



November 1, 2023

Fall Greetings MVA Alumni,

Mountain View Academy ended our yearlong centennial celebration following our commencement on June 4, 2023, where we added another 16 alumni! What an honor for MVA to reach this 100-year milestone which was achieved as a result of your support, our esteemed alumni and staff, friends, family and our churches over the past 100 years!

This summer we were able to refurbish the gym floors! A huge THANK YOU to Dan Catalano '78, his classmates, Rusty Fenn & Jayson Tsuchiya for spearheading donations from their fellow classmates to accomplish this vast improvement. Several other MVA alumni participated in the donor match to whom we are forever grateful. You made it happen!

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Alumni weekend taking place on Friday, **April 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will be honoring the classes of 1944, 1949 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 & 2019. Honor class or not, you are all invited to attend! Friday evening vespers begin at 6:30 with a light dinner, followed by traditional vespers at 7:15 P.M. Alumni Sabbath will begin at 9:00 A.M. with registration and a continental breakfast, followed by "MVA Today" and the "Main Session"-a program you won't want to miss! Lunch will be provided afterwards! A short vespers & traditional alumni basketball game against the current MVA Mustang team will take place @7:30 P.M. in the gym.

We invite you to make a heartfelt contribution towards projects that will significantly amplify students' learning and the Academy's landscape aesthetics. Current projects:

Gym Redwood Siding: \$20,000 Chapel Projector & Classroom Smartboards: \$40,000

It truly takes an Alumni Village to make this happen and I am thrilled to have you as part of our community! For those of you who would like to donate to MVA, streamlined donations can be made through our website at: <https://mountain-view-academy.square.site>  
Or simply mail to: Mountain View Academy| 360 S. Shoreline Blvd. | Mountain View, CA 94041

#### **MVA Alumna Highlight**

**Leala Bealer-Suarez** from the class of 1940 turns 102! Please join in on a little birthday fundraiser to honor the lovely Leala. We are asking for donations in the amount of \$102.00 to honor her respective age of 102! (Donations will go towards the gym redwood siding.)

Leala was born Sept 27, 1921, on a dairy farm in Granton, Wisconsin, the fifth of eight children, all of whom are now deceased.

An older brother suffered a severe disability in an auto accident, so their father sold the farm and the family moved to California where some of her aunts had already settled in the Los Gatos area. Their mom and brother went by train, but the rest of the kids and their dad drove their car and camped along the way. They sold Wisconsin maple syrup and popcorn to finance the trip. She turned 16 enroute.

Leala had already started at Hylandale Academy in Wisconsin, so she was able to transfer to Los Gatos High School upon arrival in the Santa Clara valley. There she felt out of place in such a big school after the quiet country school back home in Rockland. Many teen-age girls in those days found work as live-in housekeepers, so she did the same, securing work in homes in Palo Alto and Mountain View and thereby being able to enroll at Mountain View Academy and work her way through. One of those homes was the Head of Castilleja School, which she enjoyed very much. The families appreciated her housekeeping skills and even more, her lemon-pie-making skills!

She had very little time for fun activities outside of work and school, attending Mountain View Church on Bailey and occasionally taking the train down to see her parents who had settled on Quito Road in Campbell.

Her best friend in Academy was Mary Mitoma. After their Academy graduation, Lee was able to attend PUC for a short time, but Mary and her family were sent to a WWII Japanese internment camp at an unknown location and the two lost touch for several years. They were reunited after the war and remained the best of friends until Mary's death in 2014.

While Lee's four sons were still at home, she went to beauty school and became a beautician. She practiced this profession along with her excellent listening skills until retirement, bringing much joy to hundreds of devoted clients.

She and her husband of 44 years, Roberto Suarez, live in their own home on a ranch in Oregon, where they enjoy a large garden, a flock of chickens, a llama, and her homemade lemon pies. They attend the Milo Academy church.

Thank you Marianne Patton '64 for the above highlight on your Auntie.

Your continued prayers for the health and growth of our beloved school and the many lives we impact-from the students to the larger community are deeply appreciated.

Warm regards,

Rose Shimizu '82  
MVA Alumni President