

CHINOOK

West Seattle

WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI CHINOOK VOLUME XLIX SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98116 MAY 2026

WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME 2026



Muriel Verbon Knapp

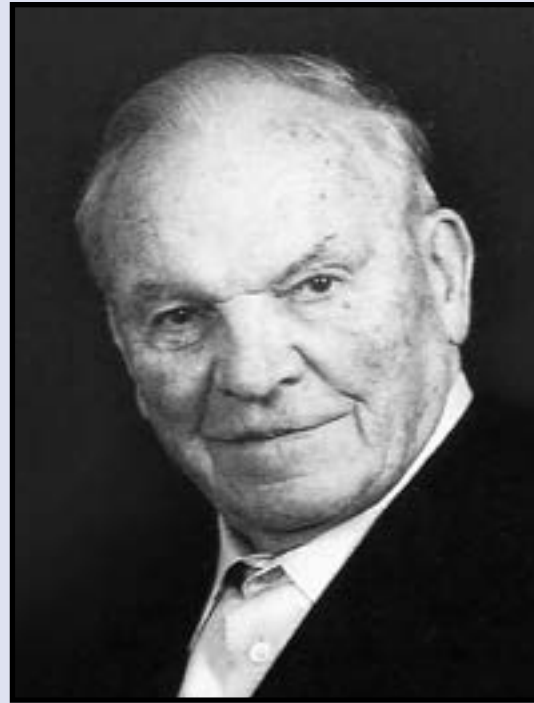
Class of 1964

Volunteer, Nonprofit Leader, World Traveler

Many who read the annual West Seattle Chinook will recognize Muriel as the dedicated volunteer who has served as representative of the class of 1964 since 1984. Muriel is deeply rooted in West Seattle. Her maternal Gunderson grandparents settled in West Seattle with their Carlsen cousins from Norway and Sweden in 1907. After living in Portland, Oregon for a few years, the Verbon family has been here since 1953. Beginning in 1924, multitudes of her Gunderson, Anderson, and Carlsen relatives have graduated from West Seattle High School. Muriel grew up near Schmitz Park and attended Schmitz Park Elementary and James Madison Junior High where she made lifelong friends. She has been a member of West Seattle Presbyterian Church her whole Seattle life.

Muriel's favorite teachers at West Seattle High School were D.C. Smith, Ron Cox, Gus Rakus, and Mr. Reddy. Actually, she liked all her teachers! She was a member of Ski Club, FTA, and CSG, and volunteered in the Roll Office. She also joined Rainbow Girls, the teenage girls' wing of the Masonic family of organizations. Muriel learned the importance of volunteering as a Rainbow Girl. As an adult, she joined the Daughters of the Nile (DON), an international women's organization associated with the Masons and the Shriners. (The Daughters of the Nile was founded in West Seattle in 1913

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Richard J. Barnecut

Class of 1944

Businessman, West Seattle Community Leader

Dick graduated from West Seattle High School, Class of 1944, and was the right fielder on the city championship baseball team of 1943. He enlisted in the United States Navy immediately after graduation and was honorably discharged two years later after serving as a radioman and gunner on a PBM seaplane. He married his high school sweetheart, Dolores "Dee" Anderson, in 1947. They first met in junior high school and Mom must have overcome her initial impression of her future husband as "pretty obnoxious" because they were married for 68 years before her demise in 2015. Dick and Dee resided in West Seattle for all of their married life.

In 1953 Dick took over the ownership and management of the West Seattle service station business his father established in 1924. It is unlikely that Dad spent any time writing up a "business model" but he definitely had a philosophy: the customer comes first. A frequent reminder to his employees regarding the clientele was that "we need them more than they need us." His authentic commitment to customer service and a tireless work ethic explain how a small business survived for almost ninety years.

Dick's involvement in the community was not merely as a businessman. He was a long time member of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, the Monogram Club of West Seattle, and he was a member of the Lions Club for sixty years.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE / LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



WSHSAA President/
Chinook Editor
Karen Seamens Dobbs,
Class of 1971

It was very gratifying, after last year's conundrum regarding the viability of holding the ASR at West Seattle HS, to receive so much positive feedback from our alumni!

Everyone made it absolutely clear that they want our annual reunion to remain at the school. While our reservation for the June 6, 2026 ASR has not yet been formally approved by the Seattle School District, all indications are that we can go ahead and plan on the availability of the areas of the building we intend to use that evening.

Our thanks to Principal Brian Vance and staff member Amy Doll, who have been instrumental in helping us to reserve spaces at a reasonable cost.

The Alumni Board has had more changes this year: Carlos Estrada stepped down as our At-Large VP, as he will not be returning to the Seattle area in the near future, and he felt he was not able to contribute as he would like. We will miss him, and wish him All the Best! Happily, Aly Hallberg agreed to assume the At-Large position, on an interim basis. Welcome Aly!

The Hall of Fame nomination form is now accessible on our website, in addition to the one appearing in the Chinook. Our Hall of Fame VP, Tom Jensen, has obtained a portable, revolving rack to display our Hall of Fame members' portraits; if this proves to be doable, we will order more of them and, hopefully, find a place for the display that isn't covered up by a pile of athletic equipment!

Our nameplate that had been posted on the door-frame of the Alumni Room since 2004 went missing sometime in the past year. Many inquiries were made, to no avail, no one knew what had happened to it, it was just gone. So the Alumni Board offered a \$200.00 reward, payable to any student club or organization of the finder's choice. Within 2 weeks, the nameplate was located and returned to us. Hopefully we can get it re-installed in it's rightful place before too long.

WSHS once again has a student newspaper (well, an online document anyway), so I reached out to the Journalism Advisor, Kyle Glover, and invited his students to submit articles for us...please see Editor Ada Rutman's pieces in this issue of The Chinook!

As we all know, the ASR has not been the same since the pandemic, no program in the theater, no formal presentations of the scholarship winners or Hall of Fame inductees, etc. However, we still would like to make some announcements during the period of gathering in the Commons. SO:

Please be courteous when someone gets up on the risers to speak, please applaud our newest Hall of Fame people and the 50th Reunion class. Pictures of the scholarship recipients will be on display as well. Can we sing the Alma Mater too?

I would like to point out the graphic here showing **The Life Cycle of Organizations**;

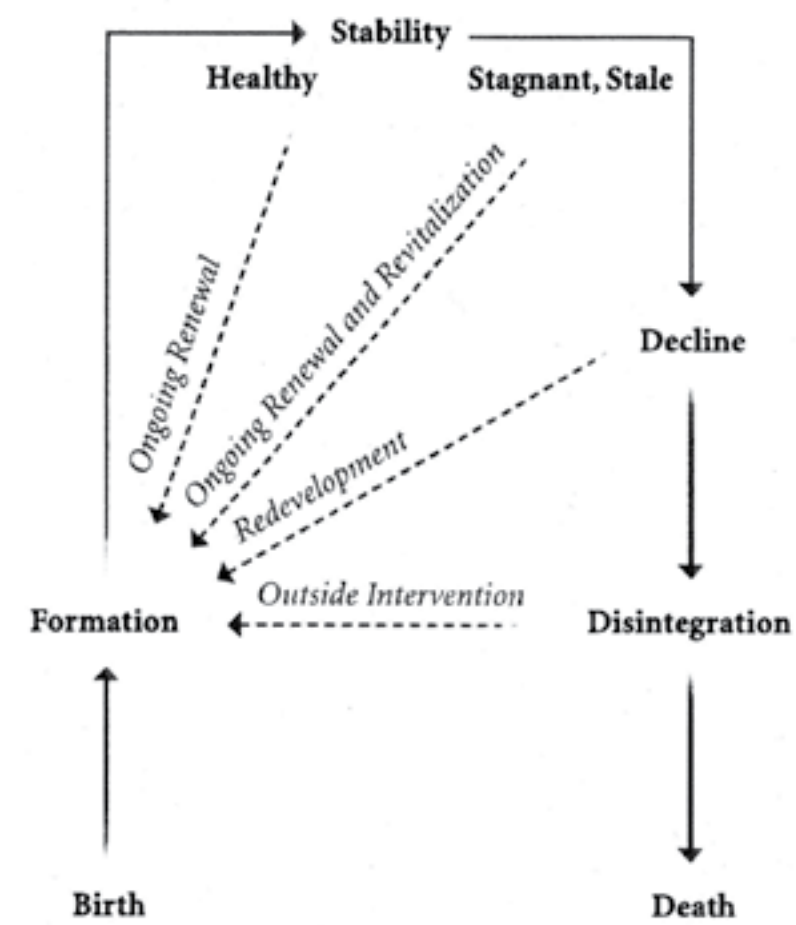


FIGURE A-14: MODEL 5—LIFE CYCLE OF ORGANIZATION!

Birth: A founder or founders, an idea, a dream

Formation: Identity: Who are we? What are we here for? How are we connected to each other?

Stability: Institutionally fruitful and sustainable. A time when the elements of organizational life fit together. Stability can be a **place of health** or can tip into feeling **stagnant or stale**, with growth stalling and new opportunities being ignored. This tip is sometimes experienced as a membership plateau followed by declining numbers.

Decline: Characterized by a fall-off in numbers; decline in energy.

Disintegration: Marked by discouragement, feeling stuck, inability of internal leaders to affect change

-Adapted from Alice Mann's *Can Our Church Live? Redeveloping Congregations in Decline*

This was the focal point of a conference I attended earlier this year. It was accompanied by the film "Join Or Die", which illustrated how people/societies benefit from belonging to clubs and organizations, and how to keep them healthy.

It struck me very close to home in regard to the WSHS Alumni Association: where are we on this chart? Where would we like to be? Where should we be, and how do we get there?

These are not rhetorical questions, we need to face them if we are to move forward as an organization.

Please share your thoughts and ideas!

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Class of 1971

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Class of 1955

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If you are interested in submitting articles for future editions of the Chinook, please contact your class representative.



