

Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central High School
at Bushy Park, London England from
1952 to 1962



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Gary Schroeder (55), Founding Editor (1936-2016)
Bill Rumble, Co-Editor email: BushyTales1@verizon.net
Pat Terpening (58) Owen, Co-Founder and Co-Editor email: nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net
Visit the Bushy Park Website at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



**1953 – Mariann (Walton)
McCornack (d. 2022)**



**1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote
betsycote@Atlanticbb.net**

1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)



**1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com**



**1957 – William Douglas
rwmDouglas@gmail.com**



**1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net**



**1959 – John "Mike" Hall
MGHall446@gmail.com**



**1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr@frontiernet.net**



**1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net**



**1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
Dona.Ritchie@att.net**

A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.



**Classmates Who
Have Transferred to
the Eternal Duty
Station**



**Mariann Walton (53) McCornack
March 11, 1936 – March 28, 2022**

Dear Bill and Pat,

My mother, Mariann, passed on 3/28/2022. She is/was your class representative for the class of 53. I know that some of her classmates are still alive and following the Bushy Tales. Please let the Bushy Park community know that she has passed.

David Hoffman

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Mariann McCornack (nee Walton), a resident of Sterling Heights and formerly of Warren and Southfield, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family on Monday, March 28, 2022. She was 86 years old. Mariann fought a courageous battle and has now won victory with her Lord and Savior.

Mariann was born on March 11, 1936, in Columbus, Ohio to Raymond W. and Lora E. (nee Gilbert) Walton. Being from a military family, Mariann spent her childhood years traveling across the United States and the world, from Biloxi, Mississippi, to Hot Springs, Arkansas, Japan, and England. Mariann volunteered to serve as the class representative after graduating from Bushy Park Central High School in London; starting a common theme in her life of always being involved in every organization she loved. Mariann enrolled in Cheltenham Ladies' College to begin her college studies. After one year of college, her family moved back to Ohio where she enrolled at the Ohio State University and graduated with a degree in education. She was a proud member of the Delta Zeta Sorority at OSU and continued to support them for the rest of her life. While in college, Mariann met and married her first husband, David W. Hoffman on August 1, 1959, at First Community Church in Upper Arlington, Ohio. After moving with her husband to Boston so he could attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she taught elementary school for a time. She also attended Boston University where she obtained her Master's Degree in speech and hearing. Moving back to Michigan, Mariann began a long career with Dearborn Public Schools as a speech pathologist. She then attended Wayne State University where she earned her Plus 30. After separating from her first husband, Mariann met and later married Rev. Gene McCornack; the couple was united in marriage on April 15, 1979.

With her husband Gene, Mariann participated in countless organizations over the years, including helping to organize both Macomb County Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Metropolitan Christian Council: Detroit-Windsor, and Meals on Wheels

Macomb County. Outside of her work and activities in numerous organizations, Mariann loved butterflies, enjoyed knitting, crocheting, church functions, jigsaw puzzles, bowling, cooking, traveling across the country and around the world, and hosting many international students over the years. Mariann also participated in a pulpit exchange with Gene with a church in Musselburgh, Scotland for three months. Together with Gene, she helped host and produce the PBS program Daedal Doors for many years. Mariann and Gene also loved to play pinochle; playing three games a night and teaching everyone they knew how to play. They also kept the score of every game they played since they met. Throughout her entire life, there was nothing that Mariann couldn't take on or accomplish. Her selfless acts undoubtedly touched many lives in a positive way throughout her entire life. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Mariann is survived by her loving children David and Wesley Hoffman, James (Karen) McCornack, Robert (Marjorie) McCornack, Steven McCornack, and "adopted" daughter Vrinda (Kumar) Narayana; cherished grandchildren Jerimy (Kristy), Lindsey (Ed), Laura (Andy) and "adopted" grandchildren Varsha and Dhruvid; dear great-grandchildren Mia, Noah, Owen, Hunter, Ashlynn, Xavier, Brooklyn and Sloan; and former husband David Hoffman. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Mariann was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gene and brother Robert Walton.

