



# NEWSLETTER

Sunset High School Alumni Association

2020 Vol. 1

## Officers

President TBD

**Donna Thompson Johnson** 1968  
Vice President & Secretary

**Dixie Thomas Laney** 1966  
Treasurer

## Directors

**E. John Ward** 1962  
**Ed Hilscher** 1962  
**Doris Murphy** 1970  
**Alma Valdez Rubio** 1983

## Historian

**Cindy Womble Billman** 1967

## Faculty Liaison

### MEMBERS EMERITUS

**Mitch Womble** 1964  
**Stephany Pitt White** 1968  
**Peggy Tomlinson van Wunnik** 1969  
**Bruce Nance** 1974  
**Jerry Boyd** 1976

## Co-Founders

**Lynn Bergoon DeWitt** 1950  
**Joseph D. Whitney** 1967

This newsletter is prepared and printed courtesy of Curry Printing in Euless, Texas. Sincere thanks to **Cody Curry ('67)** and **Larry Curry ('70)** for their generous support.

# 2020 And Beyond?

by Dixie Thomas Laney, Treasurer - Class of 1966

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Will the Sunset Alumni Association Exist After 2020? It is up to YOU!

We are an all-volunteer organization. As such, we rely solely on monetary and/or in-kind donations. The Sunset High School Alumni Association was founded on the belief that all Alumni are Members and would not pay dues. We have stayed true to our founders' idea. However, we are probably one of the only Alumni Associations that does not charge any membership dues and without any membership dues, we do not have a viable way to sustain our organization.

Our stated mission is to support teachers, students and Sunset and we do this via our annual grant program at the new school year to help fill gaps due to ongoing DISD budget cuts. Grants are first approved by our principal, then voted on by our officers and board. However, due to donation shortfalls, many grants cannot be fulfilled.

We believe if we help our teachers with classroom tools and equipment, they in turn, prepare our students to graduate and go on to be productive citizens. Our teachers have a tough job, never complain and are grateful they have a supportive Alumni Association that partners with them to ensure kids stay in school--because they are our future.

Donating to the Alumni Association is easy—and tax deductible. You may use the form in this newsletter and attach a check/MO or you may go online at [WWW.SUNSETALUMNI.COM](http://WWW.SUNSETALUMNI.COM), click on "How To Help" and use your credit card via PayPal (no PP account needed) or you may download the form and mail your check or MO to the address on the form. You may also specify how you would like your donation utilized by notating on your check or in the memo field on PayPal (ex. Bisonettes, Band, ROTC, Dance). Your donation will be earmarked for that team. Also, many employers provide for a company match option.

Volunteer! You do not have to be a board member to help. We welcome participation in fund raising activities and/or obtaining sponsorships/underwriting of grant requests that come to us. We are also needing someone to assist with the newsletter and updating the class contacts list.

Without ongoing support from our Alumni and friends, 2020 may very well be our final year. Thank you for your support!



Dixie Thomas Laney  
Treasurer  
Class of 1966

# CONTRIBUTORS

*All gifts no matter the size are greatly appreciated*

## **Double Diamond \$5,000-\$9,999**

1967 - Dr. Ron Luke

## **Diamond \$2,500 - \$4,999**

1978 - Roxanne Gragg Kujanson

## **Platinum \$1,000 - \$2,499**

1967 0 Buddy Ham

## **Gold \$500 - \$999**

1966 - William H. Pierson

1970 - Doris L. Murphy

1971 - Duncan C. Ramsey III, MD

1971 - Don G. Weempee

1977 - Mary Elizabeth Morgan Whitaker

1983 - Stacey Bown McCool

## **Silver \$250 - \$499**

1960 - Susan Graves Arnold

1962 - Sue Batchelor Beaty

1969 - Stephany Pitt White

## **Century Club**

1954 - Thad Woodruff

1958 - William (Bill) Melton

1958 - Charles D. Ledford

1959 - GraceNuel Willingham Ledford

1960 - Mike Dunn

1960 - Alice Mount Ramsey

1965 - Chilton Thomas Holt

1967 - Danny Wagner



## Mission Statement

We exist to preserve Sunset's place as a significant educational and social place in northern and western Oak Cliff while recognizing achievements through its students, graduates, faculty and staff.

We promote an ongoing interest in Sunset High School as one of Dallas's important institutions and recognize and support the historic significance through its students, graduates and physical facilities.