HALL OF FAME

Muriel Verbon Knapp *Continued from cover*

by Mabel R. Krows, the grandmother of Muriel's classmate Karen Krows.)

Muriel ventured beyond West Seattle after graduating from high school. She moved to Southern California to work and live with relatives and then went on to Mexico and attended the University of the Americas in Mexico City with classmate Marti Rabak Tatum for a quarter before enrolling at the University of Washington. In 1966 she began a career in banking and in 1969 she married John Knapp. John, although graduating from Santa Cruz, California, High School, became a West Seattleite. They settled on Genesee Hill where they live to this day.

She and John have been married for 56 years. They have two children. Their son and his wife are attorneys, and their daughter is a German-to-English translator/social worker married to a French translator/computer guru. They have four teen-aged grandsons. When their daughter Noelle was at West Seattle High School in the late 1980's, the Knapps, as part of the Seattle-Bergen Sister City organization, hosted an exchange student from Bergen, Norway. Gudrun Boge came to Seattle and Noelle went to school in Bergen. The families have remained friends all these years, visiting back and forth several times.

After working at several banks as each one merged into a larger one, Muriel returned to college and graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 1993 with a degree in Business Administration. She then transitioned to a career as a paralegal in the Law Department at Microsoft. During this whole time, Muriel continued as a member and dynamic volunteer of the Daughters of the Nile. The DON has 128 chapters throughout the Americas, including Brazil and Bolivia. As Muriel took on leadership roles within the organization, she traveled to all its then-147 chapters and all the Shriners Hospitals for Children, including the hospitals in Montréal, Quebec and Mexico City, to encourage the bonds between them and support for its philanthropy, the Shriners Hospitals.

The Daughters of the Nile has supported the Shriners Hospitals for Children for over one hundred years with monetary contributions, plus members' time and talents. The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of non-profit children's hospitals and other pediatric medical facilities across North America. In the Northwest, there are Shriners Hospitals in Spokane and Portland. Shriners Hospitals for Children provide specialized treatments for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate, all provided in a family-centered environment at no cost to the patients' families.

In 2005, Muriel was elected to the DON's International Board of Directors. Up until 2005, the DON operated as a 501(c)(10) under which donations were not tax-deductible. Muriel realized that by creating a separate charitable entity as a 501(c)(3), members could leverage their support for the Shriners Hospitals. She worked with the organization's attorney to set up this Foundation. It was approved by both the State of Washington and the IRS in 2007. \$24,000,000 of charitable funds was transferred from the fraternal entity to the Foundation. This established an endowment which has now grown to over \$42,000,000. The Foundation is eligible for fully deductible charitable donations from corporations and individuals. From the endowment and from donations made by members' fund-

HALL OF FAME

Dick Barnecut *Continued from cover*

He contributed generously, and often, to numerous local charities.

Dick and Dolores shared an optimistic, positive outlook on life. They worked hard but they made time to play as well and they had fun together. They owned a vacation home on Hood Canal for many years and they were loyal supporters of Husky football as season ticket holders for five decades. They were not extensive world travelers but they did visit Europe which included Paris and the ancestral home of the Barnecuts in Cornwall, England.

Dick and Dolores emphasized that family came first. And they meant it. By setting a good example, they gave to their children perhaps the greatest gift of all.

Dick will be remembered as a "people person" and it was not an act. He continued working late into life and it was an open secret that it was not the work that he liked so much as it was the opportunity to schmooze with his many long time customers. In his later years there were some indications that the filter was not fully operational. However, those who really knew him would freely attest to his fairness, his integrity, and his tolerance.

Dick died peacefully in his sleep early Sunday morning, November 8, 2020. "Dick" was born in Seattle on July 20, 1926, and was the oldest son of the late George and Imogene Barnecut. Dick's father was part of a large clan (sixteen children!) that first settled in Seattle in 1889. Dick truly loved his wife, his children, his grand-children, his country, and West Seattle. His passing is a loss for his family and the community and he will surely be missed.

raising, the Foundation gives between one and two million dollars per year and gave 2.2 million dollars to Shriners Hospitals for Children in 2025.

Muriel's idea to set up the Foundation allowed the original \$2,500 donation made in 1924 to be the base for what has become donations of over \$77,000,000 to date for patient care and medical equipment. She became the Foundation's first President in 2007 and served on the Foundation Board of Directors for seven years.

In 2008, she became the presiding officer (Supreme Queen) of the Daughters of the Nile. Her investiture, a festive occasion, was held at McCaw Hall in Seattle. During 2005, the year that Muriel began her advancement to become the Supreme Queen, her employer, Microsoft, announced a new program whereby the company would give money to a nonprofit organization equal to the number of volunteer hours an employee donated to that non-profit. By the time Muriel completed her year as Supreme Queen, Microsoft had donated over \$21,000 in recognition of her service hours to the organization.

Muriel remains as the Registered Agent for the Foundation and is a lifetime member of the fraternal Daughters of the Nile Board of Directors. She continues to travel around the US and the world to support the Daughters organization and its Foundation and to satisfy her own curiosity about the world. She has traveled to 24 countries (mostly in Europe, Central and South America), all 50 of the United States, and eight of the 11 Provinces in Canada.

The class of 1964 is grateful that Muriel somehow still finds the time to serve as our class representative!

Hall of Fame Nomination Information

Hall of Fame nomination forms will be accepted anytime until January. Next January, the WSHS Alumni Association Board will review the nominations and select four finalists for the board and Class Reps to vote on at the March meeting. One or two finalists will win the Hall of Fame Award for 2027 and will be notified soon thereafter. Each winner will be honored at the ASR planned for 2027.

All nominations received but not selected, will be kept on file and reconsidered for the next year.

Hall of Fame Nomination Form

The Alumni Association inaugurated the WSHS Hall of Fame in 1986. The nominee should be an outstanding individual noteworthy in their field or community at large. If you would like to nominate an individual for the Hall of Fame, please submit the following form (Please type or print):

Hall of Fame Nominee
I would like to submit the following name for consideration by the West Seattle High School Hall of Fame Committee. I will attach a typed sheet of paper (no more than 1-1/2 pages) explaining my reason(s) for this nomination.

NOMINEE: _____ GRADUATION YEAR: _____
If married, please include maiden name

SUBMITTED BY: _____ CLASS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ DATE: _____

EMAIL: _____

MAIL TO: WSHS Alumni Association
Attn: Hall of Fame Committee
4742 42nd Ave SW #215, Seattle, WA 98116



Donations to the WSHS Alumni Association 2025 (as of 3/18/2026)

Thank you for continuing the legacy. Your generous donations help West Seattle students succeed.

MEMBERS OF THE MILLENNIUM CLUB

*(Those contributing \$1000 or more, * = \$5,000 or more, ** = \$25,000 or more)*

- Jim Abernethy (1948)**
- Jerry J Lawrence (1956)**
- Brian Spitzer (1981)**

MEMBERS OF THE CENTURY CLUB

*(Those contributing \$100 or more, * = \$500 or more)*

- Kathleen Auld McKenna (1965)
- Rae Anne Besser Hansberry (1958)
- Barbara Bowen Quintana (1966)
- Dan & Patti (Anderson) Boyle (1965)
- Glenda Braun (1964)
- Mark Brown (1963)
- Gary Bullert (1964)
- Bernie Carlsen (1959)
- James F Carlson (1965)
- J F Carlson Architects Inc
- Mark Christopher (1975)
- Ned Cochran (1963)
- Sue Coghill Lindblom (1966)
- Anthony D'Acquisto (1961)
- Mary Day Bullard (1959)
- Linda DeLaurenti Rhoton (1965)
- Alan Delsman (1964)
- Darrel Dietz (1966)
- Nancy Fallon Spigal (1963)
- Guy Farmer (1953)
- Jack Farrell (1951)
- Donald N Ferkingstad (1959)
- Arvin Lee Fosse (1960)
- William B Frost (1965)
- Adele Gallaheer Drummond (1961)
- Rich Gangnes (1965)
- Glenn & Kaylene (Brost) Gracey (1973) (1975)
- Kathy Hansen Butler (1965)
- Don Hanson (1963)
- Jerry W Harden (1958)
- William L Hart (1966)
- Paul R Harvey (1956)

MEMBERS OF THE CENTURY CLUB (Continued)

- Arlene Heaslip Angell (1958)
- H Thomas Heerhartz (1957)
- *Darlene Heldman Milkowski (1957)
- Kirk Hendrickson (1972)
- John Hetrick (1962)
- Robin Hinckley Stevenson (1976)
- Sharyl Hudson Nelson (1962)
- Donald H Hunt Jr (1971)
- Perry Jackson Welch (1958)
- Evelyn Jensen Dobbs (1956)
- Tom & Charlaene (Chew) Jensen (1966)
- *John P Koenes (1964)
- Roger Larsen (1962)
- James G Leverett (1948)
- Brian Lewis (1969)
- Jan Lindtved Grouse (1965)
- Audrey Lowdon Tharp (1958)
- Barbara Lutz Koppe (1963)
- Jerry Mann (1958)
- Dan L Martin (1972)
- Michael McKinney (1968)
- Richard K Mickelson (1965)
- Ronald Morse (1951)
- Mark Morris (1966)
- Diane Murray Bundrant (1972)
- Gwen Nesheim Howard (1957)
- *Ronald A Nilsby (1966)
- Robert Nuber (1958)
- Ed Ochiltree (1960)
- Karen O'Malley Prekeges (1984)
- Ronald E Olson (1964)
- Richard Pacholski (1965)
- Doug Peterson (1961)
- John Pettit (1957)
- Linda Pickering Thompson (1962)
- Donald D Renbarger (1964)
- James Rendahl (1958)
- Janice Richardson Stell (1966)
- Shirley Roses Burris (1955)
- Russell Rumberger (1967)
- Gail Rupp Myers (1956)
- Judith (Lowdon) & Alan Russell (1962)
- Richard B Sanders (1951)
- Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- John K Selle (1956)
- Ron Schaefer (1965)
- Rosie Schlesinger (1966)
- Christopher "Kit" Shultz (1958)
- Barbara Simmons McClain (1968)
- *Robert Skotheim (1951)
- Dwight Small (1966)
- Norm P Smith (1968)
- Timothy J Ste. Marie (1966)
- Randy Stiles (1967)
- Harald Sund (1961)
- Phil & Darlene (Nelson) Talmadge (1969)
- Russell Taylor (1968)
- Mel Terrana (1958)
- Jon & Audrey (Lowdon) Tharp (1957 & 1958)
- Terilyn Thies Koretsky (1962)
- Drew Thoresen (1962)
- Joan Torgerson Zatloukal (1952)
- William G Thretheway (1959)
- Roger T Trimble (1956)
- George T Wagner (1960)
- Patricia Warner Williams (1960)
- Carl Weer (1973)
- Thomas J Weller (1972)
- Daniel L Westlund (1955)
- Carolyn M Woodgate (1966)
- *Alan T Worden (1957)
- Bob & Kathy (Johnson) Young (1961)

Thank you to all the Millennium and Century Club Members for making the WSHSAA Scholarship program a great success.

