Helping others: Teacher Mimi Russell cheers on students behind bars

She helps inmates at Allen County Jail and Allen County Work Release Center get their GED diploma.

By Kayleen Reusser
nsfeatures@news-sentinel.com

“If a student passes the GED while in prison, he could get a six-month reduction in sentencing,” says Russell.

When an inmate from the Allen County jail applies to become a student in the courses, he or she is first accepted into the program by the jail chaplain, then tested to measure proficiency in basic subjects like reading, writing and arithmetic. From the individualized computerized evaluation, Russell has an idea of each student’s strengths and weaknesses.

Many of Russell’s students lack basic math skills, so she teaches lessons on fractions, algebraic functions, geometry and percentages. For language, she begins...
Meet Eric Fields –
North Side High School Class of 2011

Positive tradition again lifts its head as we introduce future North Side graduate and current layout artist for The Totem Tales, Eric Fields. Eric is the latest in a continuing string of high-quality current students who, through their studies in Information Technology at the Anthis Career Center, use the Totem Tales as a real-world project. The quality of Eric’s work was evident in the last edition of the newsletter as we had a myriad of pictures to incorporate into all the content.

Eric comes to Fort Wayne from Kalamazoo, Michigan. His family relocated to southern Allen County in 2004 where Eric entered the 6th grade at Hoagland Elementary School. He ended up at Heritage JR/SR High School, but moved into the Fort Wayne Community Schools district and began attending North Side in the 10th grade.

Not to be negative about Heritage, but Eric thinks North Side is truly a great place to be. He has nothing but good things to say about all staff he has met and he thinks the atmosphere provides a great place to learn. Since he has been at North Side, Eric has decided to pursue a medical career. Having an innate desire to help people, even to the point of saving lives, he is seriously considering becoming a registered nurse and is just now starting the process to make that a reality. Working with Eric on Totem Tales this year affirms his “people-friendly/helping mentality” and makes this alum pleased and proud to see the high quality of young people still coming through the North Side doors. Thanks Eric, for all your hard work on our behalf.

Editor’s Notes

By: Ron Flickinger ‘62

This edition of The Totem Tales is a bit larger than those in the past. Introducing the board members with more than just a name and a picture took up a lot of room, but I hope the readers are as fascinated at the backgrounds and the memories shared by those folks. I am sorry that I didn’t get Helen Grimes and Barbara (Bedwell) McKee’s information and Carl Geist’s picture by deadline—will make sure those are included next time.

Principal Chuck DeFord shared an interesting handout at the last board meeting that I thought readers might find interesting—“North Side High School Facts at a Glance”.

Also want to give a big THANKS to Monica (Yant) Kinney ’89 for her story and pictures of the 1989 reunion. Would LOVE to have other reunions give us a written and pictorial report of their time together.
**2010 REUNIONS**

1945 ~ 65th
Date - September 11, 2010
Where - Pine Valley CC
Carol (Havens) Rose (260) 483-8046
Email: wayne31beer@aol.com

1955 ~ 55th
Date - August 20 & 21, 2010
Where - Goeglein's
N. Eugene (Gene) Evans (260) 485-0147
E-mail: nshs1955@gmail.com

1960 ~ 50th
Date - August 14, 2010
Where - Grand Wayne
Janet Vandervort Orr (260)485-2471
E-mail: omrskii@yahoo.com

1965 ~ 45th
Date - July 23, 2010
Where - Ceruti's Summit Park - 6pm
Jackie V. Rice (260) 433-2818
E-mail: JackieVRicel1@aol.com

1970 ~ 40th
Date - Fall 2010
Pam White Helfrich (260) 489-2877
E-mail: northsideshs1970@aol.com

1980 ~ 30th
Date - July 31, 2010
Where - Memorial Coliseum
Jane Rich (260) 557-9706
E-mail: jane.rich61@gmail.com

1985 ~ 25th
Date - August 14, 2010
Where - Parkview Field - 7pm
Kelly Harris (260) 459-1103
E-mail: kellyharris38@hotmail.com

1990 ~ 20th
Date - August 7, 2010
Heather (Alwine) Eracleous (260) 483-0073
Email: halawine@hotmail.com

1995 ~ 15th
Jennifer (Shipley) Ottenweller (260) 312-9526
E-mail: jottenscheller@yahoo.com

2011 REUNIONS
1956 ~ 55th
Do we want to have one??
Ron Kirkpatrick ropakirk@verizon.net

1961 ~ 50th
Date – Tentative Aug/Sept 2011
Keith Hanson (260) 402-7826
E-mail: khansonfw@aol.com

1986 ~ 25th
Date – June 25, 2011
Kristine Monteney Brown (706) 817-3969
E-mail: fitnesswist@hotmail.com

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**In Memoriam**

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<th>Graduated</th>
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Mimi Russell Continued

with punctuation, then moves on to sentence structure and how to develop a five-paragraph essay, another part of the GED requirements.

Typically, Russell's students only stay at the jail for a short time before being transferred to prison; some remain a year or longer. Students who have not yet completed Russell's courses may take their work with them, along with a copy of the test results.

One of the biggest challenges Russell's students face in achieving sufficient test scores is their inability to read. Unfortunately, Russell cannot address that problem.

“I've only got two hours to teach the courses,” says Russell. “I can give them books to help them learn sight words. But I can't teach them to read during that time.”

The Allen County Jail doesn't have a literacy program.

Russell doesn't speak Spanish, but she encourages those students to also use picture books to learn English to complete the GED courses.