A Memorial Service will be held at Hope United Church of Christ 35127 Garfield Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48035 on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 12pm. A memorial gathering will take place at the church beginning at 11 am. Immediately following the Memorial Service, a luncheon will be held at the Infinity Hall, 16650 E. 14 Mile Road (and Utica Road), Fraser, MI 48026. RSVP for Lunch to Hope UCC by Thursday, June 2, 2022: (586) 296-8760. A private interment was held at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mariann McCornack to: (1) Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVC), 25650 Kelly Road Roseville, MI 48066; or (2) Macomb County [Habitat for Humanity](#), 25 N. Main St., Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Share memories with the family at faulmannwalsh.com

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**Robert Chandonnet (56)
1938 – March 12, 2022**



Robert "Bob" Chandonnet of Franklin, NH died at his home on March 12, 2022, at the age of 84.

Born in Lowell, MA, the son of Leonce and Rosemarie Chandonnet. Bob was a 26-year veteran of the United States Air Force.

Bob enjoyed telling stories from his travels around the world, making his famous crepes, and watching NASCAR on Sunday's. He loved a hearty mashed potato sandwich with leftovers and popping his favorite candy, peanut M&Ms.

Family members include his wife of 55 years, Rose Marie (St. Pierre) Chandonnet of Franklin, 2 sons, Paul Chandonnet, Marc Chandonnet and wife Nicole, and Bob's only, but "favorite" as he would say, granddaughter Kirsten. He was predeceased by his son, William Chandonnet who died in 1986.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, March 25, 2022, at St. Paul Church, School St., Franklin, NH.

Memorial donations may be made in Bob's name to breathenh.org who focuses on critical issues related to lung health.

Thibault-Neun Funeral Home in Franklin is assisting with arrangements. For directions and an online guestbook please visit www.neunfuneralhomes.com

Published by Thibault-Neun Funeral Home on Mar. 14, 2022.

Memories of Bushy Park

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at BushyPark.org Among the things you can see at this website is a “Guestbook”, in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007.

Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)



From: Sean Kelly (78)

Bill & Pat -

Thank you. FB is where I keep in touch with 2,000 Bobcats from across the years, but not many from the original home of the Bobcats. It's been five years since I launched an annual 'LCHS International Bobcats Day' - celebrating the school and the bases on which it was located. Here's the announcement for this late May. It will coincide with a time-capsule ceremony for the last home of London Central - at High Wycombe Air Station. See below:

5th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LCHS BOBCAT DAY TO COINCIDE WITH HWAS 'PINETREE TO PINE TREES EVENT' AT THE END OF MAY

Take 5! Five years that is. It was 5 years ago that the International CHS/LCHS Bobcats Day was launched - to celebrate our old school and its three 'home bases' - and to raise awareness of all things Bobcat.

This year we are really going to town - we're going hold the celebration for four days from **Thursday, 26 May (18:00 hours GMT) to Sunday, May 29**. Not only that, this year we're going back to the last home of LCHS at what was High Wycombe Air Station - as part of a very special event.

International Bobcat Day was originally launched because, even though Bobcats might be 'geographically separated' and might have attended across six decades, we could ensure the continuation of 'spread the Bobcat word' with pride — not just about Central High School (as it was originally known before it became London Central High School) and not just about us as Bobcats, but to remind people that some of the small bases we know and love played a key role in US and, indeed, world history!

So, even if you didn't go to LCHS, but you were on High Wycombe Air Station, Bushey Hall or the original Bobcat home at Bushy Park, or you were a 'Steggy' at West Ruislip Elementary School or at Eastcote Elementary, or any of the London area bases (West Ruislip, Eastcote, South Ruislip or US Navy HQ) - celebrate those memories and places with pride by telling the story of your old school or base - to family, friends and anyone who will listen. If you can - wear something from the old alma matter or base and keep a look out in case you, by chance, see someone doing likewise. Hey, stranger things have happened!

At that time to help launch the first annual event, Bobcats Sharon Sekula, Rob O'Connor and I gathered at the former site of High Wycombe Air Station - the final home of LCHS. (See picture.)