Century and Millennium Club donations must have been received by February 28, 2026 for recognition in the 2026 Alumni Chinook.

IN HONOR OF (as of 3/20/2026) GIVEN BY

- Class of 1953Guy W Farmer (1953)
- TeachersDonald L Hunt Jr (1971)
- Class of 1956Jerry Lawrence (1956)
- Class of 1960James Boltz (1960)
- Class of 1960Toni Burnham Orsoe (1960)
- Class of 1962Roger Larsen (1962)
- Class of 1962Linda L Pickering Thompson (1962)
- Class of 1963Barbara Lutz Koppe (1963)
- Class of 1963Norma Martin Guenthoer (1963)
- Class of 1965Jan Lindtved Grouse (1965)
- Class of 1965Richard Pacholski (1965)
- Class of 1972Kirk Hendrickson (1972)
- Class of 1972Thomas Jeffrey Weller (1972)
- Class of 1975Mark Christopher (1975)
- Ted Foss (1955)David Palmer (1955)
- Chris King (1955)David Palmer (1955)
- The Carlsen Clan (since 1931)Bernie Carlsen (1959)
- Gail Gunderson Evans (1961)Adele Gallaheer Drummond (1961)
- Kathy Paxton Swartz (1965)Kathy Hansen Butler (1965)
- Ron Schaefer (1965)Ron Schaefer (1965)

IN MEMORY OF (as of 3/20/2026) GIVEN BY

- TeachersDonald L Hunt Jr (1971)
- Oliver Ahrenius (1934)Alan & Judy (Lowdon) Russell (1962)
- Oliver Ahrenius (1934)Audrey Lowdon Tharp (1958)
- Jim Allgire (1958)Audrey Lowdon Tharp (1958)
- Carrie Anderson Tiroux (1970)Dan & Patti (Anderson) Boyle (1965)
- Jim R Anderson (1964)Ronald Nilsby (1966)
- John Anderson (1968)Neil Dewey (1968)
- Marvin Anderson (1943)Dan & Patti (Anderson) Boyle (1965)
- Ron Anderson (1969)Dan & Patti (Anderson) Boyle (1965)
- Joseph "Joe" Baar (1961)David Hansen (1961)
- Diane Bailey Tice (1954)Marcy Johnson (1970)
- Joan Bailey Miraz (1954)Marcy Johnson (1970)
- Joan Batson King (1952)Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- Mary Becker Nelson (1969)Russell Taylor (1968)
- Boyd Brentrott (Teacher)Gary Bullert (1964)
- Larry Blackaller (1958)Sharron Morris Gill (1958)
- Mark Bloom (1964)John Koenes (1964)
- Jerry Bonney (1948)Patricia Bonney Vazquez (1951)
- John F Bowen (1959)Barbara Bowen Quintana (1966)
- John F Bowen (1959)Myra Bowen Skubitz (1955)

IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY

- Jim Boyle (1971)Dan & Patti (Anderson) Boyle (1965)
- Dreana Brado Bergren (1958)Darbi Vangerpen
- Frank Braun (1966)Glenda Braun (1964)
- Frank Braun (1966)Dwight Small (1966)
- Janet Brewer (1967)Marc L Lorrain (1967)
- Gordon Brown (1932 & Teacher)Bob & Kathy Young (1966)
- Richard F Bullard (1955)Mary Day Bullard (1959)
- Patricia "Pat" Burnham Johnson (1948)James Abernathy (1948)
- Richard Burnham (1952)James Abernathy (1948)
- Audrey Campbell Lawrence (1958)Jerry J Lawrence (1956)
- George Louis Carlsen (1958)Bernie Carlsen (1959)
- George Louis Carlsen (1958)Bob & Lynda (Moody) Hurst (1958 & 1959)
- Del Carlson (1965)James F Carlson (1965)
- Ruth Chrisman Maddox (1955)Russell Zimmerman (1978)
- Angus Coghill (1961)Sue Coghill Lindblom (1966)
- Mary Coghill Gribble (1958)Sue Coghill Lindblom (1966)
- Gordon Coles (1957)Stephen Schulmann (1960)
- Alfreda Crocker Trimble (1931)Roger T Trimble (1956)
- Gary Dobbs (1965)Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- Larry Duncan (1966)Ronald Nilsby (1966)
- Ray Deutcher (1960)Lee Fosse (1960)
- Robert Estep (1948)Dennis & Jenna (Winqvist) Olson (1965)
- Karen Joann Evans (1966)Kent V Evans (1954)
- John Dwight Fallon (1966)Nancy Fallon Spigal (1963)
- Thomas G Fanning (1961)Anthony D'Acquisto (1961)
- Thomas G Fanning (1961)Harald Sund (1961)
- Craig Farrel (1970)Ken West (1970)
- Gerry Flagg (1960)George T Wagner (1960)
- Barbara Flint Petty (1962)Alan & Judy (Lowdon) Russell (1962)
- Sally Flowers Allen (1957)Jerry Mann (1958)
- Shiela Foster (1957)H Thomas Heerhartz (1957)
- Thomas G Fowler (1969)Allison Fowler Bergstrom (1968)
- Senovia Frye (1956)Helen Earnheart Duchon (1956)
- Margaret Gamrath Toly (1932)Carolyn Toly Mattern (1966)
- Margaret Gamrath Toly (1932)Lorraine Toly (1964)
- Terry Gangnes (1965)Rich Gangness (1972)
- Bobby Gann (1956)Evelyn Jensen Dobbs (1956)
- Jay J Gilmour (1945)Robert Skotheim (1951)
- Marilyn Gough Riley (1951)Joan Torgerson Zatloukal (1952)
- Gail Gracey Jorgensen (1965)Glenn & Kaylene (Brost) Gracey (1974 & 1975)
- Garry Gracey (1970)Glenn & Kaylene (Brost) Gracey (1974 & 1975)
- Gordon Gracey (1978)Glenn & Kaylene (Brost) Gracey (1974 & 1975)
- Ken Hadley (1956)J Wesley Spridgeon (1956)

IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY

- Barbara Hagquist Smith (1940)R Gary Smith (1964)
- Janet Hart Walters (1963)Bill Hart (1963)
- Charles G Hay (1965)Ronald A Hay (1969)
- Vicki Hermann Vaux (1965)Richard Mickelson (1965)
- John Herron (1968)Graham Haight (1968)
- John Herron (1968)Barbara Simmons McClain (1968)
- Tom Hirano (1976)Robin Hinckley Stevenson (1976)
- Garth Houlihan (1961, Seattle Prep)Sandy Baker Houlihan (1954)
- Paul Hudson (1966)Ronald Nilsby (1966)
- Martha C Hutchison Martin (1932)Stephan D Martin (1958)
- Carter Johnson (1964)Ron E Olson (1964)
- Tom Johnson (1958)Perry Jackson Welch (1958)
- James E Johnston (1954)Kay Yackley Johnston (1958)
- Nels Kasperson (1964)John Koenes (1964)
- Barbara Kessler Cook (1942)Tom & Charlaene (Chew) Jensen (1966)
- Steven Knopp (1964)Norma J Knopp
- Steven Knopp (1964)Ron E Olson (1964)
- Jeffrey A Kolb (1967)Alexis Ann Alexander (1968)
- Leonard Kolb (1967)Alexis Ann Alexander (1968)
- Alma La Marche West (1948)Janet LaMarche Brookman (1957)
- Robert "Bob" La Marche (1963)Janet LaMarche Brookman (1957)
- Susan LaMare Rendahl (1959)James M Rendahl (1958)
- Ruth Latta (1948)James Leverett (1948)
- Audrey Lawrence Campbell (1958)Julie Lawrence Bidon (1968)
- Ron Lenton (1970)Laurie Tillotson Simpson (1970)
- Fred Lenz (1957)H Thomas Heerhartz (1957)
- Mike Litch (1970)Laurie Tillotson Simpson (1970)
- Mary Marchand Koenes (1961)John P Kones (1964)
- Frances Mattison (Teacher)Richard Pacholski (1965)
- Frances Mattison (Teacher)Lorraine Toly (1964)
- Dale McFarland (1957)Gwen Nesheim Howard (1957)
- Jim McKelvey (1966)Ronald Nilsby (1966)
- Janet McLellan Cochran (1963)Ned Cochran (1963)
- Dorothy Meade Treadwell (1960)Carol Olson Parks (1960)
- Jim Mead (1966)Rosie Schlesinger (1966)
- Donald I Martin (1964 Sealth)Stephen Martin (1958)
- Martha C Martin (1932)Stephen Martin (1958)
- Dorothy Mootafes (Teacher)Bill Barnett (1961)
- Dorothy Mootafes (Teacher)Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- Dorothy Mootafes (Teacher)David Mullis (1966)
- Dorothy Mootafes (Teacher)Timothy J Ste. Marie (1966)
- Dorothy Mootafes (Teacher)Lorraine Toly (1964)

