

**May 2024 GHS Museum Newsletter**  
**Save the Date**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**2024 GHS Museum Opening**  
**10 am to 2 pm**

Join us to relive your Foothiller memories and to create new ones as we celebrate 103 years of Grossmont High School history.

After 5 months of unpacking, rearranging, and squeezing things in, we are ready to reopen our third museum. Beginning in 2007, our amazing journey through 3 museums would not have been possible without the support of generous donors and willing volunteers.

The 2024 Museum was created with the invaluable assistance of our family: Yvonne Baer Vellone, Class of 1975, and her husband Dave and son Matt, nephew Kyle Baer and his wife Kijan, and wonderful volunteer and friend Jerry Botts, Class of 1975.

Their positive attitudes and “can do” attitudes encouraged and supported us when we were discouraged and feeling overwhelmed with boxes and feelings of “we can’t”.

The wall displays are a result of district carpenter Tony Patton “working his magic”, from squeezing the 1920 doors on a wall that was not tall enough to hanging the 1960s-1970s surfboards high over the windows, to installing the 1950 Girls PE Rec Room wooden entrance doors as the doors to our adjacent Instrumental Music display room, and more. Tony never says “I can’t.” He figures out how to do it.

We see “the light at the end of the tunnel” as we continue to arrange displays and determine the placement of our amazing photos.

More Summer Hours 10-2

Saturdays, June 15th, July 24th, August 17th, September 21, and Sunday, September 15th. The parking lot next to the tennis courts will be open.

We are located near the tennis courts on the east side of campus. Email us for a map at [ghsmuseum@guhsd.net](mailto:ghsmuseum@guhsd.net) or call 619-668-6140 with questions.



January 7, 2024 to April 28, 2024

# Photo Collage of our 5 Month Journey



## Our 1920s Doors

Did you know that one of our alumni has a personal connection to the doors? Recently, Susan Thomas Soto, Class of 1979, shared some of her family's history.

"My maternal grandmother, Gertrude Helm, graduated in 1930. I have her class ring and her junior yearbook from 1929. Her older brother, Walter Helm (my great uncle) graduated in 1929. They both knew Walter Barnett, who graduated in 1928.

In the *Foothills Echoes*, May 18, 1979, there's an article I wrote where I interviewed my grandma about her memories of Grossmont.

Gertrude and Walter lived on a small farm on 69th St. with their parents and siblings. Their parents, my great grandparents, were German immigrants.

My great grandfather, Frederick Helm, was a cabinet maker. It was always known that he made the doors for the Old Main, although I don't know specific details. My mom said he worked for a cabinet maker's company in town.

I knew him well. (He died in 1980). Uncle Walt lived in that house on 69th St. until he died in 2002."



1978 *El Recuerdo*



Early March 2024: 1930s, 1920  
Doors, 1940s Showcase



1931 *El Recuerdo*

## Recent Memorabilia Donations

It was a mini reunion when we received the letterman jacket belonging to Kent Abbott, Class of 2019. Kent's jacket has his amazing history on it, shown by its sleeve emblems: 2015 Valley, 2016 and 2018 Hills League Tennis Champion patches and 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 Tennis CIF Championship patches. Kent's jacket is displayed near the tennis racket Kent used in 2016 when he was undefeated (24-0) in Hills League Singles Games.



Connie Baer, Jeff Abbott (Kent's dad wearing Kent's jacket), Heidi Anderberg (Kent's mom), Angela Hedberg (Coach Hedberg's wife) Kent's Coach Paul Hedberg, Coach Wayne Eddington, and Assistant Coach Nick Coppo, and Principal Dan Barnes.

## Upcoming Reunions and Museum and Campus Tours (open to all)

**Class of 1964's 60th Reunion: Friday, September 20, 2024 Catamaran Resort Hotel. Register at [Grossmont64.com](http://Grossmont64.com) or email Ged Bulat at [GHS64@cox.net](mailto:GHS64@cox.net). Saturday, September 21st, meet at the new GHS Museum at 1 for a campus tour and visit.**  
**Class of 1967 75th Birthday Reunion: September 15, 2024, brunch at the Brigantine at 11 and visit to the Grossmont High School Museum at 1 pm. Email [laurnie@durisoe.com](mailto:laurnie@durisoe.com)**  
**Class of 1976 Annual Reunion: Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Singing Hills Golf Club at Sycuan in the Red Tail Bar & Grill. It starts at 1pm. No need to prepay. All classes are invited.**  
**Class of 1984 40th Reunion: Saturday, July 20, 2024, The Handlery Hotel <https://www.reunion-specialists.com/reunion2.php?reunion=961>**

## Our Historic Campus

Walking across campus recently, we were struck by how beautiful the upper quad area has become. Pieces of our history are everywhere: the 1937 Old Gym and cobblestone wall behind the bleachers, the 1920s Eucalyptus Tree of Knowledge, the X sidewalk in the upper quad, the Podocarpus tree adjacent to what most of us knew as the Old Main wing of the original school and more.

New benches appeared recently on campus: at the entrance to the stadium, the Class of 1961 bench, the Class of 1965 bench, and the Joe Gizoni bench, and in the lower quad, the Ballbach bench honoring Charles (Class of 1954) and Jacqueline Mosier Ballbach (Class of 1956) with these words on it, "Respect, Honesty, Love".

The benches are rarely unoccupied at lunch. Email us for more information about becoming a part of our historic campus through a bench or a commemorative tile.



In June 2007, Connie asked GHS principal Theresa Kemper if Lynn and she could create a permanent museum as a "retirement project". We quickly learned that the dream had begun in 1920 with the first teachers at GHS and those who followed them, staff who treasured all that Foothillers had accomplished; they are the ones who preserved so much of our history.

17 years later, we reflect on how much we have learned about GHS and the many wonderful friends we have made along the way.

We hope to see you soon at the 2024 Museum!

Connie and Lynn

Contact us at [ghsmuseum@guhdsd.net](mailto:ghsmuseum@guhdsd.net) or 619-668-6140

Visit us at [foothillermuseum.com](http://foothillermuseum.com)