The 5th Anniversary event will coincide with a very special on-site event - *Pinetree to Pine Trees* - a major event to be attended by the Mayor of High Wycombe - to mark the history of the HWAS location and to celebrate the new civilian, 500-home community that now occupies the site of the former base. We are expecting to see a few

Bobcats (a number of whom are in the UK and one or two who are coming from the US) there to take part in the Friday events, including road and park dedications and a time capsule burial (and, if they can, a pub gathering the night before).

So please rustle up the mementos, stories, the ephemera, and the garb and get out there and make others aware. Also take the opportunity to get a picture of you and tell us where you are! Those of us who make it back to High Wycombe will be doing likewise!

Again - this is your chance to don some LCHS clothing (and no, my old letter jacket still doesn't fit me five years on!) get a picture- wherever you are - and post it. Take some time to also to tell your friends/communities/kids the story of CHS/LCHS and the three bases at which the school was located over the decades, as well as West Ruislip, Eastcote, South Ruislip and the US Navy HQ in London, etc.

If you can't make it to High Wycombe, it's also a chance to have a mini reunion somewhere. Maybe - (it's always my eternal hope!) - that two Bobcats are able to spot LCHS gear and 'cross paths' randomly on the day. Or call your local radio station and see if they can do a shout-out for anybody who was at any of those bases!

I always recognise that not everybody had a great time at LCHS, and that life moves on, but for most Bobcats - it was an amazing and an amazingly different experience in their lives (our youth) and really seen as something unique. So, it's your chance to revel in that!

Three years ago, there were 1,679 members of the London Central High School and West Ruislip Elementary School FB site. Two years go (2020) there are over 2,036 members. Today there are 2,159, I believe, on this one site and several hundred on the other FB sites out there.

Back then I thought there might be a 'Bobcat universe' of some 7,000 'kids' out there who went to LCHS over the years... maybe more. Some are on FB, but 'low key'. Some of us know Bobcats who want to stay that way. But maybe - and as I always ask - take a moment to connect up and let them know this by phone, or letter, or smoke signal! You might let them know that the last home of our formal school will be the location for a ceremony to mark the swords to ploughshares transition of this former base.

If you are interested in coming to the Pinetree to Pine Trees event, please do email first for a spot (SEE EMAIL BELOW)! There are several events going on, including a gathering at a pub in Flackwell Heath (next door to the old base) on Thursday, 26 May in the evening. The main time capsule ceremony, road dedication, and community building dedication on Friday afternoon with the Mayor of High Wycombe. All these events have big LCHS connections.

To make arrangements to come, or for further information, please email in the first instance:

hwpinetreeevent@gmail.com Send us:

Your Name:

The years you were at LCHS or HWAS:

Designation: (Student or Base Personnel)

If base personnel - where you worked/what rank:

Graduating year or years there:

Where you live now (by country only):

So, there you have it. I'll be there and I hope to see as many of you there as possible - and if not - to see that you are 'going to town' with LCHS/HWAS/Bushey Hall/Bushy Park and London/England in your thoughts and your posted pictures.

Happy 5th!

Below: the LCHS logo, the "Pinetree to Pine Trees" event logo and a picture from 2008 of Rob O'Connor (LCHS '73), Sharon Kozlek Sekula ('87) and Sean Kelly ('78) when last we three met and kicked off the First Annual LCHS International Bobcats Day!





From: Sean Carr (58) McMahon

Pat, I was very sad to read of the passing of Joey Miranda. He was a good friend to my sister and me when we first arrived in England. We lived in Kettering and went to an English Catholic school run by an order of German nuns (Ursulines) and were thrilled to meet Joey. The three of us went to see Love Me Tender starring the newest heartthrob, Elvis Presley and I'm sure we swooned!

I also had a pleasant surprise phone call from a "boy" I had a crush on my sophomore year at Bushy Park. It was Frank Siebert. We had lunch and talked for hours, and it was really nice. He lives in Castle Rock, Colorado and is still a great storyteller. He has never married, so if anyone is looking for a new friend, let me know!

