

High school reunion special donation - Highland Community News: Community

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High school reunions and a shared love of music helped bring about a very special reconnection for Highland resident Barbara Pike and William “Bill” Jones, who after not seeing each other for over 30 years, reunited to attend the 65th San Bernardino High School Class of 1950 reunion together in October 2015 in what proved to be the start of new romance.

Bill, class of 1950, and Barbara, class of 1951, had been friends playing together in the school’s band. Both married their first spouses soon after graduation and for a few years the two couples shared a home as the men joined the Navy and spent much of their time overseas during the Korean War.

After the war their lives took different paths as Bill built a career in technology working for IBM in New York and later Hughes Aircraft in California while Barbara remained in the San Bernardino area and became a teacher.

It was Bill, now a widower, who after being out of contact for over 30 years, decided he’d like to reconnect with his high school friend.

“I had not been to any previous reunion. It’s generally not my sort of thing, but I wanted to get out about a bit more and remembered Barbara,” Bill said. “I asked friends about her and called to invite her to my reunion. We went to her reunion next.”

“We’ve been together ever since,” Bill said. “She’s a wonderful woman. She’s the most focused hard working, compassionate woman. She’s involved with Association of American University Women, Santa Claus Incorporated and the Highland Woman’s Club.”

Barbara brought Bill back to the area and introduced him to the San Bernardino Symphony which soon became one of their favorite activities.

“I especially like hearing the old pieces that I learned and played many years ago,” Barbara said of the symphony.

“It’s good music played by very competent and professional musicians,” Bill added.

Their shared appreciation for the San Bernardino Symphony has led them to donate a 2001 Mercedes SLK 320 Convertible Roadster to be given away in a fundraising drawing.

The car had been bought new for Bill’s late wife, Lillian Jennifer Jones, but soon after receiving it she was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and her driver’s license was revoked. The car received only occasional use, and when Bill mentioned he was planning to sell it Barbara recommended making a donation to the symphony.

The low mileage car, about 35,000 miles according to Bill, is now part of a fundraising opportunity drawing in which the symphony is selling 250 tickets for \$100 each for an opportunity to win the keys, title and car. The drawing will be held once all tickets are sold – the Symphony’s Season Finale Concert May 28 is the targeted drawing date – according to Symphony Executive Director Anne Viricel.

“We hope it makes lots of money and makes more people aware of the symphony and their need,” Barbara said of the drawing.

Tickets have been available for purchase since March 26 and can be obtained at the California Theatre of Performing Arts box office, 198 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino, or by calling (909) 381-5388. Winner is responsible for all applicable taxes, title and transfer fees. Drawing participants must be at least 18 years of age and a legal U.S. citizen.