We exist to ensure a continuing place of public education for the people of Dallas, particularly in northern and western Oak Cliff and an ongoing pride in attendance at Sunset High School to celebrate its place in the growth of Dallas.

We continue to preserve and ensure ongoing academic, social and athletic opportunities while developing funding for scholarships and unique co-curricular activities.



Alumni,

If you are a former Sunset student, that means you are already a member of the Bison team! Your Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit and supported entirely by volunteers.

After covering our newsletter postage and email service costs, your generous donations go back to supporting the students, faculty and school through grants each year. We would not be successful without your continued support. Please visit our 'HOW TO HELP' pages to find out how you can support your Alumni Association!

# Deep heart of in the Texas PANDEMIC



*Written by Staci Levine, Class of 1984*

Hello fellow Bison. I'm writing to you from New York City, my home for the last 23 years, and current pandemic hot spot. If you're watching the news, you're likely seeing horrific images from NY – overrun hospitals, exhausted medical professionals, refrigerated trucks storing the dead, and heartbreaking tales of lost family members, friends, and colleagues. It's more real than you can imagine. As of this writing NYC has seen 12k deaths and 155k infected, however there are likely many, many more infected as testing has been difficult to obtain. I have dear friends who have contracted the virus and recovered at home, some who have had minor symptoms, and some who suffered for weeks. I know others who have been hospitalized and returned home, but others who didn't make it. There are far too many friends of friends and relatives of friends who have perished. Last week a colleague lost both his parents. It's unbelievably heartbreaking.

I had been aware of COVID-19 since mid-January, and by mid-February was armed with hand sanitizer and suspicious of every cough and sweaty brow around me. The infection rate in NYC began to climb steadily, and on Thursday March 12th Broadway shows were shuttered. This was the big red flag that my world was seriously about to change. I'm a theater producer, and my company Groundswell Theatricals creates and manages plays, musicals, and concerts in NYC and on tour. Once I got the news about Broadway, my staff and

I packed up laptops and files from my midtown office, I suggested everyone go buy groceries, go home, and we'd figure out next steps. After packing up, I walked to Whole Foods at Columbus Circle and was shocked to see empty shelves. Then had a 45-minute wait to check out. Signs of things to come.

I've been working from my apartment since then. The following week was a blur of rumors, shopping for essentials, and searching for out-of-stock items like vitamin C, rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper. Everyone assumed some sort of lock down was inevitable, so when word finally came from on March 20th, we were not surprised.

I was in NYC during 9/11 and couldn't imagine then that we would see something more horrific and life changing, but here we are, with a different kind of enemy. It's such a surreal time, with life as we know it at a standstill and completely topsy-turvy. I long for my old normal, but know that I'll adapt to the new one, whatever it is, whenever it happens.

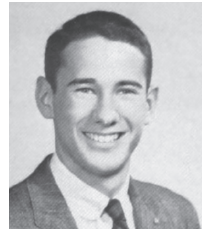
As the unknown becomes the known, and as our cities slowly re-open, I encourage you to be careful, take care of yourself and take this seriously. New Yorkers have seen what I hope is the worst of it all, and I pray that you and your city stay safe and virus-free.

*Due to space limitations, read the full article in our Facebook Group, Sunset Alumni Association*

# volunteer SUNSET



SUNSET ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
VOLUNTEER PROJECT  
by  
Bill Melton, Class of 1958



Considering Sunset's 100th Anniversary is only five years away, 2025, I solicited some Fellow Bison to recruit Volunteers to assist the Sunset Alumni Association to aide its Goal to provide funding to Sunset teachers, coaches and students for supplies, uniforms, trip subsidies and other items not provide by the School.

The objective was to recruit Volunteers who will assist the SAA Board of Directors reach their stated goals and help make the SAA financially stable over the next five years. If successful, the SAA Board can plan and carry out an outstanding 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025.

In February 2020, a group of alumni from various classes met with SAA Past President Doris Murphy and SAA Treasurer Dixie Laney to hear a Presentation, discuss potential use of volunteers and make solicitation commitments.

Most of the Group committed to solicit SAA Volunteers! As of this date, 29 new volunteers have agreed to assist the SAA. Thanks to these Bison Volunteers!

Working under guidance of the SAA Board of Directors, these volunteers will help facilitate the next five years, and beyond, for the SAA. Then, with all Bison working

together, we can Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our beloved Sunset High School in 2025!