“I don't turn anyone away,” she says. “If a person wants to learn, I'm happy to teach them.”

Thus far, 70 students from Russell's classes have earned their GED. Those who accomplish this can then take college classes and learn a trade.

While a few students have failed to complete the GED program, Russell says most students want to persevere.

“I think they enjoy our classes because they are quiet,” says Russell. “The TV is always on in the blocks. Here, the students are in a place where it is quiet so they can think.”

Russell has spent all of her teaching career in the Fort Wayne area, beginning in 1972 when she taught at Croninger Elementary school. She later taught at Weisser Park Elementary magnet school and an alternative-learning school for four years.

She also worked for General Motors in their adult-education department, assisting employees and their spouses in earning a GED and also teaching English as a Second Language.

Within a few months of retiring from Fort Wayne Community Schools in 2003, Russell was asked by her GM supervisor to teach GED courses at the jail.

“I had already worked with students who had been expelled from school so it was thought I might be a good choice to teach those from a similar background,” says Russell.

She accepted the offer and began in October 2003. When offered the additional opportunity to teach at the Allen County Work Release Center in 2004, she accepted that position, too.

Although Russell does minimal paper grading — students grade their own lessons with answers found in the backs of their test booklets — she still has to prepare for each day's lessons.

“I try to plan according to each student's needs,” she says. “It is a lot of work, but I really enjoy it.”

Russell's salary is paid by the sheriff’s department commissary fund. Jail Chaplain Dick Sievers oversees Russell’s program as part of the educational programs in the facility. Supplies for her classes, including test booklets (staples are removed), pencils and paper, are provided by Fort Wayne Community Schools. Russell’s students are not allowed to use textbooks because they could be used as a weapon.

Felons convicted of murder have attended her classes, but Russell says she has never felt threatened.

“I don’t have a guard in the room with me and don’t anticipate having to get one soon,” she says. “I think the students behave because they are happy to be out of the (cell) block for a while.”

She also has learned her teaching affects more than academics.

“I have to encourage them to keep trying,” says Russell. “They need a cheerleader. They think they can’t do it, but they can. We build it little by little. Then they realize, oh, yes, they can do it.”

Introducing the North Side High School Alumni Online Community!

Take a minute now to visit the all-new North Side High School Alumni Online Community - which is hosted by Harris Connect, a trusted partner of the North Side HS Alumni Association. The North Side Online Community is exclusively for North Side High School alumni -- and find out what your classmates have been up to since you left. We're sure you're in for a few surprises!

While you're there, first verify your information, then begin a search the alumni directory to take a quick trip down memory lane by locating some or all of your classmates. Start to build your own network of friends, then watch it grow through the addition of "friends of friends" and "friends of friends of friends". You can even send out evites to your friends for your next party or personal event!

Check out what people are saying on the Reunion Boards or post a message of your own. Post a Class Note about your engagement or marriage, birth or adoption, career or educational accomplishments - or anything you feel like sharing - or just take a peek at what your classmates have been doing with their lives. There's even a special Yellow Pages section to promote your own business or support one of your friends -- and a Career Center to help you get your career in gear!

Getting started is easy. Initially an email notice was sent to those that we had addresses for with our announcement of the launch of the Online Community. If you did not receive, simply go to the North Side High School Alumni Community and follow the simple instructions on the screen to register. There is a small annual fee to Harris Connect to access the total menu of services. And then get ready to join a virtual reunion like no other!

We're excited to bring you this great new benefit and look forward to your connecting with us!
Meet the 2009-10 Board of Directors

The North Side Alumni Association has been, and is currently led by a hardy group of local volunteers. As we continue to highlight graduates in the Totem Tales, it is sometimes easy to miss the forest because of all the trees and so it has been with our leadership. Totem Tales felt it was about time to highlight those folks who sacrificially give of their time, treasure and talents for the benefit of North Side High School. There are 17 alums who are serving this year and we have 15 of them in this edition. We will include the other two, Helen Grimes and Barbara (Bedwell) McKee in our next edition. A Big THANKS for all the work you do for the North Side Alumni Association.

Phyllis (Baker) Sheldon, ’44. . . . . . . Finance Committee Chair

After graduation from North Side High School in 1944, I received my College Education from Indiana University with a major in Finance and a minor in accounting. I was employed by Fort Wayne National Bank eventually retiring in 1994 as “Assistant Vice-President-Branch Administration Operation Officer. I was also a member of the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber if Commerce for eight years and served four of those years as chairman of the Education Committee. As a member of that committee, I worked with the Fort Wayne Community Schools to create and develop a curriculum for Bank Teller Education at the Anthis Career Center. I wrote a manual to accompany that class. What does North Side School mean to me? I am grateful for the type of educational teachings and challenges that it provided me to continue achieving a higher education. This is why I am so interested in the Alumni Association and have been a member for 10 years of which I have been Chairman of the Finance Committee for 7 of those years.

Ruth (Waggoner) Chambers, ’48 . . . . . Grants Committee

After graduation in 1948, I attended IU and graduated with a degree in Social Work. I was employed by the county government until my marriage to Bob. When our two children attended North Side, Bob and I served as co-presidents of the North Side PTSA and I became a member of the North Side Alumni Mothers later serving as its president. This group helped North Side students in various financial ways during the school year and at the end of they year any remaining funds were given for scholarships. The North Side Alumni Association and its activities keeps us in touch with North Side High School and provides us with a way to unite with other alums in fellowship and in purpose of doing various things to help our school. As I think back to my time as a student at North Side, I particularly remember our “school spirit”—how we got together for pep sessions and athletic events. I also remember signing “Get Acquainted Cards”, caring teachers, and of course, dear friends made.

