



HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SIR CEDRIC'S CHRONICLES

Summer 2026



Once a Knight, Always a Knight

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Principal's Message



A welcoming entry to the school is provided by colorful banners for each of the HHS Smaller Learning Communities: **Bay Academy, Cusco, Florence Jakarta, Kyoto, Manila, Oaxaca, and Timbuktu.**

When you walk on to Hillsdale's campus, you are now greeted with banners that represent our school's **Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs)** which are small schools inside of Hillsdale that welcome and

support every student. On paper, those SLCs are a great idea, a way to ensure that every student has a home inside of a big school that still provides all of the amazing opportunities of a big school. In reality, the power of those SLCs is reflected in the words of a student in Oaxaca House:

"Moving from Syria and starting over in a completely different country was honestly scary. I didn't know anyone, I didn't know what people would think of me, and I wondered if I would ever feel like I belonged. But from the moment I arrived at Hillsdale, people welcomed me with kindness. No one made me feel like an outsider. Instead, they made me feel like I had always been there."

I especially felt connected to the Oaxaca House. It wasn't just a name to me. It gave me a sense of belonging and school spirit. Even though I wasn't at Hillsdale for years, somehow everyone made me feel like I was part of one big family. That feeling is incredibly rare, and I will always carry it with me. I realized something. People may forget assignments, grades, or tests, but they never forget how someone made them feel. Hillsdale made me feel welcomed, valued, respected, and loved. That is a gift that lasts much longer than any grade on a report card."

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Hillsdale. This is an amazing community.

Jeff Gilbert

Lead Principal

Congratulations to the 2026 Alumni Scholarship Recipients!



Sophia Flores
Rich Mazzoncini
Scholarship
Louisiana State Univ.



Sayli Acosta Navarrete
Homer Zugelder
Scholarship
San Jose State Univ.



Kritika Sharma
Keith & Cecile Gordon
Scholarship
UC Santa Cruz

The alumni scholarships were established in conjunction with the Olde Knights' Luncheon - now the AlumnKnight Brunch - and are made possible by the generosity of alumni at the event. The \$2,000 awards honor **Rich Mazzoncini**, who coached varsity baseball and football and served as dean for 26 years; **Homer Zugelder**, one of the founders of the luncheon, who taught at HHS for 34 years as a teacher, counselor and basketball coach; and **Keith and Cecile Gordon**. Keith taught Industrial Arts at HHS for 32 years, served as department chair, coached tennis and was a founder and the soul of the Olde Knights' Luncheon. [Donations](#) to the scholarship fund are welcome year round.

Sophia is heading to Louisiana State University as a Kinesiology major, Sayli will attend San Jose State University for dual studies in Psychology and Art and Kritika will study Technology and Information Management at U.C. Santa Cruz.

News Briefs

Save the Date - 30th Anniversary of AlumnKnight Brunccheon!

We'll be celebrating the special 30th Anniversary of this annual event, previously the Olde Knights' Luncheon, on **Saturday, December 5, 2026**. Open to all HHS alumni! Look for registration information later this summer.

New Look for Alumni Communications

Welcome to the first **Sir Cedric's Chronicles** produced using our new newsletter platform. This upgrade offers us more flexibility in production and a better viewing experience on various devices for our alumni. We've also refreshed the [alumni website](#), updated the HHSAA logos and launched an [Instagram account](#) with a post announcing the first **HHS Young Alumni Week** to take place during Thanksgiving weekend. Thanks to the [Hillsdale High School Foundation's Amy Michael](#) (Executive Director and HHS parent) and **Rhonda Wilmurt** (Financial and Operations Consultant and HHS parent) for their expertise and support throughout the project; alum and current HHS parent **Jason Garvey (HHS '96)** for website consulting; and HHS parent **Catherine Immanuel** for the updated logos!

Want to join our **Communications Team**? We'd love to have your input - especially more recent grads - to help tell our stories with fresh and relevant content. If interested, please [contact us](#).

Corner Sign Update

Groundbreaking took place in May for the new landscaping and sign at the 31st Avenue and Alameda corner of the Hillsdale campus. Construction is slated for the coming months on the additional landscaping and 21' wide solar lit sign. Thanks to the many alumni contributors to the project who supplemented school district funding. [Click here](#) to see the architect's schematic drawing of the new sign.



HHS Young Alumni Week

Thanksgiving Week 2026

Mark Your Calendar and Follow
[@hillsdalehsalumni](#) for updates!

