



# Cardinal Chatter

Newsletter of the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Educational Foundation

Winter 2021

WHSAAFE  
PO BOX 65  
Whittier, CA 90608

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S GREETING:

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“Your greatness is not what you have, but in what you give.”

-Alice Hocker-

It is in this spirit of giving that the WHSAAEF was born. Its founding members shared a passionate commitment to give back to Whittier High School. That commitment is sustained today by

### Past President Ben Meza and Ben Chu



### At the Annual All Class Reunion BBQ

the many Alumni who have given so generously over the past twenty-one years!

We appreciate your annual membership renewals and welcome the added donations you have mailed in with your dues. We also welcome dona-

tions on our website, which has become increasingly popular in our tech savvy world. - Please visit [whittierhighalumni.org](http://whittierhighalumni.org) to keep informed of all our projects and events as well.

This is the season your Alumni Association kicks off its Scholarship donation program to identify scholarships and recipients for 2022. Those well-deserving students will be introduced at our Hall of Fame Awards Banquet on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

We celebrate with pride the eleven Scholarships that were fully funded last year!

If you are planning to donate \$1,800 for a student Scholarship in your family or class name, please let us know and send in your donation as soon as you can.

We accept donations in support of annual scholar-

ships including those in the names of **Aaron Morgan and Wally Leonard**, beloved WHS Auditorium Technologist, and WHS Counselor, respectively.

We are grateful for a generous scholarship donation in the name of **Mr. Robert Algarin**, a favorite WHS teacher and coach. If you, your family, or reunion classmates would like to provide a Scholarship this year, or begin an annual scholarship, please contact us via the enclosed envelope or on-line.

The spirit of giving was notably demonstrated by **Troy and Debbie Silva** (Class of 1984), owners of **Orchard BBQ and Grill**, who generously provided the Tri-Tip for Mr. Chu's Santa Maria grilling at our All Class Reunion BBQ. Please show them your appreciation by frequenting their establishment at 16214 Whittier Blvd.

### Points of Interest

- Who came farthest?
- \$1000 buys a lifetime membership
- 50s & 70s grads crowd list of BBQ attendees
- Double your donation with a matching pledge
- 2021-22 Reunions???

## SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> 2022 HALL OF FAME BANQUET

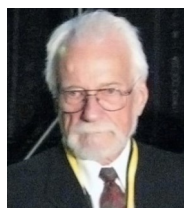
**"Once a Cardinal, always a Cardinal"...**  
**"always, always love you Whittier High"**



Robert Pierpoint '43 (deceased)



Mary V Orozco '46 (deceased)



Ray Williams '51 (deceased)



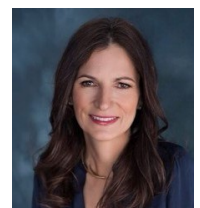
Dave Ashleigh 1961



Daniel Orr 1968



Cherylyn Lavagnino 1969



Wendy A Adams 1979

## Outstanding Turnout for WHSAAEF All Class Reunion BBQ



Alumni from the 50s and 70s were well represented at the annual BBQ (Clockwise from top left) Whittier Mayor Joe Viniteri ('70) mixing, Skater Bob Nelson ('55) and him skiing, Class of 1970 Reunion Attendees, WHS Pep Squad.

## Cardinal Alumni Share Tales of Past Glories and Present Promises

Thank you to all the Cardinals who celebrated with us at the annual All Class Reunion BBQ! After cancelling our BBQ last year due to Covid, it was truly a special occasion. We had alumni visit from all over the United States and around the world. Cardinal **Joe Moross ('78)**, for instance, currently lives in Tokyo, while **Effie (April West) Frankel ('77)** calls Israel home.

Measured by turnout this year's event was a wild success. And all proceeds of our fundraising BBQ support current WHS students and programs. But memories made and shared at the BBQ were priceless.

**Lauryl (Johnson) Shumacher ('78)** shared a story of how she met her "high school sweetheart" husband. A friend in common introduced them at WHS but it wasn't quite love at first sight. Building a strong friendship was the foundation for their relationship. They were married 10 years

after graduating together. Lauryl and her mom **Joan ('53)** are the tallest two in the picture of seven lady Cardinals at left above. At center of the same photo in the blue sweater is **Lily Thomas ('53)** who shared the technique behind creating the original version of pom-poms we see today. As

The farthest traveled attendees came over 7500 miles, while many came but a few blocks.

a member of the WHS drill team she said: "we would buy packets of tissue paper and cut and bundle them". It took six packets of white tissue paper to make one pom pom! Lily helped spread Cardinal cheer as a member of the drill team and she continues to do so to this very day.