Keith Hanson, ’61. . . . . . . . . Membership/Marketing Committees

I started my business, Custom Art Screen Printing, Inc. as a part-time shop in 1962 and in May celebrated 48 years in a business that has grown to 17,000 sq. ft. and 14 employees who serve customers in 48 states. My brother Ray, my son Brian, and my daughter Teresa are running the day-to-day as I enjoy my semi-retirement in the company of my significant other Linda Garfield.

The North Side Alumni Association’s support of North Side students through scholarships and grants makes all the meetings worthwhile in this great organization. The support for reunion committees is great and I love reading Totem Tales. I wish we could triple our membership and have it come out monthly!

My rich memories of my days at North include: after-game dances, eating Johnny’s grilled cheese and fries, and some of the really cool cars some of us drooled over. The most compelling memory though is the TB Poster contest I entered as a senior—took 2nd in the state. 1st place received an art scholarship and 2nd place won the right to start their business early!
Ronald Bryan, ’65..............................(Scholarship Committee)

I was a middle school science teacher and coach for six years in Zionsville, Indiana. I returned to Fort Wayne and worked at LS Ayres & Co. until my retirement in 2006. I now work part time as a Radon Inspector for a home inspection company. I have two children and three grandchildren. North Side remains an outstanding high school with excellent administrators and teaching staff. It is a pleasure to be a part of the Scholarship Committee, which helps award thousands of dollars each year to deserving students to help further their education. I remember being part of the largest graduating class that necessitated three shifts of classes. I also have memories of the 1965 basketball team as state champion runner ups, the post game dances, The Count Five Band, The Gobi Desert Camel Riders, the original Wildsiders Dance Band, being a River Rat and the day JFK was shot.

Ron Kirkpatrick, ’59.........................(President/Interim Treasurer)

I spent nearly 40 years of service as an executive in the banking and manufacturing industries. Also served in leadership and consulting positions for various trade and non-profit organizations and was a contributing author for a textbook on credit department management. On a personal note, I have been married for 52 years and have three children. To date, my three children have presented me with 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Being active in the North Side Alumni association has both a personal and an intrinsic benefit. First, I find great pleasure in reconnecting with high school friends and the valued North Side traditions. But also, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a resource which contributes to the advancement of the school district, its students and staff both now an in the future. All North Side grads should consider some form of formal connection to this association. The value of my education at North Side High School has lasted a lifetime. I also have fond memories of the teaching staff whose influence helped shape my future. And last, but not at all least, the social interaction of the school’s extra-curricular activities elicits strong and positive memories.

Sue (Poplett) Owen, ’58.........(Membership/Marketing & Reunions)

After graduation from North Side, I attended Wittenberg University for two years and then completed my B.S. degree in Home Economics at Indiana University in Bloomington. I then obtained an M.S. degree at St. Francis College. I married C. James Owen in 1962, managed married student housing at the University of Notre Dame while my husband was working on advanced degrees, returned to Fort Wayne and taught at Elmhurst High School for 28 years. My husband’s work as a professor of public administration took us on extended stays in Poland, Thailand, and The Netherlands. We have two children, Sarah and Andrew (who works for Fort Wayne Community Schools). I have been a member of Fort Wayne Sister Cities International for 16 years and worked with the selection and trip preparation for the Koshimae exchange students before their departure to Takaoka, Japan. North Side participates in this program and also has a sister school in Takaoka called Koryo High School. The loyal donors to the North Side Alumni Association scholarship fund enables us to help deserving students in their quest for further education. Other activities such as participation in academic competitions and out-of-school experiences, conferences, etc. are aided by our alumni benefactors. Keep it coming! As she continues to do, North Side High School offered me the opportunity for an excellent foundation in readiness for further education and life. I enjoyed and appreciated not only the faculty, but also the many friendships that have lasted a lifetime. “She’s the pride of every student.”
Ron Flickinger, '62..................(Editor, Totem Tales & Scholarship Chair)

I fell in love with my Spanish teacher as a senior at North Side and based on that went to Western Michigan University to become a high school Spanish teacher. Bad rationale and not enough to motivate me as I really didn’t like school so I quit and joined the army spending two great years in France jumping out of airplanes. Came home, met and married a “real” person, moved to Montana and earned a teaching degree. Came back to Fort Wayne and taught in the Fort Wayne Community Schools for 38 years. The North Side Alumni Association is good; but not great. It is a sleeping giant that has the potential to impact a high school in ways that are hard to fathom. It is my dream that instead of the hundreds currently involved, there will be thousands involved and North Side students will reap benefits found in no other school in America. As I think back on my time at North Side as a student, I have vivid memories of Mr. Bickel’s freshman algebra class—still remember the thrill of unlocking the secrets of variables and equalities; Mr. Lempke instilled in me a love of Spanish music that continues today; I am passing on my fascination with Roman and Greek mythology to my grandkids thanks to Mrs. Bowen’s Latin class; and last, but certainly not least, I am writing this, and editing the Totem Tales, thanks to the passionate teaching of Miss. Donna Gulliom’s sophomore English class. What a devastating loss to future students to have had her taken away so suddenly in an automobile accident.