Monday:
Young Alumni Panel

Alumni ↔ Students

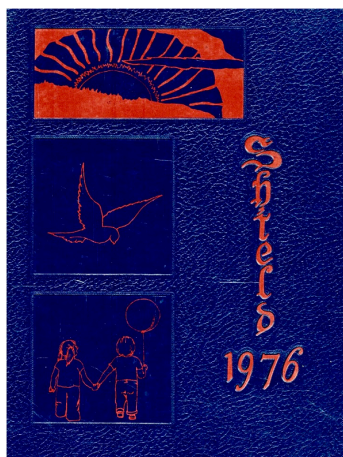
Tuesday:
Alumni and Teacher Meet Up

Alumni ↔ Teachers

Wednesday:
Alumni Basketball Games

Alumni ↔ Alumni

Reunion News



HHS Class of 1976 50th Reunion

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Park James Hotel

[1400 El Camino Real, Menlo Park](#)

For more information about plans for the 50th reunion weekend, contact the organizers at hillsdaleclassof76@gmail.com



Calling all HHS Class of 1987 graduates!

We've had some inquiries from your classmates about a **40th class reunion**.

If this is in the works, please [contact us](#).
The Alumni Association can provide support for your reunion planning and help spread the word.



The HHS classes of '65 and '66 recently combined their 60th reunion celebrations. Pictured above is the hard working 1965 planning committee: **Rob Giorgi, Rosanne Pero, DJ Sekany, Genel Morgan, Kathy Giorgi, Dale Aman, Walt Gmelch, Sandra Leply and Lin Metz.** Not pictured: **Frank Dibbell, Don Hermansen and Joyce Maxwell-Raney.**

Coming soon...Digitized Hillsdale Yearbooks

We're excited to share that we have scanned the entire 70-year archive of Hillsdale yearbooks, preserving decades of memories, milestones, and Knight pride for generations to come. We're working on enabling online access to the digital copies for HHS alumni, along with the ability to order reprints of your favorite yearbooks. Looking ahead, we will also use this incredible historical record to connect alumni with the activities, clubs, and teams they were part of while students at Hillsdale, providing updates from today's coaches, advisors, and teachers on what's happening with your favorite Hillsdale programs. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months.

Celebrating 50 Years of HHS Boys Soccer



Players from the inaugural 1976 boys soccer squads and Coach **Guy Oling (HHS' 69)** celebrated the 50th anniversary of the program with a recognition during halftime at the HHS vs. Sequoia match in January. Back in 1976, Coach Oling managed both the varsity and frosh-soph teams. According to **Scott Ludwig (HHS '76)**, an original team member and one of the organizers of the event, Hillsdale's perennially strong soccer program today - NorCal title game in 2025 - consists of five teams, including three boys teams, two girls teams and five coaches!

Ludwig relates that back in 1976, "Hillsdale was the last school in the district to have a soccer team and a large group of students petitioned the school administration to start one. Everything fell into place and within a few short weeks we hired a coach, were added to the schedule, goals were welded together out of 4" pipe, and we were competing with varsity and frosh-soph teams." Oling, a longtime San Mateo

Union High School District teacher, coach and official came of age in San Mateo long before the AYSO soccer craze, but learned the game from family in England. He played soccer at the collegiate level for Humboldt State and professionally for the Oakland Buccaneers and the Oakland Stompers.

Alumni Spotlight

Hannah Doyle, Champion Speed Puzzler



When was the last time you completed a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle? Was it a project left out on the dining room table for the family to leisurely work on during the holidays? How about accomplishing this task in 40 minutes or less? That is the amazing feat of **Hannah Doyle (HHS '17)** an electrical engineering PhD student at U.C. Berkeley. Hannah grew up working puzzles with her family, but it was an online speed puzzling contest on Youtube a couple of years ago that really piqued her interest. Within a year she was finishing second in the California state competition, live streaming puzzles on Twitch, and gearing up for USA Nationals and Worlds. In addition to competing as an individual, Hannah also competes with her all-female team, Girls in STEM, with the P standing for Puzzling. Her most recent speed puzzling accomplishment was a second place finish in the 2026 USA Jigsaw Nationals individual competition. Next up is the Portland Jigsaw Masters in Portland, Oregon in August where she will return as the defending champion!

During Hannah's Hillsdale years, her favorite teacher was **Chris Stallings**, who taught freshman year Biology and AP Biology and whose positive encouragement meant a lot to her. She also played volleyball all four years at Hillsdale, which is where she met some of her closest friends.