We even had a competitive speed skater grace us with his attendance at the reunion! **Bob Nelson ('55)** began his long relationship with the ice play-

ing hockey, but he later transitioned to speed skating. He shared with us his disappointment in CIF rules, which at the time prevented him from playing football because athletes who played sports outside of school were barred from joining any high school teams. Bob stayed involved with speed skating far past the time that most athletes retire and also had a successful career in skiing (pictured above). Bob, Lily, and Lauryl thank you for sharing your memories!

Other notable attendees included Mayor **Joe Viniteri**, who joined a large group from the Class of 1970 that met for their belated 50th reunion in the days preceding our event, and recent Hall of Fame inductee Foreign Service Diplomat **Colette Marcellin ('77)**, whose family established an annual scholarship for WHS seniors. WHS Principal **Tim Liggett** and, of course, retired teacher **Ben Chu** were also with us for the day.

**Please Join these Lifetime Alumni Association Members:** Tom August ('45), Brian & Patricia Beck ('61), Cathie (Moon) Brown ('49), Elizabeth (Snyder) Carroll ('48), Gordon Crocker ('50), Stephanie Cuevas ('09), Richard and Billie Deihl ('46), John & Robin Dewitt ('53), Ray & Joan Dezember ('52), George and Patricia Englage ('54), Billy Eordekian ('75), Walter Garrett ('51), Marjorie Johana (Moon) Garrison ('48), Stuart Gothold ('52), Roderick Hills ('48), Amy (Balthaser) Jenkins ('77), Don Jenkins ('49), Peter & Louise Kempf ('54), Richard Lantz ('48), John Law DDS ('70), Alan & Sylvia Lippincott ('79), Frank McKenna ('73), Dr. Joan Meister ('60), Jerome Montgomery ('52), Dr. Daniel Orr ('68), Louise (Johnson) Pascale ('60), John and Laurie (Welsh) Peel ('74 & '80), William Prentiss ('72), Dr. Francine Rippey ('56), Judge Carlos Rodriguez ('55), Joyce (Wall) Schilling ('56), Charlene (Peake) Sims ('61), Ivannia Soto Hinman ('94), Sandy (Sanchez) Thorstenson ('73), Richard Welsh ('74), Bill Welsh ('70), Bill & Jan (Slater) Lopez Wood ('41 & '47)



## ALUMNI BBQ IS A FAMILY AFFAIR & GIVING LEGACY

Something truly special about the City of Whittier is that families grow roots in our hometown over generations. At the All Class Reunion BBQ we welcomed multiple generations of Cardinals. **Amy Wohltz ('09)** and her dad **Dan ('72)** attended the reunion together, as did **Lauryl ('78)** and her mother **Joan Bristow Johnson ('53)** and **Michele Le Blanc ('86)** and her son **Christopher ('13)**. Many Cardinal siblings attended as well, including the **Boulters, Fultons, Higleys, Marcellins, Peels, Wests and Ybarras**. Four alumni married couples attended as well. Several attendees brought young children who may attend WHS in the future.

WHS Cardinal Pride is a legacy that will live on for many generations to come. It was beautiful to see Cardinals of all ages join together and rejoice in fond high school memories at the All Class Reunion BBQ. Among the many volunteers who contributed to the event's success were several members of the WHSAAEF board of directors. Board President, and former WHS Principal, **Lori (Peel) Eshilian ('72)** served as host and awarded \$1000 to the WHS Marching Band (who performed with the Pep Squad at the event) in support of their program. **Janice Zolnekoff ('70)**, who re-

cently retired from service at WHS, checked in our guests along with **Karen Boulter ('71)** who also coordinated the Wurlitzer Organ Concert performed by renowned organist Mark Herman. That performance was enjoyed by all and culminated in a medley of show tunes in tribute to recently deceased WHS Auditorium technician Aaron Morgan. **Randy Clark ('78)** provided historical background on the iconic fountain in the WHS quad during the campus tour led by recently retired WHS English teacher **Mark Gotts ('75)**, with Board historian **Charles Bennett ('07)** providing clarifying details en route. Our newest board members include WHS Drama Director **Jonathan Tujanjian ('10)**, who created a historical display greeting our guests, and Board Vice President **Stephanie Cuevas ('08)**, who documented the event for this Chatter report. Chatter editor **Robert West ('78)** helped set up the barbecuing station with Mr. Chu, whose daughter and grandsons helped him throughout the day. **Mr. Chu** deserves our utmost gratitude for his tireless and generous volunteer efforts that made the event worthwhile for all in attendance. **-It's Always on the 3rd Sunday in October, So Save the Date!**

Help your Membership  
Dollars go farther

... and switch from snail mail to email!!!