Carl Geist, ‘64..............................(Grants Committee)

I have worked at the same place for over 40 years and have been very busy working and taking care of family. I have been blessed with a great family consisting of wife Bonnie; two children, Karla and Brian (both North Side graduates); and grandchildren Darren who is 14, Kara who is 11, Damian who is 4 & Colbie who is 16 months old. I have been a long-time member of the North Side Alumni board of directors because I believe the association brings real value to the current operation of the school. The NSAA helps teachers and students to be able to do things maybe they ordinarily wouldn’t be able to do with money that would normally not be there. I have positive memories of my time at North Side as a student as I realize that North Side has helped me with the skills that I have taken with me to my job as well as some of the skills of being able to assist and be a part of the alumni association.

Del Proctor, ’58.........................(Scholarship Committee)

I left the joyous experiences of North Side to receive further education at Indiana University. After graduating with a degree in Theatre Education, I was hired to teach for the Fort Wayne Community Schools. My career began at Central High School and then transferred to Northrop when it opened. I retired 2002 after 39 years of service. I have also taught Junior Theatre at the Interlochen Center for the Arts for the past 45 years as a team with my wife Ruth. My two children live in New York City and Indianapolis where their most important task is to care for my two grandchildren.

The Alumni Board has the important task of supporting current North Side students through grants and scholarships. We have a growing membership that needs to continue to grow so we can support more causes; and students in the important work of education. My participation on the Scholarship committee is an important way for me to give back to the school that has helped mold my career in education.

My most important memory of North Side was the influence of Mr. James A. Purkhiser whose personality and support caused me to select Theatre Education as a career. He was always there to lend a hand of support and encouragement in my high school years and even after as I had the privilege of doing my student-teaching at North Side under his guidance. Of course the plays, Varsity Varieties and my stage crew friends were also very important memories during those high school years.
R. Linda (Meyer) Garfield, ’66..........................(Marketing/Alumni Wear Committees)

I worked for many years as the administrative assistant to the CEO/President of the Auburn Foundry, Inc. but am now retired. Although raised in Indiana, I have lived in Rhode Island, Michigan, and Florida but returned to Indiana in 2007 to be with my significant other, Keith Hanson. I am widowed and have two children and five grandchildren and love traveling. The North Side Alumni Association shows students, through its scholarship program, that continuing ones education has it benefits.

The most vivid memory of my time at North was walking through the senior door in 1966 and realizing that I had just completed one milestone in my life and because of that the future could be anything that I made it.

Darlene (Giessler) Yarnell, ’72..............................(Secretary)

I was one of the people affected by the desegregation of schools in Fort Wayne in 1971. I was moved to Northrop High School at the beginning of my senior year and it was a beautiful, new building and a nice experience, but I have always been a REDSKIN in my heart! I attended the LPN program offered by the Fort Wayne Community Schools and worked at St. Joe Hospital in pediatrics. Was married to Larry, a Central Catholic guy in 1975 and then worked for Dr. David Steigmeyer and Dr. Wade Adams. I attended IPFW and graduated in 1981 with an RN degree and have been a school nurse for FWCS for 23 years (5 of those at North Side). I am currently the nurse at Northrop High School and have taught anatomy at Ivy Tech and am a certified trainer for the personality theory of Enneagram. Larry and I, along with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, own Anthony Wayne Vending and Higher Grounds Coffee Shoppe-Midtowne. We were also proud owners of The Green Frog in the 1980’s. The North Side Alumni Association is an amazing organization. I think it has great potential to do more than it already does. The scholarship opportunities for students are a rare offering in a high school setting. Also, the opportunity to stay connected and receive information through a central location is phenomenal—especially at reunion time. If you know an alum who hasn’t joined, encourage them to do so as the more we have, the more we can do!

I am still very tightly connected to many classmates and continue to be amazed at how many people are Redskins in Fort Wayne and how many have such fond memories of NSHS. The proud NS heritage is nurtured and documented for the future through this association. What a wonderful gift to give to the kids!!

Robin (Fish) Holley, ’73..............................(Membership/Marketing)

After high school, I attended IU Bloomington, Ivy Tech State College, IPFW and the University of St. Francis, but also did a lot of traveling. For the last 19 years I have been married to Mike Holley (A South Side Grad) and have worked and volunteered in the non-profit world including Headwaters Park, the YMCA, The Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation, and for the last six years the United Way. Of course, I can now add the North Side Alumni Association to my list! I have two wonderful stepsons, Brian and Zach as well as a Golden Doodle named Sophie. As a great advocate for helping people, I believe the North Side High School Alumni Association’s mission of supporting students with scholarships is a strong step in moving students forward on their path to graduation and pursuing further education. I know as a student looking at college expenses any support that was given was greatly appreciated. My memories of North Side are dominated by the friendships I made--Some of those friends are still close friends today. I won’t name them, but you know who you are.
Jeffrey Graft, ’99............Membership/marketing committee

After graduating from North Side, I attended various colleges in Fort Wayne until I received a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Indiana Tech in 2006. I have worked for Allen County Government since 2002, and with the Allen Circuit Court since 2003 as a Court Administrative Assistant.

In today’s world, a person needs a college education of some sort in order to even get an interview for most jobs. The Alumni Association helps offset some of that cost (which is great) for many prospective post-secondary students.

Attending North Side High School was one of the best times of my life. The caring teachers, staff, and friends I met helped transform and make me into the person I am today. I will always look back with appreciation on this time that helped to guide me through the formitive years of my life.