Mall Memories

In our last newsletter, we asked you to share your memories of the Hillsdale Mall. The shopping center as we've known it will soon be a thing of the past, with a large-scale office-residential-retail project on the horizon. We're sharing some of your stories here—please keep them coming!

The music store Buckeys was a great hangout. The owner was friendly and as long as you bought a record you could cram as many friends as you could into a listening booth and play a variety of records. 45's were current then but my older brother Wayne (class of '57) still has some 78's he bought there. We would get the weekly top 40 song lists there, some of which I still have. Both of my older brothers and I remember the mall being built. We lived on Hillsdale Blvd.

Christine Meyer Kingsland (HHS '65)

My earliest memories are pre-Mall while it was being built. On the construction site there were huge stacks of light-weight boxes that we climbed up into and made passageways and forts. The size of all this seemed overwhelming but, because it was easy to move things around, we had a lot of fun. Given the quantity and lightness of the boxes, I now realize it was insulation of some kind. Yet another ill advised youthful venture.

Bill Brigham (HHS '60)

I have many unique and special memories of the Hillsdale Mall. In the early 1950's, my Mom started working as a receptionist/switchboard operator for the David D. Bohannon Organization (developers of the Hillsdale Mall) when they were located on San Mateo Drive. When the mall opened in 1954, their offices relocated to 60 31st Avenue, above the Farmer's Market and Walgreens. I was born in 1961 and literally spent my first days in that mall. Eventually, we moved to the Hillsdale Garden Apartments in 1969. Living a short distance from the mall, I spent countless hours there – including daily visits to see my Mom at work. My Mom worked for Bohannon for just short of 50 years.

My first job at the mall was at Doktor Pet Center cleaning the pet cages. I was around 15 years old. In my junior year at Hillsdale High School, I got a part-time job as a stockboy at Macy's. In my senior year, I moved to full-time status as a salesperson as I had enough credits to only have to go to school in the morning. Then, in March 1981, I followed in my Mom's footsteps and was hired at the Bohannon Organization. Initially, I did odd jobs around the office and then worked in the mall enclosure construction office as a Construction Assistant. As part of the job, I took daily progress photos of all aspects of the construction to enclose the mall from its previous open-air status. During my two years working for the Bohannon Organization, I worked with Adele Springsteen. Yes, Bruce's Mom. She was so fun to work with. A few times, she provided my friend **Marshall Fish** (another HHS Class of '79 alum) and I tickets to his concerts. One time, she took us backstage to meet Bruce in his dressing room. He was such a nice and friendly guy. In the mid-1980's, I worked at Edwards Luggage and Gifts.

Fast forward to 1993, my wife and I had our wedding gift registration at the Emporium. In 2004, we relocated from Belmont to El Dorado County, and I only make it back to the Bay Area for Giants games - with an occasional stop at the Hillsdale Mall. When I learned that most of the mall will be torn down and redeveloped, it broke my heart. Much of my life has been spent in that mall.

Mark Almer (HHS '79)

KFRG BIG 30					
ISSUE NO. 1 - - - PREVIEWED MAY 25TH, 1966					
This Week	Last Week	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL	Weeks On Big 30
1	5	PAINT IT, BLACK	ROLLING STONES	LONDON	3
2	1	WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN	PENNY SLEDGE	ATLANTIC	6
3	16	DON'T BRING ME DOWN	AMMALS	MSM	3
4	3	EVER HAVE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND	LOVIN' SPOONFUL	KAMA SUTRA	4
5	11	I AM A ROCK	SIMON/DARFUNKEL	COLUMBIA	5
6	8	IT'S A MAN'S MAN'S WORLD	JAMES BROWN	KING	4
7	7	ROADRUNNER	JH. WALKER	SOL	6
8	2	MONDAY, MONDAY	MAMA/PAPA	DUNHILL	7
9	9	SOLITARY MAN	NEIL DIAMOND	BANG	5
10	4	LITTLE GIRL	SYNDICATE OF SOUND	BELL	6
11	23	STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT	FRANK SINATRA	REPRISE	2
12	12	BAREFOOT	ROBERT PARKER	NOLA	6
13	14	EIGHT MILES HIGH	DYKE	COLUMBIA	6
14	19	HEY JOE	LEAVES	MSM	4
15	18	SWEET TALKIN' GUY	CHIFFONS	LAURE	3
16	17	LOVE IS LIKE AN ITCHING	SUPREMACIES	MOTOWN	4
17	15	MESSAGE TO MICHAEL	DIANE WARWICK	SCEPTER	4
18	8	RAINY DAY WOMEN	BOB DYLAN	COLUMBIA	7
19	28	ALONE COMES MAY	ASSOCIATION	VALLANT	2
20	27	OMIG 17	FOUR SEASONS	PHILIPS	2
21	14	COOL, JEAN	CAPTIVALS	KAREN	2
22	98	YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME	DUSTY SPRINGFIELD	PHILIPS	1
23	26	IT'S OVER	JAMIE RODGERS	DUT	3
24	10	SWAMP OF THINGS	YAKHOVICH	EPIC	6
25	98	ON HOW HAPPY	SHADES OF BLUE	IMPACT	1
26	13	GROOVY KIND OF LOVE	MINOEMBERS	FORTANA	6
27	30	HOLD ON 'TIL COME	SAM/DAVE	STAX	3
28	98	RED RUBBER BALL	CYWALE	COLUMBIA	1
29	98	YOUNGER GIRL	HONDELLS	MCDURRY	1
30	4	GLORIA	THEM	PANNEY	1