Go to: [whittierhighalumni.org](http://whittierhighalumni.org) and click on "Contact Us" in the top right and in the message box tell us you're ready to move to email. Be sure to include your email address 🙌😊



Troy and Debbie (Guerra) Silva ('84) of Orchards BBQ and Grill donated all the tri-tip beef grilled at our annual event. He is seen in front of their meat case above.

Double Your Impact!



All donations to the Aaron Morgan scholarship fund from now until December 31st will be doubled!

## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS AND CONTACTS:

- 1952:** In the planning stages. Contact **Mitzie (Martha Campbell) Kimes** at [mitziequilts@gmail.com](mailto:mitziequilts@gmail.com) 562-926-2737.
- 1962:** 19th Annual Picnic at The Pearson's. Our first picnic celebrated the class of '62 turning 60. Guess what?... The class of '62 is turning 78! Pre-Picnic Car Cruise Fri May 20, 2022 at Ruby's Diner in the Whittwood 4-8pm. Picnic Saturday, May 21, 2022 at The Pearson's. Sunday Brunch May 22, 2022 time & place TBD.  
**60 year Reunion** planned for **Sept 17, 2022** at the Rose Gardens, 11201 1st Ave, Whittier 90603.  
Contact **Roger Pearson** 562-329-1631 email: [rogerpearson@verizon.net](mailto:rogerpearson@verizon.net)
- 1971:** **Oct 15, 2022** Contact **Jenelle Miller (Sparks)** at [jenellemiller.edd@gmail.com](mailto:jenellemiller.edd@gmail.com) 619-616-6996
- 1972:** Contact **Maureen Thies** at [m\\_thies7@hotmail.com](mailto:m_thies7@hotmail.com)
- 1981:** **Sat March 19, 2022** - DoubleTree Hotel, Whittier. Contact **Al Luna** [Alfonso.R.Luna@hotmail.com](mailto:Alfonso.R.Luna@hotmail.com) 775-764-1558
- 1992:** Contact [WhittierHS92Reunion@gmail.com](mailto:WhittierHS92Reunion@gmail.com)
- 2002:** Contact **Ana Alvarado** 562-457-8400 or by email [bananaluvrock@gmail.com](mailto:bananaluvrock@gmail.com)
- 2011:** Contact **Victor Acuna** 562-567-5250 by email at [WHS2011classreunion@gmail.com](mailto:WHS2011classreunion@gmail.com)



**WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL**  
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PO Box 65  
 Whittier, CA  
 90608-0065

## A Message from WHS Principal Timothy Liggett

Greetings, Cardinal Alumni! On behalf of the students and staff of Whittier High School, I would like to congratulate the Alumni Association on a wonderful All Class Reunion BBQ for 2021. I greatly enjoyed the event as it was wonderful to have the opportunity to catch up but perhaps more im-

portantly, I got to meet a lot of you for the first time. I absolutely loved hearing all the stories about the Whittier High School of days gone by. It was an excellent reminder for me that the history of Whittier High School doesn't live in books, or libraries, or archives; it lives in all of you.

To that end, I left the BBQ that day inspired to find more ways to connect current WHS students to this event. As the principal, I feel that I am charged with continuing to build the legacy that all of you have played a role in creating and I want

our current students to be part of that work. We always tell our students to make plans and to look forward but I believe that if you truly want to understand who you are, you have to take the time to occasionally look back. Your stories will become their stories and there is real value to them making those connections. I look forward to next year's BBQ with great anticipation, as I hope to get to know even more of you while helping the current generation do the same. Thank you so much for your continued support of WHS.

WHSAAEF wishes to thank Principal Liggett, the staff, and students of WHS who supported our Alumni BBQ fundraising event with their presence and effort.