Sharon (Michell) Ledo ’66............................(Scholarship Committee)

I graduated from Indiana-Purdue Universities (now IPFW) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish. I married Pedro Ledo that year and also began my teaching career with FWCS. Pedro and I started our family in 1975 and I was a stay-at-home mom for ten years. We have three children: Elizabeth who is a professional actress in Chicago; Pedro III (a.k.a. “Rocky”), who with his lovely wife Kristina has fathered our two beloved grandchildren and who works with his father; and Ben who live in Indianapolis and works for Angie’s List. I have been teaching at North Side since 1990. North Side is an exciting place to teach because we have such a wonderfully diverse student body. It’s not a secret that it is also a challenge to work at a school that is now an urban school and whose student body is so different from the one that was here when I was a student in the 60’s, but that’s what keeps it interesting. I’m so proud of this school and its fine staff. We work very hard at making a difference in the lives of our students. I have many fond memories of NSHS, especially the friends I had the fun of being in A Capella Choir and Troubadours. I always look forward to the chance to reconnect with many of those high school friends whenever we have a class reunion.

Laura (Ely) Colpitts, ’71...........(Membership/Marketing Committees)

The summer after graduation I worked as a nurse’s aide in a nursing home where the RN’s encouraged me to pursue a career in nursing. After marrying at age 19 and then completing a nursing degree at IUPU-FW, I worked in the Operating Room at St. Joe, the Labor and Delivery Room at Parkview, and for the last 22 years at Women’s Health Advantage. My two children are both North Side graduates, Carrie ’94 teaches high school English in Chicago and Matt ’95 is completing his BA at IPFW this year. The Alumni Association, by supporting the efforts of current students and faculty to further their education by providing scholarships, grants, equipment, etc., also promotes my belief that education is the single most important key to a better life for all of us. There is such a rich history at NSHS of people helping people. The Alumni mission is just a continuation of that. Current students look to us, as well as to their teachers and administrators for guidance and assistance in setting and achieving their goals and dreams. I remember that my classmates watched the war in Viet Nam on the news every night—many served and some died. Love and Woodstock prevailed. We cheered and supported our Redskin teams and cruised Fort Wayne in ‘muscle cars’. Some of us still sing the school song at parties (you know who you are!!!). I really wonder what happened to Joan Fiegel’s bright yellow ’68 Camero convertible—those were really good times!!
Webster says that a friend is “one attached to another by affection or esteem”. That definition can be applied to five members of the class of 1972 as this writer observed one of their regular get-togethers in January of 2010–38 years after their high school graduation. The affection and esteem was not only obvious, but also so natural and sincere that one could actually see the “attachment” between these five ladies.

One would be hard pressed to find a more diverse group of people, yet according to the group, it is that diversity that helps bond the relationships. Little Queenie (also known in the group as “Boom-Boom”) would be Helen Grimes, whose exuberance and enthusiasm would be enough to supply several groups, but is ably assisted by the other “gregarious” (their word, not mine) member “Bethey” who would be Beth (Fremion) Wolf. Not sure if the group “blames” or “credits” Boom-Boom and Bethey for some of the more memorable events in their long history together. You might ask them about her bicycle down the sidewalk and said to her: “You know I have a daughter about your age. You should meet her”. And the group started with Beth and Bev becoming friends in the neighborhood. At Forest Park Elementary School, they met up with Cheri and Helen and all four took their friendship over to Lakeside Junior High School where they met Darlene.

Their entry into North Side came at a tumultuous time in Fort Wayne Community Schools’ history. Central High School was closing, Northrop High School was being built, and a massive busing program for racial integration was initiated. This transition in Fort Wayne public education had a massive impact on the students at North Side High School. The anger, fear, and frustration on the part of several groups of students caught up in this transition caused some tense times; yet it was in that tension where many bonds of friendship were made and it was in that tension where the atmosphere and building ethos that was mentioned earlier rose up and incorporated the new demographics at North Side--so that today, those tensions are but a distant, and not very important, memory. This group, even Darlene who was forced to go to Northrop for her senior year because of the transition, has nothing but good things to say about the staff, the atmosphere, and the value of the time spend at North Side High School. They said the North Side experience was like the fertilizer that nourished the seed of their friendship.

Last summer they celebrated the 50th anniversary of this friendship at Helen Grimes recently purchased “new” home. Helen bought the home in which she grew up--on Alabama Avenue, and

Left to Right: “Queenie” Helen Grimes and the Four Skins: Beth (Fremion) Wolf, Cheri (Burd) Strong, Darlene (Giessler) Yarnelle, and Bev (Christman) Jardine.

By Ron Flickinger ’62

“A North Side Friendship Still going Strong”

“Little Queenie & the four Skins”--
as a gift to each in the group, she took a picture of the houses where they grew up and gave them as gifts--an example of appreciating the past to celebrate the present in order to enrich the future. It will be interesting to see what they do on the 100th anniversary!

Why has this group lasted so long? The group gives several reasons: “We don’t see each other all the time, so we NEVER grate on each other--just see each other regularly enough to continue to enrich the group dynamics.” “There is an appreciation by all of us that deep, enduring friendship is not something that happens every day; therefore, we appreciate and savor what we have.” “We waste no time in evaluating each other as we accept each other for who we are, not what we think each should be.” “This is almost like an extended family relationship, and like families, it becomes self-enriching. As time goes on, a family situation changes, and that seems to bond the group even more.”

Marriages, births, deaths, and divorces are a part of the American way of life and this group has not been exempt from any of that; yet, they have stood together through thick and thin for over 50 years. I put the following in my notes as I observed this group at Beth’s house on this occasion: “The joy--the excitement of this meeting is almost like a family that hasn’t seen each other for years--they are truly happy to see each other tonight.”

What a good model for us all as well as a bright and shining example of the impact a good American high school can have on the lives of its students.

