



SUMMER 2014

Signals

The Newsletter of the
Signal Hill Education Foundation

Our Mission:

To insure continuing financial support for the Signal Hill School to enhance the strength of the region by providing exceptional opportunities for intellectual discovery for all members of the Signal Hill Community

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Board of Ed. President

SHEF Opens the Curtain by Garen Vartanian, SHEF Board Member

South Pacific preview party well-received

The SHEF-sponsored "South Pacific" Happy Hour Preview Party took place April 26 at The Abbey in Belleville, featuring a sneak-peak of SHS's 49th annual 8th Grade Play production, South Pacific. SHEF member Beth Lenz, who co-chaired the preview party with fellow SHEF/fundraising committee members Jackie McCloskey and Lanna Boyles, called the event "fabulous." "The 8th graders were fantastic," Lenz said. "All attendees enjoyed The Abbey, the food, the entertainment and the company of Signal Hill friends. All were very impressed with the students' performance."

Based on the favorable feedback from the preview of the Class of 2013's "Singing in the Rain" performed at the SHEF 20th Anniversary Gala, the Board decided to create a play preview event. "The first-ever SHEF-sponsored play preview party was a great success," SHS Superintendent Suzette Lambert said.

Overall, 64 attendees watched approximately a dozen 8th graders perform several numbers from South Pacific. The play was held at SHS May 8-9, 2014.

50th Annual Performance of 8th Grade Play forthcoming

In 2015, SHS will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the annual 8th Grade play. The inaugural SHS production, which took place in 1966, was called "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant" as opposed to "Damn Yankees", because the school prevented usage of the word "damn." The play, directed by Alex Urban, replaced Signal Hill's annual pageant.

Pam (Gregory) Meinders had the role of newspaper reporter (2nd lead-female) and said participating in the inaugural production at SHS was special.

"I didn't realize we were going to be a groundbreaking tradition," Meinders said with a laugh. "The play has continued and enriched the tradition at Signal Hill School. It includes the neighborhood. It reaches out to the community."

Diane (Toberman) Murphey had the lead role as Lola and also cherished the entire experience. "It was very exciting to be the first class to do the play," she said. "It was great fun doing it. I really enjoyed it. I think everyone in it enjoyed it. I'm just tickled that it's been able to go on so long."

Stacey Henke, meanwhile, has directed the play since 2011, and is honored and excited to captain the 50th rendition. "Keeping this tradition alive for 50 years is nothing short of amazing," she said. "We have been able to accomplish this only through the continuing support of our administration, faculty, staff and community."

Steve Suess directed the SHS play from 1973-1985 and echoed Henke's enthusiasm.

"Celebrating 50 years of the 8th grade play underscores the uniqueness of the school and the community it serves," he said. For more commentary about the play, please visit : shefinfo.org.



Save the Dates

Saturday, Oct. 4: 2nd annual Bizarre Bazaar (B2) community event at SHS park

Saturday, Nov. 15: Cocktails for a Cause (C4AC), SHEF's annual fundraiser

Thank You by Paul Sforza, SHEF Chairman

A big thank you to retiring board members, Steve Suess and Tom Hunter, for your many years of service to SHEF and commitment to Signal Hill School. On behalf of the SHEF Board, I want to thank each and every one of our donors. Although the list below does not reflect everyone that made a difference to our mission this past year; to those who donated even small amounts through the High Five program, participated in the Bizarre Bazaar, gave time to volunteer at an event or with a mailing, your efforts are very much appreciated. We have a great tradition of giving back; to support the Signal Hill School and the Community it serves. You, our donors and volunteers, give small, give large, give once, or give every time – you make a difference.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Signal Hill Education Foundation, July 2013 through June 2014.

In Honor of Carol Turner	<u>Individuals:</u>	Mark & Stacey Henke	Mr. & Mrs. Otto Roberts
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	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Boyle	Lissa Hollenbeck	Scott & Julie Russell
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	Heather & Branson Burris	Tom & Catherine Hunter	Mark & Kit Schmitz
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