

# Reunion set for Kingsburg High classes of 1960-1976

On June 18, the Kingsburg High School classes of 1960 through 1976 will gather at the Visalia Convention Center's green-and-gold decorated Exhibit Hall to renew friendships and relive their KHS years at the 2005 Multi-Class Reunion. Although formal invitations have not yet been mailed, indications are that well more than 1,000 graduates, guests, faculty, staff, and trustees will be in attendance.

Plans for this year's event began immediately following the very successful multi-class reunion in May 2000 at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens. That gathering, hosted by the Class of 1970 and chaired by LaDonna English, included the classes of 1964 through 1976 and had more than 900 graduates, faculty, and guests in attendance. Reunion 2005 Chairperson Ellie Quattrin Dodd said that this year's event promises to be even bigger and better. "We have more classes participating this time and the very positive response to the last reunion indicates that those who attended will certainly be returning to this one. We have made a strong, early effort to contact as many classmates as possible so that people can plan their summer vacations and travel schedules around the reunion."

The reunion committee also has attempted to make the event as accommodating as possible. She said that much of the planned format for this year's event is in response to what they learned from the first reunion. "We listened very carefully to those people who attended in 2000. We knew that we needed to find a location that is air-conditioned, that can comfortably handle more than 1,000 guests, has hotel accommodations within walking distance, and is classy enough so that people will want to attend. We think the Visalia Convention Center fulfills all our criteria."

The reunion itself promises to be an evening of fun, food, friends, and nostalgia. Tentative plans for the evening include sign-in and distribution of reunion packets beginning at 4:45 PM on Saturday, June 18. A social time will be held from 5:00 until 7:00 for classmates to renew old friendships and to search for long-lost fellow Vikings. At 7:00, a double-entrée sit-down dinner will be served. Concurrent with dinner, a brief program will be held to acknowledge the participating classes and faculty members in attendance and to honor deceased classmates and teachers. A highlight of this program will be the singing of “The Green and the Gold” led by long-time KHS band director Larry Johnson. Following dinner and the brief program, dancing and reminiscing will be the order of the night until 12:30 AM. Master of Ceremonies and DJ Greg Mancini will provide music from the 60s and 70s.

Reunion treasurer Laurie Bolton said that the event is open to all interested KHS graduates. “The classes of 1960 through 1976 are the ‘official’ reunion classes, but anyone who would like to attend is more than welcome. We want everyone who is still a Viking at heart to feel a part of this evening.” The cost for the reunion is \$48 per person and includes all activities except the no-host bar.

The reunion committee is continuing its search for missing classmates and faculty members. Chairperson Ellie Dodd said that they would like to be able to find as many graduates from each class as possible. She said that they are using every available means to track down missing classmates, but the best source of information has been through friends and family. “We have found many missing graduates simply because someone knows someone’s brother, sister, or cousin,” she said. “We are particularly interested in finding as many faculty and staff members from that era as possible, too.” She urged any

1960 through 1976 graduate who has not been contacted or anyone who knows of a missing graduate or faculty member to get in touch with the committee as soon as possible. “The easiest way to reach us is to go to the reunion’s Web site at [www.vikingvoice.com](http://www.vikingvoice.com) and e-mail your class’s representative. The site also has detailed information about the event, an extensive listing of missing graduates, as well as a great deal of 1960s and 70s KHS photo memorabilia.”

The representatives for each class are:

1960: Glenda Gustafson Oliver

1961: Bev Zendner Pinheiro, Monte Pinheiro, and Jim Vallis

1962: Carol Heller Jacobs and Pat Huckabay Ens

1963: Connie Nelson Lunde, Eileen Gustafson Dodson, and Mona Hallberg

Warren

1964: Sandy Brandon Chavez and Pilo Chavez

1965: Cheryl Martin Mitchell

1966: Connie Paulsen Hodges and Mike Hodges

1967: Carole Dick Baird and Darwin Bruce

1968: Janet Linda Kelly

1969: Caryl Martin Sakaguchi

1970 & Faculty: Laurie Bolton

1971: Vicki Koch Stone

1972: Steve Safarjian, Mary Koch Becker, and Janette Kimoto Wong-Sing

1973: Ellie Quattrin Dodd and Randy Carlson

1974: Paulette Lungren Satterberg and Marjolijn Nieuwenhuijs Fry

1975: Scott Carlson and Marcia Luker Erling

1976: Sheri Stewart Baker and Jeff Bortolussi

KHS graduates who would like to attend the June 18 event but are not members of any of the above classes can sign up with the reunion's treasurer, Laurie Bolton.

Ellie Dodd summarized the reasons for the massive effort made to plan and execute this reunion. "Kingsburg is a very special place and Kingsburg High is certainly a large part of that uniqueness. We have found that those long-distant times at KHS and the people who were there continue to be a very important part of who we are, even today. The reunion is a great way to keep those memories and friendships alive."

Perhaps the most poignant reason for the hard work and effort that goes into an event of this magnitude was summed up when she said, "You don't need to look any further than the list of deceased classmates on the Web site to realize that we may never have an opportunity again to meet and be with some very special fellow Vikings."