In Memory Of Donations continued on Page 5

In Memory Of donations continued

IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY

- Dean Morris (1971)Mark G Morris (1966)
- Lisa Murray (1974)Diane Murray Bundrant (1972)
- Gary E Myers (1955)Gail Rupp Myers (1956)
- Vernon Nilsby (1940)Ronald Nilsby (1966)
- James "Jim" Nelson (1964)Mike Holm (1963)
- Carl R Norden (1947)John E Norden (1963)
- Delmar Nordquist (Teacher)Bob & Kathy Young (1966)
- E F Norwood (Teacher)L Douglas Peterson (1961)
- E F Norwood (Teacher)Bob & Kathy Young (1966)
- Fred Nuber (1960)Bob Nuber (1958)
- Mitchell Peterson (1958)Harold O'Sundnes (1958)
- Robert Picknell (1954)Larry Gill (1954)
- James Pierce (1948)James Leverett (1948)
- Diane Pittman Crowder (1959)Bob & Lynda (Moody) Hurst (1958 & 1959)
- David B Preble (1952)Linda Hill Preble (1960)
- J Charles Preble (1951)Linda Hill Preble (1960)
- Ron Renbarger (1960)Don Renbarger (1964)
- Karen Rinnet Parsons (1958)Perry Welch (1958)
- Ron Roberts (1968)Graham Haight (1968)
- James Roses (1957)John Pettit (1957)
- James Roses (1957)Shirley Roses Burris (1955)
- Mark Ross (1966)Mark L & Linda (Ross) Fleischmann (1962)
- Rod Sakrison (1964)John Koenes (1964)
- Betty Scanlon Bonney (1951)Patricia Bonney Vazquez (1951)
- Ralph Seamens (1950)Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- Richard Slyfield (1948)James Leverett (1948)
- Bob Spridgeon (1953)J Wesley Spridgeon (1956)
- Ron Spridgeon (1953)J Wesley Spridgeon (1956)
- Terry Ste. Marie (1962)Tim Ste. Marie (1966)
- Dan Shaw (1964)John Koenes (1964)
- Charles "Chuck" Skubitz (1951)Myra Bowen Skubitz (1955)
- D.C. Smith (Teacher)Karen Seamens Dobbs (1971)
- Gary L Smith (1966)George & Carolyn (Woodgate) Rippee (1966)
- Herb Smith (Teacher & 1939)Brian Lewis (1969)
- Herb Smith (Teacher & 1939)Lorraine Toly (1964)
- Jim Quentin (1963)Norm Smith (1968)
- Robert "Bob" Snow (1958)Jerry A Harden (1958)
- Paul Struss (1963)James Struss (1959)
- Ron Roberts (1968)Dennis Sweeney (1959)
- Linda Taylor Weer (1973)Carl Weer (1973)
- Jill Terrana Ferraro (1984)Mel Terrana (1958)
- Bill Teyler (1964)Sharon Teyler Girod (1960)
- Toni Thies Griffin (1961)Terilyn Thies Koretsky (1962)
- Lou Tice (1954)Marcy Johnson (1970)
- Gary Tisdale (1958)Bob & Lynda (Moody) Hurst (1958 & 1959)
- Tom Tisdale (1963)Mike Holm (1963)
- Albert Vaux (1965)Richard Mickelson (1965)
- Diane Vickery Green (1957)Gwen Nesheim Howard (1957)
- Shirlee Waite McDonald (1960)Patricia Warner Williams (1960)
- Craig C Wallitner (1957)Alan T Worden (1957)
- Harry Warne (Teacher & 1933)Lorraine Toly (1964)
- Roland & Petra (Ulsamer) Weis (1961)David Hansen (1961)
- Tim Wenger (1960)Ed Ochiltree (1960)
- Janet Westlund (1957)Daniel Westlund (1955)
- Harold "Speed" Winqvist (1930)Dennis & Jenna (Winqvist) Olson (1965)
- Dave R Wood (1957)Dean L Graddon (1957)
- Robert "Bob" Yeasting (1951)Richard B Sanders (1951)
- Edwin "Rusty" Young (1951)Richard B Sanders (1951)

Mobile Apparelist at the 2025 ASR

Mobile Apparelist provided a wide variety of made-on-the-spot WSHS Alumni tees, hoodies and sweatshirts for reunion attendees. They were so well-received, they will be making a return appearance this year!



West Seattle High School Alumni Association ANNUAL DUES / DONATION FORM

The West Seattle High School Alumni Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your gifts may be deductible for income tax purposes. Please check with you tax advisor regarding your individual tax situation.

Name: _____ Class of: _____ Email: _____

Please provide any updates to your contact info (mailing address, home phone, etc.): _____

Checks payable to:

***WSHS Alumni Association, 4742 42nd Ave. SW #215, Seattle, WA 98116**

**Millennium and Century Club donations postmarked by 2/28 will be acknowledged in that year's Chinook.*

Annual Alumni Membership Dues \$ 20.00

Operating Fund Donation (Pays for Alumni Chinook, ASR and many other activities) \$ _____

Scholarship Fund Donation (Pays for college tuition support for qualifying graduates) \$ _____

Millennium Club (\$1,000+) In Memory of: _____ Class of: _____ \$ _____

In Honor of: _____ Class of: _____ \$ _____

Century Club (\$100-\$999) In Memory of: _____ Class of: _____ \$ _____

In Honor of: _____ Class of: _____ \$ _____

Total Dues and Donations \$ _____

VOLUNTEER NEEDS: We rely on alumni, faculty and student volunteers. Please select how you will join us!

- Assist as a Class Rep? YES NO MAYBE
- Assist with Chinook? YES NO MAYBE
- Treasurer in Training? YES NO MAYBE
- Oversee the next ASR? YES NO MAYBE
- Assist at the next ASR? YES NO MAYBE
- Assist with other opportunities? YES NO MAYBE

** Millennium and Century Club donations postmarked by 2/28 will be acknowledged in that year's Chinook.*



2025 / 2026

WSHSAA Scholarships

By Sandy Woody DuBuque, Scholarship V. P. Class of '69

This year we would like to thank each and every member of the Alumni that was able to donate to the Scholarship fund. Your donations make all the difference to students needing money just to attend college. Every dollar you give is very deeply appreciated. Over the past couple of years we have been fortunate to receive two very generous scholarships. The Thorsen Family Scholarship was established on behalf of the family including Henry Thorsen, 1938, Betty Thorsen, Jim Thorsen, 1969, & Signe Ann Thorsen, 1965, by Gary Goelitz on behalf of his wife Signe Ann Thorsen, her parents and her brother. Also, The Ronald Miller /

Murl Barker Scholarship, Classes of 1951 and 1955, respectively as established by their individual wills. These scholarships along with our other invested scholarships will help many students obtain a college degree. This year the West Seattle Alumni Association was able to award 41 students, 21 seniors and 19 returning students with scholarships. The total of all Alumni Scholarship awards were \$194,000 plus \$4,000.00 awarded on behalf of the Monogram Club.

Every year the scholarship committee has the honor of representing the Alumni by awarding scholarships to well deserving students.



Adrian Freeman WSHS 2025

Adrian Freeman, Class of 2025 graduate, was awarded an ongoing **Duke-Rader Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Ben Godfried WSHS 2025

Ben Godfried, Class of 2025 graduate, was awarded a one-time **Alf & Ruth Larsen Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**



Marika Nelson WSHS 2025

Marika Nelson, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.

Addison Purdie, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at **South Seattle College**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Addison Purdie WSHS 2025

used toward her freshman year tuition at **South Seattle College**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Malia Barker WSHS 2025

Malia Barker, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at **Washington State University**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Reuben Foster WSHS 2025

Reuben Foster, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **Patricia Feldman Noyes-Women in Science Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.

Tatum Paddock, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **Patricia Feldman Noyes-Women in Science Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Michigan**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Tatum Paddock WSHS 2025

toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Michigan**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



Ellen Rikhof WSHS 2025

Ellen Rikhof, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **Patricia Feldman Noyes-Women in Science Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of California-Santa Barbara**.



Samuel Kothe WSHS 2025

Samuel Kothe, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **Jim Finnie Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year at **Seattle Central College**.



Audrey Davidson WSHS 2025

Audrey Davidson, Class of 2025 graduate, received an ongoing **WSHS Alumni Investment Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at **Grand Canyon University**. This is a renewable scholarship if all requirements of the scholarship are met.



David Escame-Hedger WSHS 2025

David Escame-Hedger, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at **Western Washington University**.



Finn White WSHS 2025

Finn White, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at **Evergreen State College**.

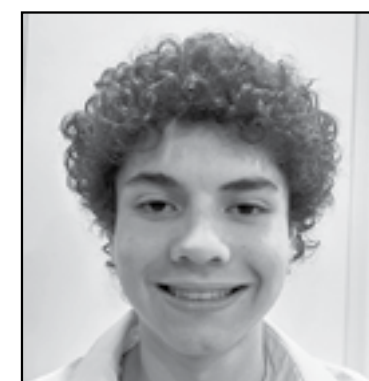


Jhana Saboe-Hutchinson WSHS 2025

Jhana Saboe-Hutchinson, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at **Washington State University**.

Edith Branner, Class of 2025 graduate, received a **Freeman Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. This scholarship is renewable for a second year if all GPA requirements are met.

of Wisconsin-Madison. This scholarship is renewable for a second year if all GPA requirements are met.



Diego Escame-Hedger WSHS 2025

Diego Escame-Hedger, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his senior year tuition at **San Diego State University**.



Erika Justus WSHS 2025

Erika Justus, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **West Seattle High School Alumni Association Scholarship** to be used toward her senior year at **Seattle University**.