The Winds of Change are A-blowin’ at North Side High School

Many of our Alumni members live and work in the Fort Wayne area and have seen North Side in the news these past few months. Although often the news gives a bit of a negative slant on current conditions, the changes facing North Side are not at all negative in nature--they are simply changes and as we all know, change is very difficult for most of us.

North Side High School, like all the Fort Wayne Community Schools, is in a needed transition stage of life. The culture that North Side has served for over 80 years has changed dramatically over that time and North Side, like many schools, has been slow to adjust to those changes. For a variety of reasons, those changes are now going to happen rather quickly.

I have been the principal of North Side for 6 years and they have been fabulous years for me. I have loved working with the staff, the students, and the wonderful neighborhood that North Side serves. It continues to be a unique urban school thanks in part to the rich history of success with students that is evidenced by you, the first high school Alumni Association in Indiana. Your continued support of the school via student scholarships and teacher/student grants helps to make this school the envy of other high schools and continues to support a solid foundation for future student success.

However, several social changes have demonstrated that those processes that worked for North Side students in the 1950’s and 60’s, and even into the 70’s don’t seem to work as well and things need to “turn around”.

And North Side, due to its annual test scores, has been identified as a “Turn-around” school. Fort Wayne Community Schools agrees with the U.S. Department of Education philosophy that despite demographics, all students can find success in school; but new and different approaches need to be used and to get that done, new people may need to be put into place. Contrary to rumors, it is not true that there have been mass layoffs/
Redskin Ramblings

1930’s

Phyllis Nieman Coomer
‘34 Woodburn, IN
I am surprised I am still here and in good health. Still living alone and liking it.

Richard Larson
‘38 Kihei, HI
Celebrated my 90th birthday with daughter Lynne from Portola Valley, CA, daughter Anne from Longmont, CO, granddaughter Piper from Los Angeles, CA, and cake baker Kara from Colorado Springs, CO. We had a ball!

1940’s

Betty Ramp Coombs
‘40 Bellevue, OH
I am now living at the Willows. It is an assisted living place in Bellevue, OH. It is real nice and you get good care. Hope it will be a Happy New Year for everyone.

Thomas Seaney
‘43 Cherry Hill, NJ
All 3 children and 4 grandchildren have jobs. Only great-grandson (3 yrs old) not working. This is a major accomplishment in these troubled times.

Mary Louise Wagner Lehman
‘45 Fort Wayne, IN
I am mentoring a ‘distressed’ family from our church. It has been very rewarding.

Betty J. Eisenhut Abel
‘46 Tekonsha, MI
I am 81 and still kickin’. Proud of my high school.

1950’s

Shirley Poinsett Slater
‘50 Fort Wayne, IN
Just celebrated 35 years of costuming for the Boar’s Head and Yule Log celebrations at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne.

1960’s

James Roehm
‘68 N. Kingstown, RI
I think it’s great that our public high school has this alumni association. Thanks to all who keep it running. I urge all sixth-sighters to join!

1970’s

Michael Martone
‘73 Tuscaloosa, AL
My new book NOT NORMAL ILLINOIS was published in 2009 by Indiana University Press. RACING IN PLACE, a book of essays was a finalist for Indiana Book of the Year.

1990’s

Carmen Garcia Albany
‘96 Fort Wayne, IN

2000’s

Briana Sosenheimer
‘06 Fort Wayne, IN
Senior at Hope College-Holland, MI. A vocal soloist and music and dance major.

1930’s

A. Jean Harnish Ellis
‘48 Fort Wayne, IN
On 12-7-09 our tenth great-grandchild was born in Tennessee. He makes us 2 new ‘greats’ this year. The other one was born 10-12-09. His dad & mom (our granddaughter) are school teachers. Erin teaches in the FW Community Schools and her husband Kevin teaches math at Concordia HS and coaches soccer. Our oldest ‘great’ is 18 and lives in California.

Eleanor L. Harshman Manes
‘49 Fort Wayne, IN
After right knee surgery that went awry in Nov. 2007, I’m now taking therapy to manage full leg brace and still hoping to return to square, round and ballroom dancing with my husband Walter and friends.

1990’s

Suzanne Mungovan Pilgrim
‘52 Georgetown, TX
My husband Stan and I continue to enjoy our winters in Sun City, TX and our summers in Angel Fire, NM.

1940’s

Betty J. Eisenhut Abel
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I am 81 and still kickin’. Proud of my high school.

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1980’s

Thomas Seifert
‘58 New York, NY
Was elected to the Indiana Track & Cross Country Hall of Fame in 1993.

1990’s

Mary Louise Wagner Lehman
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I am mentoring a ‘distressed’ family from our church. It has been very rewarding.

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Senior at Hope College-Holland, MI. A vocal soloist and music and dance major.
Alumni Night at the “By Hey Arena”—February 6, 2010
North Side beats Concordia By 2 Points in a close and exciting game! Hope To See More Alums Next Year!

Bottom Row Right To Left: Linda Shoup, Steve Shoup, (1964) Connie Shoup Cunningham (1971)
Top Row Right To Left: Bill Hogestyn (1969), Sandy Griffin, Suzy Shoup Gardner (1969)

Show your Spirit!
For More Information or to Order either Bricks or Alumni Wear Go to:
(http://www.nsalumni.org) or contact
Cheryl in the Alumni Office at: 260-471-4499.
CLASS OF 1989 - 20 YEAR REUNION

By Monica Yant Kinney '89

The Class of 1989 held its 20th reunion at Goeglein's the Saturday after Thanksgiving, utilizing social media and the Internet to reunite after 10 years with no communication. The event drew 199 attendees (130 of them graduates), including 48 walk-ins. Classmates danced to an all-1980s mix and gasped at a slide show of incriminating photos from their youth. Two former students even brought newborns, not wanting to miss the party; blessedly, the babies slept through most of the festivities.

