

# Elk Grove Citizen ONLINE



## LIFESTYLE

### EGUSD – Super Grads – part 2

Published: Thursday, January 22, 2009 2:53 PM PST

Print Page

Before I continue with stories of some of the Super Grads of our Elk Grove schools, here are a couple of history stories that folks need to know about ... and some of them, I will be writing about in the coming weeks:

Irene B. West, long time teacher and administrator of Elk Grove schools – She was a special guest at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Yes, this is the same Irene West whose name is on an EGUSD elementary school. She and I both came to Elk Grove Elementary as teachers in 1962.



Dan Lawrence as the Citizen's choice as Volunteer of the Year – I have had the opportunity to observe the dedication and hard work that he puts in as president of the Elk Grove Community Foundation, and that is just one of his many community contributions.

The school of the wolves, Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School, had real wolves at the school in December. The students learned a lot about wolves, including their history, and so did I.

It was a pleasure to speak to the Elk Grove Historical Society about the history of Elk Grove schools, and I am particularly impressed with the display that the society created that was entitled the Family Tree of Elk Grove Schools. President Jim Entrican is off to a great start in his leadership of the organization, and even though Anita Peters' history act is a tough one to follow, Jim will do a great job in the next chapter of the society.

Now back to the Super Grads ...

Cantrell Castello and Helen Carr Castello (Elk Grove, Class of 1926) – Both were descendants of long time south Sacramento-Elk Grove families, and their children are also local grads who could all be considered as super grads. Cantrell was Elk Grove Citizen of Year in 1960 for his many contributions in agriculture and business as well as the Chamber of Commerce, Western Festival, Cemetery Board and California Dairy Breeders Association and American Dairy Association, Helen was a long time teacher as well as a community volunteer, and her name is prominently on the Helen Carr Castello Elementary School in East Franklin.

Katherine (Leonard) Albiani (Elk Grove, Class of 1958) – The Albiani family is well known in Elk Grove, and we have Katherine Albiani Middle School too. Kay, as she is known to many, has a long history of community service. She served on the Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Education for 18 years and was president of the California School Boards Association. A trustee of the Los Rios Community College Board for the past decade, she has served statewide with community colleges and been recognized for her work there as well as locally. (Elk Grove HS Hall of Fame, EG Citizen Family of the year in 2006.)

Susan Westerberg Prager (Elk Grove, Class of 1960) – A native of Sloughhouse, Professor Prager continues to have extraordinary and outstanding experiences in the fields of education and law. She was the one of the first female deans of a law school in the U.S. (UCLA School of Law), and she served as president of Occidental College. Last fall she was appointed as the executive director and CEO of the Association of American Law Schools. The Westerberg family owned the Sloughhouse Inn, and they trace their background way back to Catherine Rhoads Sheldon. Percy Westerberg, father of Susan, donated the Sloughhouse Cemetery to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in 1972. This was the first time that the land had been divided since it was part of the Omochumnes Land Grant of the 1840s.

Arlene Hein (Elk Grove, Class of 1952) – I have known Arlene since I first came to Elk Grove, and she has been a key player in the school district ever since unification. In fact, she is the only person still there that goes back to 1959 and the start of the unified district. Growing up in Franklin, Arlene attended the Franklin School and went on to graduate from Elk Grove High. Although she was an outstanding student, her mother was ill, so she could not consider going to college. However, at the age of 17, she took a position as the high

school principal's secretary (Glen Beeman), and the rest is history, for she moved on to EGUSD from there. Arlene Hein Elementary School was named in her honor, and she continues as the secretary to the Board of Education and administrative assistant for Superintendent Steve Ladd.

Bill Cartwright (Elk Grove, Class of 1975) – There is probably no one in this area who has not heard of Bill Cartwright and his legendary basketball career that started here in Elk Grove. James William, known as Bill, attended Franklin Elementary and Joseph Kerr Junior High. It was my pleasure to have both Bill and his wife, Sheri (Johnson) in my seventh grade classes at Joseph Kerr. Bill is a three-time NBA Champion and an All-Star and was coach of the Chicago Bulls. He was recently hired as assistant coach by the Phoenix Suns, leaving the New Jersey Nets where he has been for the past four years. I had the pleasure of seeing Bill on the court during his EGHS career as well as games at the University of San Francisco. One of Bill's teammates at EG was my son, Mike Pinkerton, so the Pinkerton family sat through many, many basketball games. Bill was named to the Elk Grove HS Hall of Fame, but Sherry should be in there too for her many contributions to his career as well as her many other activities.

Next week and in the weeks to follow, you will hear about more of our super grads including two that are in the military: Brigadier General Terry Wolff, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army, and Brigadier General Donald Ralph, the Mobilization Assistant for Global Operations, U.S. Strategic Command. You will also read about Jo Gusman, nationally known education speaker and presenter, whose specialty is effective practices for teaching children who are second language learners, two local leaders who are well known to Elk Grove folks, Marsha Holmes and Gerald Derr, and more of the grads from Elk Grove HS Hall of Fame.

And, here is another super grad that was in last week's Sacramento Bee – Spencer Levin. I know his parents and grandparents, and it is a pleasure to follow this young man's progress in the world of golf. We wish him luck on the PGA golf tour in Hawaii this week.

Continue to send me your nominations and, since I do not have any specific criteria for selection, you can choose your own.

To be continued ...

1. History Happened Here, Book 1-River, Oaks, Gold – \$20
2. History Happened Here, Book 2-Fields, Farms, Schools – \$20
3. Images of America-Elk Grove – \$20
4. We the People, A Story of Internment in America – \$30

Tax is included ... \$3 for shipping 1-2 books. You can purchase all four books for \$70, a savings of \$20. Add \$6 for shipping, and remember that all proceeds go for scholarships. Make your check payable to Laguna Publishers, tell me to whom you want the books signed, and send your order to me at P.O. Box 692, Elk Grove, CA 95759. Call me at 916-685-0606 or 916-205-1267 if you have any questions – or e-mail me at [elizabethpink@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethpink@gmail.com).

Copyright © 2009 - Elk Grove Citizen

[x] Close Window