Rhiannon Hayes-McQueen WSHS 2025

Rhiannon Hayes-McQueen, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her senior year at the **University of Washington**.



Aiden Waller WSHS 2025

Aidan Waller, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward his senior year at **Montana State University**.



WSHSAA Scholarships Continued



Josephine Kelly WSHS 2025

Josephine Kelly, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**.



Liam Baier WSHS 2025

Liam Baier, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**.



Noah Svaab WSHS 2025

Noah Svaab, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward his freshman year tuition at the **University of Washington**.



Portia Sawade WSHS 2025

Portia Sawade, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at **Washington State University**.



Violette Personett WSHS 2025

Violette Personett, Class of 2025 graduate, received a one-time **WSHSAA Scholarship** to be used toward her freshman year tuition at the **University of Arizona**.

The WSHS Alumni Association would like to extend Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Next our 26 returning scholars...



Diego Escame-Hedger

Diego Escame-Hedger, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Duke-Rader Scholarship** to be used toward his senior year tuition at **San Diego State University**.



Samuel Lewis

Samuel Lewis, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** and a **Richardson Scholarship** to be used toward his senior year at **Duke University**.



Rhiannon Hayes-McQueen

Rhiannon Hayes-McQueen, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her senior year at the **University of Washington**.



Aiden Waller

Aidan Waller, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward his senior year at **Montana State University**.

Galbreath Scholarship to be used toward his senior year at **Montana State University**.



Ava Lockman

Ava Lockman, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her senior year at the **University of Washington**.



Erika Justus

Erika Justus, Class of 2022 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **West Seattle High School Alumni Association Scholarship** to be used toward her senior year at **Seattle University**.



Lachlan Swanson

Lachlan Swanson, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Duke-Rader Scholarship** to be used toward his junior year tuition at **Western Washington University**.



Audrey Baier

Audrey Baier, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her junior year at the **University of Arizona**.

Galbreath Scholarship to be used toward her junior year at the **University of Arizona**.



Joseph Lee

Joseph Lee, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward his junior year at the **University of Washington**.



Cooper Hubbard

Cooper Hubbard, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive his ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward his junior year at **Montana State University**.



Kailey Browne

Kailey Browne, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be used toward her junior year at **San Diego State University**.



Cecelia Pfyer

Cecelia Pfyer, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Patricia Feldman-Noyes Women in Science Scholarship** to be used toward her junior year at the **University of Portland**.

Science Scholarship to be used toward her junior year at **Western Washington University**.



Hannah Bonsack

Hannah Bonsack, Class of 2023 graduate, qualified to receive her ongoing **Patricia Feldman-Noyes Women in Science Scholarship** to be used toward her junior year at the **University of Portland**.



Ryan Whitney

Ryan Whitney, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be applied to his sophomore year tuition at **CalPoly-San Luis Obispo**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.



Evan Hilgenberg

Evan Hilgenberg, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be applied to his sophomore year tuition at **Western Washington University**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.



Benjamin Lewis

Benjamin Lewis, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be applied to his sophomore year tuition at the **University of Washington**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.



Lila Kellison-Miller

Lila Kellison-Miller, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be applied to her sophomore year tuition at the **University of California-Berkley**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.



Parker Eley

Parker Eley, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Ross & Viola Galbreath Scholarship** to be applied to his sophomore year tuition at **Washington State University**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.



Aurielle Ronda

Aurielle Ronda, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Patricia Feldman Noyes Women in Science** to be applied to her sophomore year tuition at the **University of Washington**. This scholarship is renewable if the criterion of the scholarship is met.

Continued on Page 8



WSHSAA Scholarships

Continued from Page 7

Returning Scholars Continued...



Sampson Lee

Sampson Lee, Class of 2024 graduate, received a **Richardson Scholarship** to be used toward his books &

supplies related to his sophomore year at the **University of Southern California**.

This year the Scholarship Committee helped the Monogram Club award their four scholarships. **Olivia Chen, Liam Baier, Addison Shepard & Jacob Hiey** were the 2025 Monogram Club awardees.

The WSHS Alumni Association would like to extend **Congratulations to the Class of 2025**.

Once again, the Alumni Association would like to acknowledge and thank all of the 17,000 Alumni dating back to the Class of 1945. Each of you is very important! Without your generous donations and continued support, none of these scholarships would be possible.

All students who receive a renewable scholarship must maintain a 3.0 GPA. No renewable scholarship extends beyond four (4) years.

In 2026 scholarship applications will open on March 6 and close March 16, 2026 on the Alumni Website <http://wsosalumniassociation.org/>.

The West Seattle High School Alumni Association is a recognized non-profit charitable organization under section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations made to the West Seattle High School Alumni Association may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor or the

Alumni Association (Attn: Scholarships) if you would like information regarding donations in the form of a Charitable Gift Annuity, a bequest or an endowment.

Congratulations to all the Scholarship Winners!

Thorsen Family Scholarship

Thanks to the great generosity of Signe Thorsen, an endowed scholarship fund, dedicated to providing financial support and educational opportunities to students from low-income families, has been established. By alleviating the financial barriers to higher education, the Thorsen Family scholarship fund aims to empower talented and motivated students to pursue their academic and career goals.

This scholarship fund represents the Thorsen family's commitment to equity and access, to create a brighter future for all. Family members include Henry Thorsen, WS class of 1938, his wife Betty, their daughter Signe Thorsen, class of 1965 and son Jim Thorsen, class of 1969.

Henry Thorsen was born in West Seattle in 1919, the son of immigrants from Norway. He attended Jefferson Elementary and West Seattle High School. He enrolled in the University of Washington with plans to become an engineer, but unfortunately had to leave college before finishing, for financial reasons. He took a job at Boeing, where he worked for 40 years.

Henry always regretted not being able to complete his university education, so he made sure his children were able to attend and graduate from college. Both Signe and Jim graduated from Western Washington University.

Henry would have wanted to help others achieve their dreams, despite financial hardship.

This scholarship fund represents the Thorsen family's commitment to equity and access, to create a brighter future for all.

Signe Ann Thorsen, 1965 was born in West Seattle in 1947 and passed away September 27th, 2023. Upon graduation from West Seattle HS, she attended the University of Auckland in New Zealand before obtaining her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Western Washington University.

She had a long and distinguished career as a Human Resources Director for many cities and colleges. She and her husband, Gary Goelitz traveled extensively.

Signe was as generous in death as she was in life. A gift from Signe's estate made possible the creation of the Thorsen family endowment, to assist young people seeking higher education.



Signe Thorsen
WSHS Class of 1965



Signe Thorsen



Henry Thorsen
WSHS Class of 1938

New Alumni Directories Coming!

The Harris Company, who published our Alumni Directories for 2005, 2010 and 2015, has been taken over by Publishing Concepts Inc ("PCI"), who will be producing a 2027 updated volume.

Please be advised that PCI will be contacting WSHS Alumni in the next few months to compile the new directory.

This is entirely voluntary, if you do not wish to share your information, you may certainly decline.

In the past, many alumni have appreciated this means of staying connected.



Missing a Yearbook? (Kimtah or Blue Gold)

The WSHS Alumni Association has WS yearbooks for sale. The cost is \$30 plus \$5 for shipping.

Available years:

1920 to 2020's *

* Contact Chris King at 206 938-1937 or seaking55@aol.com before sending any money, to check the availability.



Your Officers and Class Representatives

HOW TO REACH US: PLEASE US THE CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED HERE : NO Facebook, Twitter, etc.

President:

Karen Seamens Dobbs '71
kswdobbs@comcast.net
206 390-0185

Secretary:

Position Vacant

Treasurer:

Linda (Benjamin) Wells '69
wells1970@aol.com
206 938-0424

VP Scholarship:

Sandy Woody Dubuque '69
sandydubuque@yahoo.com
206 938-7377

VP Communications:

Therese (Anderson) Machmiller '80
temachmiller@gmail.com
206 890-2277

VP Membership:

Chris King '55
seaking55@aol.com
206 938-1937

VP Hall of Fame:

Tom Jensen '66
thetj2013@gmail.com
206 366-5598

VP Historian:

John Zitkovich '60
jzitkovich@aol.com
206 305-9209

VP At Large:

Aly Hallberg, '82
alyhallberg@gmail.com
206 937-3986

VP Program:

Position Vacant

VP Chinook:

Karen Seamens Dobbs '71
kswdobbs@comcast.net
206 390-0185

Board Member Emeritus:

Ted Foss

Any corrections to this list, please contact Chris King at seaking55@aol.com

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

*1943 Rep Needed

*1944 Rep Needed

*1945 Rep Needed

*1946 Rep Needed

*1947 Rep Needed

1948

Jim Abernethy
206 459-9208
4036 50th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
jamesabernethy@comcast.net

1949

Karol Hawver Kruger
425 647-3035
3204 SW Morgan St, Unit 130
Seattle, 98126
karolkrueger@gmail.com

Eleanor Glimstad Baker
206 243-8020
1059 Tacoma Ave NE, Renton, 98056
ep8020@gmail.com

*1950 Rep Needed

1951

James Monahan
425 483-6783
16837 NE 176th St., Woodinville, 98072
jtmonahan@mac.com

1952

Dolores Hefflinger Berry
360 403-8414
7211 Harrow Pl, Arlington, 98223
chrisandani@msn.com

1953

Joan Johnson Barker
206 878-4502
700 S 282nd St., #742, Des Moines, 98198
farettubbarker@icloud.com

1954

Patty Gill Young
206 365-6691
11720 22nd Ave NE, Seattle, 98125-5204
pyoungsea@q.com

Barbara Thompson Mjelde
206 243-6128
17623 1st Ave S, Apt 243,
Normandy Park, 98148
bjmjelde@gmail.com

