944 YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING.** And speaking of yearbooks, thanks to the efforts of Foundation Archivist Shelby Lee Oppermann, the 1929 and 1944 Surrattsville yearbooks are available for viewing online. (Our readers can go to the "Surrattsville Alumni" Facebook Group, click on Photos, and then click on Albums, to view those treasures.) The Foundation would love to have old yearbooks, or even photocopies or scans of them, for its Archives.

**15. FOUNDATION ARCHIVES SEEKING PERMANENT PHYSICAL HOME.** And speaking of the Foundation's Archives, we're seeking a permanent home for these precious objects. Anywhere in the Clinton/Southern MD area would be fine, and a room or building that starts at 8 x 10 and goes to infinity would be very nice. If you have a lead on a space that might be available to preserve this very important history, please send me an email at [hsmith@smithdowney.com](mailto:hsmith@smithdowney.com).

**16. FALLEN HEROES PLAQUE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS.** Here's an update from Bob Jeter (64) on the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that hangs in the Foundation's Legacy Hall at the School alongside the American and Maryland flags that flew over the U.S. and Maryland Capitols in its honor. "The Fallen Heroes Plaque is available for display at class reunions or any other worthy functions. Feel free to contact me, Bob Jeter, [904jeter@gmail.com](mailto:904jeter@gmail.com)

or 410-315-9403, preferably well in advance of the date so transfer arrangements can be made.  
Bob”

**17. DON'T FORGET TO CHECK-OUT THE FOUNDATION'S VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEO PROGRAMS.**

Thanks to the tireless efforts and creative talents of the Foundation's youtube master, Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70), the Foundation's youtube channel now features many programs of interest, such as programs featuring the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that was conceived and executed by Bob Jeter (64), the 2015 Achievement Award recipients, and the 2015 Scholarship recipients. The programs can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SurrattsvilleFDN>.

I hope many of you are enjoying crisp and beautiful Fall weather!

Henry Smith (71)

**MANY THANKS TO THESE EARLY DONORS TO THE 2017 CAMPAIGN!**

Bob Marr (71)

Debbie Cox Marr (72)

Steve Profilet (71)

Sandra Smith Simmons (70)

Mike Gifford (84)

Ron Kaplan (50)

Ellen Talbert Miller (61 and former faculty/administration), In Memory of Bill Talbert (65))

Richard Grace (81)

Nancy Miller (67), to Recognize the Reunion Assistance of Judy Gordon (65)

Vicky Simontacchi Young (57), In Memory of Eleanora Frances Parker Beswick (57) and Robert Lewis McCammon (57)

Lee Hessberg (68)

Lois Barrett Hessberg (70)

Craig Bergeman (76)

State Farm Insurance Company, Matching the Donation of Craig Bergeman (76)

Richard Grace (81)

David Brown (69)

Duke Coleman (53), In Memory of Donald England (53)

Larry Romjue (57), In Memory of Lois Marie Osgood (57), “Can't Help Fallin' In Love With You,” “Elvis”

Mike Blair (71)

David Kraus (65)

Anonymous, In Memory of Susan Krause (80)  
 Carolyn Gilchrist (74), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
 Henry Smith (71), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
 Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70), for the Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund  
 Donald Cummings (65), In Honor of All the Judy's "Class of 65"  
 Nora Nugent (69), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69), Senior Class Secretary  
 Paul Monaghan (59)  
 Nancy Miller (67), For Monique Countiss Scholarship  
 David Weber (65)  
 Jeanine Carroll Maclary (73), In Memory of James R. Carroll, Jr. (74)  
 Nancy Miller (67), In Memory of Judy Miller (70)  
 Steve Profilet (71), In Memory of Stephen B. Profilet Sr. (father of Steve, Theresa (69), and  
 Cindy (72))  
 Dave DeCenzo (73)  
 Henry Smith (71), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69) and Judy Miller (70)  
 Donna Rae Smith (70), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69) and Judy Miller (70)  
 Carrie Jessee Loftus (69), In Memory of Melissa Gilcrest (69)  
 Chris and Merry Chovan Romine (65), In Memory of Brad Amos (65)  
 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (60), In Memory of Judy Miller (70)

THE SURRATTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

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 410-321-9350  
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**DONOR CONTRIBUTION FORM**

[Use this form to make a contribution to the Surrattsville High School Foundation, Inc. The  
 Foundation is a tax-exempt, charitable corporation under the Internal Revenue Code.  
 Contributions to the Foundation are charitable contributions for tax deduction purposes.]

AMOUNT OF  
 DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Current Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Name of Donor at Surratts (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduation Year or Years on Faculty of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP Code of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Directions (e.g, Coluzzi Fund, General Fund, Principals/Faculty/Staff Memory Fund,  
Charlie Waddell Memorial Fund, In Memory Of, Etc.):

Donation is made (check one):  By Check  In Cash

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Amount of

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*C No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.*

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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE SURREATTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
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