Though 72 percent of the Class of 1989 still lives in Indiana -- slightly over half residing in Fort Wayne -- graduates came from the far west (California residents Bethany Clough and Tiffany Felger Abrams) and the East coast (New Yorker Amy Jackson and Sheri Poffenberger Brening, now living near Washington D.C.). Unfortunately, Steve Hwang’s determined attempts to travel from Asia were thwarted by overseas work demands. Maybe next time?

The reunion’s success belies its humble origins. When organizers Michelle Hake Clark, Bethany Harrison, Seth Sheridan and Monica Yant Kinney took on the task, they discovered a class account of just $400 and a decade-old address book. Using Facebook (visit our group, “Class of 89 Reunion”) and Internet databases, they located home addresses for nearly all 439 classmates and email addresses for one-third. (If we missed anyone, please contact us at nshs1989@gmail.com.)

In a sign of the times, the entire reunion was planned via email: The committee members didn’t talk until days before the event. In other electronic and eco-friendly developments, 42 percent of graduates saved money by paying via PayPal and 100 percent received paperless tickets.

Teacher Mike Morris kindly gave interested graduates a tour of the renovated school the afternoon before the reunion and stopped by the main event. Susan Boesch also joined us as our guest, delighting former students. Additional thanks go to Andy Pfeiffer, Katie Ronequest Langmeyer and Amy Swihart Thomas for their creative efforts. We couldn’t have done it without you.
The Class Of 1989 Twenty Years Later

Left To Right: Scott Selby, Seth Sheridan, Jeff Mettler, Dan Mawhor, Jason Waggoner

Left To Right: Monica (Yant), John Thong

Left To Right: Jason Krauskopf, Jon Mitchell, Mark Studebaker, Wendy (Bass) Gerardot, Jerry Riggle.

Left To Right: Dawn (Demaree) Conwin, Amy Jackson
**NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

**2009-2010—Facts At A Glance**

**Our Mission, Vision, & Goals**

**NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL MISSION**
North Side High School will prepare students to excel academically and personally to become responsible, respectful, productive citizens, and life long learners.

**NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL VISION**
North Side High School: promoting diversity, community and excellence.

**NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL GOALS**
I: Achieve and Maintain Academic Excellence
II: Engage Parents and the Community
III: Operate with Fiscal Responsibility, Integrity, and Effectiveness

**STAFF**

Our staff includes 162 employees.
10 Administrators
65 Support Staff
87 Teachers

**Leadership**

Superintendent .........................Dr. Wendy Robinson
Chief Academic Officer ....................Mr. Steven Cobb
Chief Financial Officer....................Kathy Friend, CPA
Area Administrator .....D. Faye Williams-Robbins, Esq.
Principal ..................................................Chuck DeFord
Assistant Principal Curriculum..........Eric Augsburger
Assistant Principal Student Services ....Kevin Damerell
Assistant Principal Student Services ...Nancy Stansberry
Assistant Principal Student Services......Dorothy Lovett
Administrative Assistant Student Services...Keith Scott
Guidance Coordinator .....................Matthew Liepold
Guidance Counselor .......................Heather Bartlett
Guidance Counselor .........................Kathleen Bennett
Guidance Counselor .........................Heather Case
Athletic Director ...............................Dale Doerfler

**Board of Trustees**

Mr. Kevin Brown
Mr. Stephen Corona
Mr. Mark GiaQuinta
Ms. Becky Hill
Ms. Pamela Martin-Diaz
Mr. John Peirce
Ms. Mitch Sheppard

**Students**

Our total enrollment for 2009-2010 is 1,657 students.
9th Grade 467
10th Grade 428
11th Grade 319
12th Grade 336
Spec. Ed. 107

Student Demographics (2008-2009)
54% Caucasian
26% Black
9% Hispanic
4% Multi-racial
6% Asian
1% Native American
67% eligible to receive free and reduced priced meals
14 languages spoken

**Contacts**

North Side High School
475 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
(260) 467-2800

Fort Wayne Community Schools
1200 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 467-2000
www.fwcs.k12.in.us
NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL
2009-2010—Facts At A Glance

North Side Operations

18.31 Acres
403,857 Square Foot Building
240 Breakfasts served daily
1,100 Lunches served daily

English Language Learning Support

The English Language Learners (ELL) program serves students who are learning English by providing English language development support in 20 of our schools. More than 1,330 students participate in ELL programs. North Side High School services the English Language Learners (ELL). We provide program services to students who are learning English by providing English language development support. We serve approximately 99 students in our building, with three full-time ELL teachers.

Special Education

FWCS Special Education department services all students living in the district, not just the students enrolled in FWCS. Its goal is to help all students be successful educationally. More than 6,000 students receive services from FWCS Special Education. At North Side we service a variety of special education students in our building. In particular we service Emotionally Disturbed, Learning Disabled, Mild Interventions, Mentally Handicapped, and Moderate.