1955

Ted Foss
206 932-5349
8015 46th Ave SW, Seattle, 98136
tandmfoss@msn.com

Chris King
206 938-1937
5447 SW Jacobson Rd, Seattle, 98116
seaking55@aol.com

1956

Greta Walker Pelham
206 246-5271
5025 California Ave SW, 405, Seattle, 98136
gretap38@msn.com

1957

Gwen Tatman Fraser
206 938-3186
4444 44th Ave SW #405, Seattle, 98116
gfraser49@msn.com

Beverly McMillin
425 828-6462
102 State St, #114W, Kirkland, WA 98033
chochosan29@hotmail.com

1958

Audrey Lowdon Tharp
253 931-1136
1301 67th St SE, #12C, Auburn, 98092
sharptharp@comcast.net

Sandy Thompson Aldworth
425 837-1233
100 Timber Ridge Way NW, 5215,
Issaquah, 98027
ninlady40@gmail.com

1959

Lynda Moody Hurst
206 935-6318
5723 SW Spokane St, Seattle, 98116
lynda.hurst63@gmail.com

Deronda Blake Stanley
253 797-2050
34015 135th Ave SE, Auburn, 98092
lesderonda@yahoo.com

1960

John Zitkovich
206 305-9209 (C)
1010 N 48th St, Seattle, WA 98103-6622
jzitkovich@aol.com

1961

Gerald A Smith
206 483-8539
1727 Harbor Ave SW, N405, Seattle, 98126
gerald.98@gmail.com

Beverly Byram Lewis
425 888-2118
PO Box 1935, North Bend, 98045
bevelmo@comcast.net

1962

Ed Ogle
206 932-1124
4141 54th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
ejo4141@yahoo.com

1963

John Norden
206 799-2956
8617 41st Ave SW, Seattle, 98136
john.norden@yahoo.com

Lea Johnson
206 935-5766
5101 SW Bruce St, Seattle, 98136
leajohnson005@gmail.com

1964

Muriel Verbon Knapp
206 932-7283
4030 55th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116-3641
murielknapp@msn.com

1965

Patty Magnuson
206 938-3055
3057 46th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
pattymag@gmail.com

1966

Melodie Vrtnar-Rogers
206 932-4155
4152 47th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
melodie.arogers@gmail.com

Tom Friberg
206 937-5743
4100 Chilberg Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
tomfriberg@quidnunc.net

Patricia Jacobsen Spangler
206 714-4388
18130 Riviera Pl SW, Normandy Park, 98166
spanglerpm@msn.com

1967

Dan Lilleness
206 246-2571
623 SW 145th St, Burien, 98166
daniel.lilleness@gmail.com

*1968 Rep Needed

Linda Benjamin Wells
206 938-0424
3925 SW Southern St, Seattle, 98136
wells1970@aol.com

1970

Patricia Kloster
206 426-6457
2610 E Section St, #2, Mt Vernon, 98274
pjkloster52@gmail.com

Cathy L. Westwood McLynn
206 244-7079
50 NE Seitz Dr, Belfair, 98528
cmclynn@aol.com

1971

Karen Seamens Dobbs
206 390-0185
2002 SW 307th St, Federal Way, 98023
kswdobbs@comcast.net

Jim Biava
206 387-2683
4826 51st Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
jimbiava@protonmail.com

1972

Kathie Dempsey Itter
206 349-0772
242 Lochwood Dr, Camano Is., 98282
kathitter@gmail.com

1973

Richard "Dick" Sleight
425 454-1228
1228 99th Ave NE, Bellevue, 98004-3528
sl8@spu.edu

1974

Mark Wittman
markawittman@gmail.com

1975

Laurie Hooper Wilson
360 970-4884
17720 Unicorn St SW, Rochester, 98579-8541
lauriewilson98579@gmail.com

Valorie Wheeler Plachy
206 433-8534
627 SW 134th St, Burien, 98146-3254
richplachy@comcast.net

1976

Megan Sheppard
206 719-2330
19029 1st Place SW, Normandy Park, 98166
Mshepp@proton.me

1977

Nathan Baker
206 355-3067
4811 S 164th St, Tukwila, 98188-3220
nathanbudfox@gmail.com

Diane Hansen
206 932-1704
3056 Garlough Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
dl.hansen55@outlook.com

1978

Denise Dawson Minnerly
206 200-3290
18183 W Glenhaven Dr, Goodyear, AZ 85338
denisem49@gmail.com

Denette Wells
206 932-1060
1724 Arch Ave SW Seattle, 98116
denetew@comcast.net

1979

Eileen Falk Wolcott
206 935-7112
9109 SW 274th St., Vashon, 98070
eileen@thevashontheatre.com

James Edwards
206 932-9571
10034 28th Ave SW, Seattle, 98146
wsbigband@gmail.com

1980

Fran Manly Coy
206 380-8967
7106 Sylvan Ln SW, 98136
kfcoy3@gmail.com

Terese Anderson Machmiller
206 937-2881
4502 47th Ave SW, 98116
temachmiller@gmail.com

1981

Alison Kennicott Newquist
206 937-9218
8630 24th Ave SW, Seattle, 98106

Jody Lessard Molenda
425 670-2112
22102 37th Ave W, Montlake Terr, 98043-4229
jmolenda@travelers.com

1982

Rob Zoffel
206 399-3050
1630 44th Ave SW, Seattle, 98116
robert@zoffellaw.com

Alyson Hallberg
206 937-3986
5319 SW Angelina St, Seattle, 98116
alyhallberg@gmail.com

1983

Sue Ellen Green
206 499-7548
6404 McCormick Woods Dr SW, Port Orchard, 98367

WSHS ALUMNI CHINOOK LOST LIST-YEARS ENDING IN “2” & “7”

Lost List For Classes Ending In 2 & 7 (as of 3/14/2026)

CLASSMATES LISTED BY:

FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, MAIDEN NAME, MARRIED NAME

1952

Diane J Baltazor Whipple
Gary E Brown
Beverly J Burnham Hamilton
Francis Carmichael Falconer
Delta Collaras Bucks
Elsie Cook Bell
Donald Dees
William H Dorward
George P Dreyer
Lois I Farr Tomkins
Helen Houles Garcia
Elaine Jensen Edwards
Marvis Kuest Kleingartner
Claudia J Macdonald Ramsey
Joan L Michelotti Maxwell
Donna L Myers Dickinson
Joy D Olson
Pauline Faye Poppelreiter Couch
Barbara Shea Learmouth
Gary F Staton
Darcanne E Wilson Preble
Mary Yambra Lessard

1957

Nancy J Gill Forgey
Maxine Graves Lyon
Nancy C Hartwig Bentley
Phyllis Hesler Decaro
Marie Hewett Meaney
Joanne Holcombe Bailey
Sonja Hopkins
Joanne Jackson
Carla Juelson
Stephanie Kanthack
Stephanie Kendall Upshaw
Shari Kerr
Nancy A Kuhnley Guest
David Lee Lowery
Judy Lysne Boone
Virginia “Ginger” Manwell Ewalt
Carolyn Martin
Judy Martin Walker
James D McBride
Richard McDonald
Douglas McFadyen
Sharon McGrath
Sharon McKeehan Logan
Mickey Meads Harmon
Janavee Morse
Jacqueline Myhre
Camille Nelson McClain
Ingrid Nelson
Arlene Olson Kang
Charles Chuck Olson
Judy Petersen
Chuck Pitman
Donald L Puckett
Tom F Reese
Barbara J Rhinehart Jones
Ned Roberts
Ron Robinson
Sharon Ruud
Shirley M Short
Janet Simmons
Lorna Sloan
Sandy Smith George
Tom Smith
Terry Sovine
Everett Stevens
Carroll Swift
Charles Thomas
Betty M Wallin
Maxine Warner
Leroy C Wickstrom

1962

Jack Anderson
Karin Anderson
Marliou Anderson Schnee
Jerry L Apeland
Susan Bartow
John Baxter
Dave Burns
Sharon R Cathey
Joyce Christiansen
Connie June Darcy
Karen Davidson
Charles A Davis Jr
Jim Deagle
Linda Drake Black
Cliff Erickson
Alicia Gardner
Michelle Gerhardt
David L Goodman
Fred Goodwin

Tamera M Holcombe
Frank Hornung Jr
Diane Johnson
Laura Jones
Marcia Kautzman
Clifton Kimball
Janice M Lindsay Moshier
Janice M Lindsey Moshier
James Luman
Patricia McPherson
Sue Moore Zumwalt
Wayne Nelson
Jan Norris
Michael (Mickey) L Oswin
Doug Panetti
Trudy Reynolds Witherspoon
John Rice
Sheryl Sanderson
Julie Schults
Garry Sears
Michael R Sill
Robert Smith
Vicky J Starkey
Barbara E Stern
Tim Kevin Taylor
Bob Teel
Gail Louise Trimble Corcoran
Kathleen Wall
Dick Weatherhogg
Karen Wheelles Baker
Virginia Willcoxen

1972
Dave Asher
Lorraine Bonifaci
Charlene M Borski
James A Boulton
Richard Capeloto
Robert Chamberlain
Suzanne Chapman
Deborah Cranford Miller
Carla M Damgaard McMullen
Dave Darrell
Deborah A Delong McBride
Yvonne Diamond
Linda Dobranoski
David Farmer
Julienne Ferguson
Michael Fisher
Mark O’Conner
Dave Garber
Mark Gellein
Rickey Gough
John Hawkenson
Elizabeth Hawkins
Kathleen Wall
Dick Weatherhogg
Karen Wheelles Baker
Virginia Willcoxen