However, there is another need! The Sunset Alumni Association needs financial assistance to continue its mission of assisting Sunset teachers, students and school needs so YOUR financial input is imperative now and in the future! The SAA is a 501 © (3) Organization; contributions are tax deductible

Please support YOUR SAA, now and perhaps even budget an amount for each of the next five years. Thank you!

*Due to space limitations, read the full article in our Facebook Group, Sunset Alumni Association*





# ESP

## Equipped to Succeed Program

We mentioned the ESP Program in our last newsletter. The response was very much appreciated! The needs are very much ongoing, so we are bringing this to your attention once again.

A few years ago, Dixie Thomas Laney (66) and Doris L. Murphy (70) established E.S.P. which stands for Equipped to Succeed Program. This was put into place when they found that many of the students didn't have some of the basics to even make it to school. Girls are still missing days because they don't have feminine hygiene products. This is horrible in other countries. Deplorable in Dallas, Texas. Counselors are buying snacks out of their own funds because students simply don't have food at home.

Nora Garcia has established "The Closet". A small utility closet where she accepts donations and students can stop by for items like toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, snacks and even donated clothing. Just think of every product that you use from the time you get up in the morning until you leave your home. We never stop to think how many products we actually use. All of those items are needed by our students on an ongoing basis.

Unfortunately, Sunset has students from very low-income situations and even homelessness. The goal of E.S.P. is to furnish these students with the bare necessities, so they can come to school and succeed.

We are so fortunate that Alumni Association Board of Director Member Ed Hilscher (62) is the Chairman of the Equipped to Succeed Project. He is more than willing to work to help the students. For further information, you can reach Ed at (972) 977-6040.

If you would like to shop online and have items sent to Nora Garcia directly, we suggest shopping at [www.DollarTree.com](http://www.DollarTree.com) or Amazon. These can be sent to:

Nora Garcia – ESP Program  
Sunset High School  
2120 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75208

Please then drop us an email at [SunsetBisons@gmail.com](mailto:SunsetBisons@gmail.com) with a list of what you have donated, and we will furnish a tax receipt.



## CALLING ALL CLASS CONTACTS

Please help us out! We need to make sure that we have all Class Contacts and their current contact information. We would appreciate it if you would contact us at [SunsetBisons@gmail.com](mailto:SunsetBisons@gmail.com) or you can PM Dixie Laney or Doris Murphy on Facebook. Thanks ever so much!!!

## ARE YOU SUNSET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER MATERIAL

**Can only Alumni from the 60s & 70s be Board members?**

No! We have only one Board Member from the 80s (others are from the 60s & 70s) and we would love to have members from the 80s and later!

**Will I be able to actually DO something, not just come to meetings and have my name on the letterhead?** Absolutely!

We want you to tell us what you would be excited about contributing. Such as fund raising, assisting or being Editor of the Newsletter, organizing and running the Mix & Mingles, managing and auction, etc. Just drop us an email at [SunsetBisons@gmail.com](mailto:SunsetBisons@gmail.com).

**I don't live in the Dallas area, could I still be a Board Member?** We require our Board Members to attend the Board Meetings (approximately 5-6 per year). However

many Volunteer opportunities can be done from outside of the DFW area such as fundraising, contacting Alumni, editing the Newsletter, keeping up with Class Contacts, etc.

**Do I have to be a Sunset Alumni to be a Board Member?**

Yes, this is a requirement set forth in the original Bylaws.

**I really don't want to be a Board member and be required to attend meeting, is there anything else I can do?** Yes! We are

open to Volunteers who want to participate in the above mentioned activities. Again, just let us know by email to [SunsetBisons@gmail.com](mailto:SunsetBisons@gmail.com).

Any other question please email us.  
Thank you so much!



# sunset ROBOTICS

Hello all,

In February 2020, Sunset RoboBison competed in the North Texas Regional Championship. Sunset did very well in their qualification matches and moved on to the playoff elimination matches and entered as the 4th seed. Sunset's alliance defeated the top seeded teams and won their entire division to advance to the Championship. Their performance won them the Finalist Alliance medals and Trophy. Also, because of their match performance, Sunset would have competed at the UIL State Championship in March and also earned an invitation to the World Championship to compete against the top robotics teams from all over the World in April. However, due to the travel restrictions of COVID-19, competitions were cancelled.

Thank you for all the support, our students have worked extremely hard the entire school year to make it to this stage. If you see these kids, please give them a congratulations for all their hard work all year. We did it!!!

Thanks,  
Gary Dimanh



Sunset 2020 Robotics Team



## Teacher Spotlight

Introducing Virginia Brenes Barnhill. Coach Barnhill is a PE instructor and Assistant Girls Soccer coach.