*Comeback! 1 - - - No. 4, KFRG Parade of Hits All Time Top 300

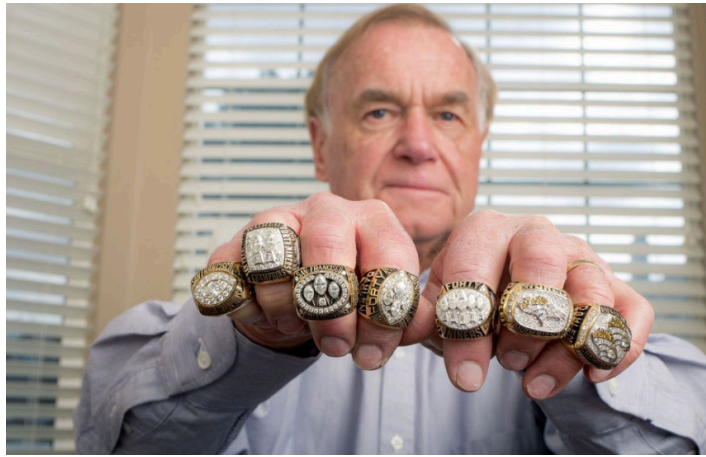


Left: Radio station KFRC's top 30 records for May 1966, similar to the top music lists from Buckeys that papered **Christine Meyer Kingsland's** bedroom walls during her teen years. **Right:** An architectural rendering of the reimagined Hillsdale Mall development with the corner of 31st Avenue and El Camino Real in the foreground, looking south.

In Memorium

Neal Dahlen

1940 - 2026



During Neal Dahlen's 18-year career at Hillsdale (1964-1982), he taught PE and coached baseball and football teams who won many MPL championships in the '70s and '80s, including the **1981 undefeated CCS championship football team**. Both Neal and the '81 team were inducted into the HHS Hall of Fame in 2019. Neal worked in player personnel and football operations for the San Francisco 49ers from 1979-1996, then served as Director of Player Personnel and General Manager with the Denver Broncos between 1996-2003. Neal was unique among NFL players, coaches and administrators, having earned seven Super Bowl championship rings, the second most in NFL history.

Alumni Trivia Question

The Flea Game, the annual Hillsdale vs. Aragon football game began in 1962 and is one of the County's oldest high school football rivalries. The name derives from the fact that both schools are located on Alameda de las Pulgas, which translates to Avenue of the Fleas. Who holds the series advantage? How many wins has each team had and have there been any ties? Send answers to alumni@hillsdalehsfoundation.org

Here are the results from last edition's trivia question:

Construction of Hillsdale High School began in September 1953 and first opened to students in 1955 with an enrollment of 650 students. Can you guess what the total estimated cost of the building project was? Closest guess wins!

Hats off to **Marjorie Ross (HHS '59)** who was closest with her \$2,870,000 guess, but school records show that the actual figure was \$10,450,000.

Lessons from the Meadow Heights Playground

Did you attend elementary school in San Mateo? If so, you likely have memories of playing foursquare, tetherball or jumping rope on the playgrounds at Knolls, Laurel, Beresford, George Hall or Meadow Heights schools. **Mike Nagler (HHS '67)** recently wrote a perceptive and memorable guest essay for the San Mateo Daily Journal about his recollections of early life lessons learned during Meadow Heights recesses that are relatable to all generations of Hillsdale grads. Mike, a Burlingame resident, taught in the humanities department at Canada College and served on the Burlingame Library Board. [Click here](#) to read his essay.

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Hillsdale High School Alumni Association

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