1967

Joy K Anderson Long
Don Anderson
Nancy Bendush
Michael Berman
Wanda C Bigelow Norgaard
Allen Black
Jackie Brandt Bennett
Robert E Brown
Joan Macgillivray
Merilee Meyer
Howard Miller
Merilee Miller
Michelle Moorehead
Nicky Nicolai
Elizabeth Crowl
Greg L Cushing
John Davis
Marilyn G Doty
Jim Dunlap
Mel Eidsmore
Pat Espinosa
William Chris Fladseth
John Freeman
Linda Gangness
Mike M Gerdes
Ross Sherlie
Ron Gordon
Sharon Graff Renfro
Joe W Guest
Al Hampton
Dan Hays
Steve Hitch
Vivian C Hoefke Miller
Sue Holappa Simplot
Suzanne Holtan Graves
Ingrid Nelson
Mike Hughes
Donna A Irvin Erskine
Steve Jones
Rexine Joseph
Virginia (Jim) Justice
Bobette Kearns Burstyn
Julie Lindmark Pilancich
Joanne Lister Wellington
Doug J Lloyd
Joan Loken Sisson
Elaine Lynch
Merrilee Mao Knans
Connie McClaire Applegate
Mary E McWatters
Samual Miles Jr
Lillian Moberly Abbott
Doug Moore
G Dean Nafziger
Kathy North Thurston
Dean Ojala
Lorna Curtis
Lucia Davalos
Linda De Mers
Anthony Del Bianco
Steven D Dillman
Richard Dubois
Cynthia Edminster Doop
Steve L Elenich
Roberta Ely
Treaasa Michelle Fillo
Sidesmurphy
Kelly Fletcher
Ronnie Barksdale
Carol A Freelund Douglas
Gretchen Smails Boger
Christine Smith
Mary Snider Broderson
Bunny Solvang Arntzen
Gary L Sundberg
Rosemary Swanson
Bradshaw
Nancy Tanner Bowman
Gail Thompson Tando
David L Goodman
Edward Hudson

Bob Williams
Sue Williams Pope
Jerry Wright
Carolyn A Zwar Walvatne

Lawrence G Hutton
Paul Jackson Jr
Jerry Jacobs
Robert Jacobson
Jani Johnson
Richard Kuhlmeier
Irene Latinen Rytohonka
Michael Leech
John Lenard
Mai Luong
Troy Major
Tomm E McNeese
Laurie Lee Miller Stevens
Patricia Moore
Roberta G Morey
Jeffery Moury
Mark Murphy
Kathleen Myers
Barbara Newell Wilhelm
Tuyet Nguyen
Kelly A Nicholas Merz
Eimer F Norwood
Steve Oliver
Jeffrey Parent
Brian E Partridge
Donald Peacock
Catherine Perez
Robert Peterson
Hung Pham
Melanie Reed
Joseph Riley
Clifford Russell
Jeffrey Russell
Robert Sampson
Michael Savage
Dale E Schliebe
Debra Schoeben
Kevin Scott
Michael Scott
Robert Scott
Thomas Shupe
James Smith
Ronnie Smith
Stephan Smith
Craig H Spencer
Kimberly Staley
Bill Stephenson
Julie Swenson
Dale Thomas
Rose E Thomasson Wood
Ronald Thompson
David Thomsen
Paul Toth
Gregory S Toycen
Brian Scott Tracy
Susan Troiani
Mark Van Hise
Francis Walsh
Colleen Walton Wyllys
Denise M Wells
James White
Monica Wolf
Jill Wood
Danny Woods
Robert Woods
John Wren
Sachiko Wuebkes Kai
Loretta Zigich

1977
Becky Allen
James H Anderson
Diane Bartz
Tom Bedney
Mike Bell
Nancy Benson
Steve Bland
Keith Boll
Bruce Braun
Mary E McWatters
Samual Miles Jr
Lillian Moberly Abbott
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1982
Rick D Bailey
Cheryl Beaver
Sash Bhan
Ted C Chamberlain
Shawn D Considine
Tony Dean
Anne E Edenholm Streib
Kathy Kohler
Lisa Lesh
Carl Lloyd
Anthony E McLaughlin
Huy Nguyen
Hung Quach
Max G Smithberg
Victor E White

1987
Patrick Ackley
Kimberly Alexander
Monica Alexander
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Silvia “Cilla” Auxilia
Jonathon Baker
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Lorelia Bani
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Cynthia L Park
Maritess Pascua
Marlene Pascua
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Mike Thorn
Ervanna Brown

Jessie Buchanan
Gregory Buren
Stacy Burningham
Lauretta Perkins
Robert Jacobson
Jani Johnson
Richard Kuhlmeier
Irene Latinen Rytohonka
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Maritess Pascua
Marlene Pascua
Derk Brown
Mike Thorn
Ervanna Brown

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Monica Alexander
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Jonathon Baker
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Lorelia Bani
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Thu Nguyen
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CLASS ARTICLES

WSHS 1967

By Helen Verbon Locatelli

Hello once again to the class of 1967. If you're like me you scan through the pages of this Chinook, each year as it arrives, and look to see if anyone from our class has written an article. One of these years perhaps you'll see one written by someone besides yours truly but until that miracle happens, looks like you're stuck with me. I don't profess to be a great writer but any skill I do have would have to be credited to Miss Dorothy Mootafes who taught me well. As a side note, I did keep in contact with and see her all the way up until her passing in 2016 (I think I have that year right). She was a great teacher!

I once again hosted our class reunion here at my house last August. Pictures shown here are from that event. In order of their signature in my guest-book those in attendance were: Danny Lilleness and his wife Mary, Greg Turner and his wife Vicky, Rick Hebron, Carol Weiland Bianco, Arlene Jackson Coppin, Paula Stumpf Barlow, Margo Scott Roth, Deb Lamphere, Georgann Pasnick, Nancy Bundy Pearson and her husband Bill, Linda Bird Johnson and George Reed, class of 1975. We don't normally have a huge crowd but those that do come enjoy themselves and always wish more would join us. This year will mark 59 years since we graduated from high school. I find that very hard to believe! I will again host a reunion here this coming summer. It will be on Sunday, August 30th starting any time after 1 pm. Come earlier and I'll put you to work helping set up. Just kidding, I will be ready ahead of time. As per usual it will be a potluck and you are welcome to bring your spouse, partner, kids, grandkids, cousins, siblings, friends, pets or anyone else your heart desires. There's plenty of room here and all are welcome.

We will most definitely discuss our upcoming 60th high school reunion to see if we want to have a "fancier" event. I enjoy hosting but am certainly willing to have something different for our 60th.

Each year on the first Saturday of June we have the annual all-school reunion at the high school for all who have graduated from West Seattle.

Attendance at that, for our class, is generally pretty small. This year there were just four of us: Harvey Colvin, Rick Hebron, Greg Turner and me. Harvey, Greg and I all attended Schmitz Park Elementary. We only had one sixth grade class at that school so having three of us at the all-school reunion was a pretty good percentage. Greg is an excellent artist and shared some of his work with us. Ken Brix, who graduated from Sealth, stopped by and asked about Warren Langland, Brian McLellan, Dewey McMillin and Rich Uskevich. I had a good time talking with Barb Chamberlain's sister Kathy who graduated in 1965. It'd be great to see more of you there this year. Hopefully this Chinook will get out in time for you to save the date for that as well as our own reunion.

Good "old" Danny Lilleness is our "official" class rep. He was in Hawaii when I contacted him about this article. Poor thing! He along with Jodeen Boessel Rayson, Doug Chamberlain, Bev Johnson Wilson, Margo Scott Roth, Randy Stiles, Paula Stumpf Barlow, and Gayle West Guthrie were on the 50th reunion committee with me so I keep in contact with them regularly. Most of them are pretty darn good about attending the reunion I host here. Others I see, hear from or hear about are Lynn



Margo Scott Roth & Rick Hebron



Paula Stumpf Barlow and Carol Weiland Bianco



Vicky Turner & Georgann Pasnick



Greg Turner & Deb Lamphere



Nancy Bundy Pearson & Bill Pearson



Helen with cake



Helen Verbon Locatelli & Danny Lilleness



Danny & Mary Lilleness & Arlene Jackson Coppin

Alishio Salter, Janice Becker, Lois Bolinger Stromberg, Beth Carfrae Pitt, Tim Chambers, Mike Davenport, Pam Digby Holbert, Randi Fosslund, Patti Gamble Smith, Janet Haight Stroyk, Suzi Jacobs Higgins, Paulette Johnson Kattula, Lorraine Lambert Damman, Bruce Lidstrom, Bob Nessly, Neal Olson, Patty Rein Parker, Robin Sanislo, Lynda Snow Pitcher, Bea Solberg Knott, April Starkey Johnson, Danny Stevenson, Sue Supplee, Marita Torres Abalo, Kathy Wahl Reinke, Dolores Wheelles Latham and Jan Winch Clancy. OK, I admit it, some of them I just see on Facebook so I keep up with them that way. If you claim me as a friend and I somehow left your name out of this article, please forgive me. For one thing I started typing names and then decided I should have them alphabetized by maiden names so as not to look like I was showing favoritism. What the heck. I'm 76 years old! I'm probably not as sharp as I used to be but still feel young at heart and always plan to remain that way!

Guess that's about all the news that's fit to print since I'm refraining from sharing deep, dark secrets about anyone listed here. If you want your secrets shared then let me know and I will print them next time I write. Hope to see you in June, August or anytime in between.



WSHS 1957

By Class Rep Gwen Tatman Fraser

The Class of '57 again, this year, celebrated with a Holiday Brunch at Glen Acres Golf and Country Club. It was fun catching up with each other and all the fun things our families are doing.

We plan on gathering again this holiday season. Please let us know if you would like to join us. Contact:

Gwen (Tatman) Fraser gfraser49@msn.com
Beverly McMillin chochosan29@hotmail.com



WSHS 1958

By Class Rep Audrey Lowdon Tharp

Time once again to submit another article from our Class of 1958. Do you realize it has been 68 years since we graduated and we are now turning 86! Go WS Indians!

In August of 2025 the guys met for a round of Golf at the West Seattle Golf course. Those participating were Mel Terrana, Dave DesVoigne - guest, Bob Kirchner, Bob Nuber, Marv Peterson, Terry Sotherhou, Rodger Bloom, Tim Joslin, Steve Martin and Terry Irvin - guest. Contact Bob Kirchner for further information for the next tournament. He can be reached at: bobandceedee@comcast.net or 206 229 6999.