Sean Lou (Carr) McMahon, Class of 58

Unfortunately, we returned to USA right after my junior year and I graduated from Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Class of 58

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From: Betsy (Schley) Slepetz (61)

I have actually found some classmates from my time at Bushy. Most of us have managed to have a mini reunion and stay in touch. Speedy Thomas, Mary Pace, Hazel Crews, Judy Ketchu (one of my best friend's now), Ray Millar, Vinetta Ashmore and Bill Ballinger. Several flew into DC about 6 years ago and we bonded at my house. Our fathers were all stationed in Norway, and we would fly back and forth on C47s with metal bucket seats and no heat. Those were the days.

I live in Woodbridge Virginia and have been married to Steve since 1965. I still work part-time for a law firm. It keeps my brain active and it's enjoyable. I babysit my darling grand dog, Captain Bentley every day and we are crazy about each other. That's all for now. 🐕

Betsy (Schley) Slepetz (61)

Letters to the Editor



Hi Bill - We want to thank you for the nice acknowledgement of Ellen Nolan (55) Smith's untimely passing. I looked through pictures, but the only things I have are some postcards from Sue Ann (Johnson?) during her travels through Europe and some pictures she took on the way to England. Since there is writing on the reverse of the postcards, I would not want to have them printed without Sue Ann's permission. Also, there was a high school photo that Ellen intended to send years ago to someone named Lura. Ellen had found this person at Bushy Park and had intended to write her, but just didn't get around to it. She had a broken wrist at the time.

In the event anyone wants to contact me regarding Ellen, feel free to give them my personal email address (mikes0823@gmail.com). I would enjoy hearing from them.

Again, many thanks. Ellen would have loved what you did in her behalf.

Mike Smith

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob Harrold (60) has been operating the BushyPark.org website for several years. It was originally created by Wanda DeVary (60). Bob is now considering how the website might continue when he is unable to do so, at some point in the future. He is in good health today, but as we all know this can change at any time.

Bob has written to me to ask if anyone in our readers group might have an interest and capability to do so. Bob is willing to provide to said person(s) copies of the website contents that can be practiced with offline to get the hang of how it operates.

The goal is to maintain and operate this website in the same manner and format as it has been, free of any advertising, political dialogue, etc. It is completely independent of the "Bushy Tales" newsletter, but it addresses the same audience, classes 1953 -1962.

Some details from Bob of what and how he now does it:

I'm thinking that if I were to "not be around", so to speak, as happened with previous folks who kept up the web pages ... do you think we should have a backup person to manage the pages (in case I drop over ...hopefully, none too soon.)?

I pay for the domain name of BushyPark.org via Network Solutions domain registry service. I pay it in 5-year increments, in advance.

Also, the web pages are stored on, and the web site fed from, a server in my house. It is backed up and remotely maintained by a friend, George Seymour. He and I are registered with Network Solutions to manage the domain name. The entire web site could, at some point, be copied over files wise, and be available to someone as a restorable backup onto another physical server somewhere. I think Google has reasonable rates to host entire domain websites, if someone were to take over keeping the web site alive, were I out of the picture ...so to speak. (yuck!)

It's something that I never imagined I'd be thinking seriously about; however, we're not spring chickens anymore.

At the very least, a couple of other of us RAF Bushy Park folks should have a copy (which I can put on to a memory stick) plus copy to others, the phone numbers to call to as to whomever is the contact point for the web site domain registration (bushypark.org), which is myself Robert Harrold and a server tech friend of mine, George Seymour (currently living in California.)

I can make a complete backup of the website, a snapshot at any given time, and send it for safe keeping, access to, practice with, etc., as some of us agree to do. It is not a rush, by any means ...I HOPE!

Anyone who is interested in doing this, please contact me, Bob Harrold, at my email address rharrold@harrold.org

Bob Harrold (60)

Editors' Note: To date no one has indicated any interest in doing this. Is there not one of you who would be interested in maintaining the life of the bushypark.org website in the untimely incapacitation or passing of our good friend and fellow Bushy Park attendee, Bob Harrold (60)?

--FINIS--