Enrollment/Graduation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
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</table>

History

In January 1925, a 10 ½ acre plot of land along the St. Joseph River was purchased for $24,700 as the future site of North Side High School. Later that year in September ground was broken and construction began. Classes began in September 1927 with 764 students enrolled. The North Side gym was the home of the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons from 1941 to 1952. This team is now known as the Detroit Pistons. In 1943 the staff and students raised $50,250 to help purchase the Redskins Raider, a pursuit plane used in WWII. In 1972 desegregation began at North Side. In 1974 North Side created a neighborhood Halloween Party to provide safe activities for children and we still host this event. In 1983 Koryo High School in Takaoka, Japan became our sister school. In 1985 we hosted our first Kid’s Surviving Cancer Party and we still host this every year. In 1998 FWCS purchased four properties in anticipation of the future expansion of our school. North Side became an ELL (English Language Learner) school in the fall of 2001. In 2003 the $49 million expansion and renovation began. The renovation brought a new front entrance, cutting-edge technology and 120,000 square feet of additional space preparing North Side for the next century.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

This year we began the implementation of our program in Global Studies and World Languages. We have approximately 34 students enrolled. Emphasis is on an understanding of how the world’s people and institutions are interconnected and how critical global economic, political, technological, environmental and social systems operate interdependently across the world. The Program of Study offers students many opportunities to analyze and evaluate global issues from multiple perspectives. Students and teachers will be prepared to participate in global exchange programs with other countries, and graduates will have multiple options for post-secondary education, work or service in the global system. Development of the program is underway, and it will be fully in place by 2013.
This ‘N That For Alumni

Yearbook Missing
The Alumni Office has a copy of each edition of the “Legend” with the exception of the 1971 edition. If any alum wants to donate a 1971 Legend, the office would be very happy to accept it and put it into the archives. Please send/deliver it to the NS Alumni Office c/o North Side High School, 475 E. State, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

IT Help
The North Side Alumni Association, with the exception of our able office manager, Cheryl Gilliom, is a volunteer organization. All Alumni Boards, from the beginning in 1989 to the present, take pride in the fact that very close to 100% of our funds are channeled back into the faculty, staff, students and programs of North Side High School. We do that because of all the volunteer labor by alums. In that vein, we are in need of some Information Technology (computer) expertise. If you are an alum who has these skills and would like to share your expertise with the alumni office, please contact Cheryl Gilliom at either 471-4499 or via e-mail info@nsalumni.org Thanks in advance!!

Scholarships for North Side Students
Thanks to you all, we are again able to offer 14 scholarships to the class of 2010 including North Side graduating seniors and/or graduating seniors whose parents/grand-parents are members of the Alumni Association. The board appreciates all the donations that come in from both individuals, as well as from whole classes, that supports this annual activity—and we hope it not only continues, but grows as well.

Here are four opportunities to support college scholarships at North Side High School through the Alumni Association:

1. An individual gift of any amount for the general Alumni Scholarship Fund.

2. An individual gift that funds a single $1,000 scholarship that the donor would like to have in his/her name; or in someone else’s name. This can be done on an annual basis and withdrawn at any time by the donor.

3. A $10,000 legacy donation that goes into the investment account through the Fort Wayne Community Foundation which allows the Alumni Association to give a $1,000 scholarship, in the donor’s name, in perpetuity.

4. A Reunion Scholarship. As reunion committees organize, many classes seek donations to fund a $1,000 scholarship the year of their reunion.

5. Collegiate Connection: North Side High School was instrumental in helping develop a “college experience while still in high school” with Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. That program, beginning in 1992 with five North Side Students has grown to include lots of high schools and lots of students. The North Side Alumni Association would like to see if any alums are interested in donating to a fund that would financially support current North Side juniors and seniors who take college classes during their senior year.

The Alumni Association’s goal is to be the conduit between generous alums and deserving students. The Scholarship committee is always open to any method of getting that done. If any alum wants to get involved in supporting scholarships at North Side in a way other than the above, please contact the scholarship chair.

We need you... get involved today!
Waiting their turn at the wheel of a new Impala, seniors Pam Loper and Diane Alterkruse admire the car’s attractive color and style as they watch Jan Eichel carefully back out of the service department at Hefner’s.

Hefner Chevrolet City
500 East State, across from North Side
Service and parts departments
open until 2 a.m. Monday through Friday
24 hour wrecker service

Tom Beaver and John Langas grin wishfully as they inspect the outstanding qualities of a new Toronado at Rice Oldsmobile.
Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination for 2010

Purpose: To Honor a North Side High School alumnus.

Criteria: Each candidate must be a North Side graduate (living or deceased) who has demonstrated personal and/or professional achievement.

Nominations: Nomination forms must be received by the North Side High School Alumni Association by May 1 to be considered for the upcoming school year and award(s) will be presented during homecoming weekend in the fall. Scholarships in the name of award recipient will be presented at the senior awards program the following May.

Selection: The Board of Directors of the North Side Alumni Association will receive, screen, and select the proposed recipients.

Award: The award shall consist of the following:

- A one-time $1,000 scholarship for a member of the NSHS class of 2011 will be given to honor all 2010 recipients.
- An inscribed plaque presented to the recipient
- The recipient’s name, 8x10 photograph, and a brief biographical statement will be placed on permanent display in the school

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Date: ______________________  Your Name: ___________________________________________

Your Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Your Telephone: __________________       Your E-mail:  ___________________________________

I am pleased to nominate:    Name ___________________________________ (maiden name if applicable)
Address: _________________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________________

Of the North Side High School Class of: ________________ (graduation year)
For the North Side High School Distinguished Alumni Award.

My reasons for this nomination are attached.

____________________________________
Signature

Please send this completed form to:
North Side High School Alumni Association
475 East State Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-3321