Coach Barnhill grew up in Dallas and is a 2000 Sunset graduate! She holds a Bachelors Degree in Kinesiology and Sports Studies and has been teaching for 12 years, ten of those at Sunset. She has been married to Chris for six years and has two daughters, ages 3 and 2.

Virginia says she came back to teach in DISD to show the students that no matter our background we can achieve great things. Her dad came to the US from Costa Rica while her mom was born here. While neither of them graduated from high school, they pushed their children to strive for greatness and to finish high school and go to college.

Coach Barnhill was the girl's softball head coach from 2011-2016 and says making their first play off appearance in a non-Dallas district in 18 years was one of her greatest accomplishments.

In her spare time, she loves to read, play women's soccer and cook!

# Sunset Alumni Association

## Contribution/Contact Info Update

Your annual contributions is 501 (c)(3) Tax Deductible and our only source of funding

Contribution year is January 1st to December 31st

This is a: ☐ New Contribution ☐ Renewal ☐ Current Member Info Update

### Annual Membership Contribution (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership.....\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Level .....\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple Membership.....\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Level .....\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Membership*.....\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Level .....\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount..... \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Level.....\$2500

☐ I do not wish to contribute at this time, but please add my name to the Sunset Alumni database.

Do you want your contribution to go to a specific area, sport, Dance Team, JROTC, Science, Theatre Arts, etc.?

If so, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If both are Sunset Alumni, please complete separate forms

A reminder, many employers will match employee contributions 100% and especially to an educational organization.

Just check with your Human Resources/Personnel Dept.

Donations can also be made using **PayPal** on our website at [www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)

**FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ONLY:** (Check One) Member information ..... SAME ..... CHANGED

Name: First: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden/Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse SHS Grad? ☐ If Yes, Year? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

May we send you Alumni newsletters by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Make checks payable to Sunset Alumni Association **(Please do not send cash)**

Mail completed form to:

Sunset Alumni Association, P O Box 225276, Dallas TX 75222-5276

## In Memoriam

The following are names of Alumni whose deaths have occurred since our last newsletter or of whose deaths we were made aware of since the last newsletter. If the graduation year is not known, it is shown as "est".

If anyone knows of the correct year, please contact the Editor at [newsletter@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:newsletter@sunsetalumni.com).

For a complete list of Departed Bison, please visit our website at [www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)

1941	Leroy Joyce Parramore	1960	Kenneth Wayne McGill
1946	Raymond Rosewin Rowe	1961	Nancy Jo Kelley Dodge
1946	Ty Weldon Frederick	1962	David Lynn Jones
1947	Clifford Max Gorman	1963	Herbert Allen Ruiz
1947	Betty Louise Lang Wade	1966	Carle David Hunt
1954	Jimmy Pat Martin	1969	Thomas Charles Davis
1954	Charles Buddy Callahan	1970	Virginia Joyce Norred Reese
1957	Donna Lynn McCormick McGee	1971	Robert Paul Burgess
1957	Carolyn Bourn Jones Jester	1972	Lawrence Thomas Spring
1958	Steve Zareff	1974	Irene Reyes Garcia Palomino
1959	Jack Donald Redding	1981	Velma Martinez

They will not grow old, as we who are left grow old...

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn...And at the setting of the sun, and in the morning...

We shall remember them.

Our sympathy and caring are extended to the families of these Sunset alumni.



Sunset High School Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 225276  
Dallas, TX 75222-5276  
*Supporting Sunset Students is Our Mission*

**POSTMASTER: RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*All donations are tax deductible!*

**We're on the Web!  
Check us out at  
[www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)**

2020 Vol. 1

## Editorial Policy...

Have an article for the newsletter?

Send it to: [SunsetBisons@gmail.com](mailto:SunsetBisons@gmail.com) We will not publish phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses without permission.

Your continued financial support is needed and appreciated by the Alumni Association, students and faculty.

# MIX AND MINGLE

Sunset Mix and Mingles will be rescheduled  
and updated at a later date.

Please stay tuned for future dates.

## THANK YOU!



The SHSAA wants to give a huge thank you to Methodist Dallas Medical Center along with Laura Motta Mena, PhD, Director, Community and Public Relations. They were kind enough to underwrite two grants for our Advanced Anatomy & Science Department.

Thank you again  
Methodist Dallas Medical Center!!

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**Alumni Website**  
[www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)