A monthly breakfast is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00AM. They meet at Endolyne Joe's restaurant at 9261 45th SW (just east of the WS Ferry dock). Some of those attending are Bob Nuber, Marv Peterson, Mel Terrana, Todd Collins, Rodger Bloom, Dorothy Joyce Jones and leader Bob Kirchner. This breakfast was started by Gary Tisdale several years ago and with his passing last year Bob Kirchner has kept the gathering going in Gary's honor.

Contact Bob for possible new locations to meet at 206 229 6999.

The reunion committee now consists of Sandy Thompson Aldworth, Linda Rosatto Alvar, Dolores Duzell Johnson, John Ellis, Gary Norman and Audrey Lowdon Tharp. We meet about four times a year for lunch!

Here is the list compiled since last February of our special classmates who have passed away. Mary Jane Dawley Danielson-2022; Betty Carpine Weller, Sandra Corning Mael, Duane Knittel and Bonnie Vanderhoek Warne-2024. In 2025- Wolfgang Grasst, Janet Hayford, Audrey Lawrence Campbell, Marian Pierce Zaske, and Karen Rinnert Parson. We remember them all with friendship and great memories.

Thank you for continuing to support our great class. I still keep track of our lost and deceased so please keep me updated!!

Audrey Lowdon Tharp - Class Rep!
sharptarp@comcast.net or 206 920 7884

WSHS 1956

By Class Reps Greta Walker Pelham

70 Years for 1956!

Can you believe it?! Look for information on our upcoming 70th Reunion. Plan to reunite with Classmates this summer!

If your address has changed recently, Please call:
Greta Pelham at (206) 246-5271

Reunion details will be mailed.

WSHS 1976

By Class Rep Megan Sheppard

Hello, all! Make way for our 50th Reunion!

Amazing to think that it's our time. Hope you are planning to come for fun, friends, food, and oh so many memories!

Saturday, August 8th, 2026.

Glen Acres Golf and Country Club, just north of Burien.

1000 S. 112th St. Seattle, WA 98168

Website: www.glenacresgolf.com (if you'd like to see pics of the venue)

We have a big room reserved for music and dancing and a smaller, quieter room for conversations. Dress is casual and comfortable, and cost will be minimal (\$25 max). Be on the lookout for a US Postal mailer later in the year as a reminder.

Sadly, 2025 was a year of loss for our class: Marva Moran, Mike York, Brian Hoppe, and Eric Charbonneau all passed away. We will miss our friends.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Email is best: msheppard.social@gmail.com

Elsewhere in this Chinook you can find the "lost list" for our class. If you have contact info for any of these folks, let me know! We want to reach out to as many people as possible.

Can't wait to see you all and catch up! 'Til August!

Megan Sheppard
19029 1st PI SW
Normandy Park, WA 98166
phone: 206-719-2330

WSHS 1971

By Class Reps Jim Biava and Karen (Seamens) Dobbs

Our "Lunch Bunch" continues to meet quarterly for lunch, usually at Endolyne Joe's although we're open to expanding our horizons a bit... Cristos on Alki has been suggested, maybe others...?

It's always a pleasant time, we share laughter and good news: travels, new grandchildren, moves... and commiserate over more somber news: illnesses, passages, losses.

One loss for us this year was Robert James "Bob" Grieve, who passed away at home in Lacey on Jan 16, 2026. Bob was a retired EMT.

Many of us either have or are making plans to enter into new communities of independent or assisted living. The important thing is to keep moving along.

Jim Biava keeps busy and fit working out, walking, bowling and golfing with Mark Minckler and John Miglorie. Jim and his wife, Susan, travel frequently, including trips to Mexico, Arizona and Toronto.

Karen Dobbs has visited Mexico, Italy, Greece, and Germany this past year, interspersed with frequent trips to see her grandchildren in Rhode Island. As this Chinook goes to press, she will be in Morocco (and planning to match her grandmother's 1960s camel-riding photo-op) with the UW Alumni Association.

Our classmates Randy Sleight (actually an entire generation of Sleights!), Tim Morgan and Bruce Amundson are adding their expertise and enthusiasm to the West Seattle Monogram Club! See article on page 27 for details. Maybe some other high school athletes might be inspired...?

If you aren't receiving invites to the '71 lunches, please email Jim Biava to get on the list: jimbiava@protonmail.com. Our next one is on June 28th at 11:30 at Endolyne Joe's, we hope to see you there!

Missing a Yearbook?

The WSHS Alumni Association has yearbooks
for \$30 plus \$5 for shipping.

Contact Chris King at 206 938-1937

or seaking55@aol.com before sending any money,
to check availability.

WSHS 1966

By Class Rep Adelle Hermann Comfort

Opening poem by Vinette Meduna Tichi

Sixty years, how can it be? That we left school, you and me Time marched on and it did fly As we grew up, you and I

High school days we never forget The friends we had and how we met Growing up together, stories told The best of times at Blue and Gold

Careers and families filled our years Most were good, some were tears Changes came, we learned to adjust Hoping the choice was based on trust

So laugh a lot and enjoy each day Shake it off what comes your way Make new friends and keep the old But always remember the Blue & Gold



Vinette Meduna Tichi

Thank you, Vinette, for writing our opening poem for many years, making it a memorable part of our articles.

Reminder! Class of 1966 - 60th Class Reunion

Saturday - June 6, 2026 West Seattle Golf Course 1:00 - 4:30 pm No host bar. Hosted appetizers. \$40 pp Followed by the All School Reunion at WSHS

Hall of Fame!

We are very fortunate to have had 4 of our classmates inducted into the WSHS Hall of Fame over the years! One of the perks is that they get to have an annual article in the Chinook!



Tom Collier



Tom and Cheryl

Hall of Fame: Tom Collier

From Tom:

Cheryl and I are in good health and enjoying our lives in and out of music. Cheryl is the principal flutist in the Thalia Orchestra in Seattle - their quarterly concerts are held in Town Hall. Although I am retired from live performances, I'm still busy in my recording studio, experimenting with new musical ideas, and re-mastering old recordings.

I self-released my first-ever Christmas album in December entitled "Arbor Heights Christmas Album". With universal CD sales in decline, the Christmas recording was available only in digital download format - no physical CD (and no overhead expenses!). Sometime this spring, the third and final volume of my Boomer Vibes project will be released on the Summit label and will be available as a CD or digital download.

On April 23rd, 2026, I'll be presenting a talk on jazz history at the Center for Active Living in the West Seattle Junction (the old Senior Center) to celebrate international April Jazz Appreciation Month awareness. It's been six years since I "lectured" in front of an audience, so I'm excited for the opportunity.

I hope to see many of you at our 60th reunion on 6/6 at the West Seattle Golf Course. Best wishes to all for a great 2026!

**** Dear Tom, Your classmates are so appreciative of the music you record and post on our FB page, in memory of our classmates who have passed away during the year. Thank you for these loving posts.

Hall of Fame: Dennis Madsen

From Dennis:

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike."

Can you remember your first bicycle? Mine was a 26" used JC Higgins that I shared with my older brother. It was the perfect size for him, but unfortunately, it was way too big for me, making it a challenge to get on and off! Nevertheless, those two wheels opened a world of free-



Dennis Madsen



Dennis and his wife Debbie on a rail trail



An old model bike Dennis rode YEARS ago!

allows you to enjoy the countryside and the view. And they extend the riding possibilities for the majority of people who aren't fit enough (or young enough) for the Tour de France! My e-bike allows me to continue experiencing the magic of that first bike ride in West Seattle 70 years ago

Hall of Fame: Tom Jensen

From Tom:



Tom Jensen

Last June, as the new VP of the WSHS Alumni Association in charge of the Hall of Fame, I had the honor of helping to bring our own Kevin Mason on board as the newest member from the class of 1966. I am sitting here gloating over the fact that Kevin is now obligated to Adelle for an annual article. If Adelle does not mention it, our class does not have the most members in the Hall of Fame. We had some remarkable women in our class, you know. (Hint). Nominations for 2027 are accepted until mid-December. I am hoping to get some improvements to the WSHS AA website that will include an online nomination form.

We are also looking for ways to better display the Hall of Fame. While it once was showcased near the entry, it has been exiled to a hallway behind the gym. For the last two years the school has been storing gym equipment in front of the display. I cannot get into the cases to display Kevin's photo and do not know if mine ever made it. I consider it a real slap in the face to all those honored there. Send a note to the principal.

The Alumni Association is always looking for volunteer help. We have 5 or 6 meetings a year and you could be involved a little or a lot. Think about it.

I tend to stay busy as a member of my condo HOA board where I am about to start my second (and last) three-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. If you are ever given the opportunity to be on an HOA board, I would strongly recommend, instead, volunteering as a "crash dummy".

dom for me, and exploration via bicycle has been a significant part of my life ever since.

In 2025, my wife and I both acquired gravel e-bikes (the modest electric motor assist of an e-bike removes the intimidation of riding up a hill) to continue exploring gravel roads and rail trails in the Pacific Northwest. If you want to know about the national creation of rail trails, just google "history of rail banking." In addition, you can find great rail trails at http://TrailLink.com

We have some of the finest rail trails right here in Washington. The history of these old rail lines is fascinating, and now they provide fantastic recreational opportunities. Nothing beats the fresh air, stunning views, and rich history of a ride like the Palouse to Cascades Trail. The amazing old trestle bridges and the deep gorges they span are so inspiring!

In the coming years, there are so many rail trails we hope to explore throughout the United States: Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes,

Katy Trail, George Mickelson Trail, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Trail, and the Great Allegheny Passage Trail.

Some athletic folks claim that e-bikes are not "real" bikes because they give you some assistance. But there are many positive aspects to e-bikes.

When you're riding uphill, an e-bike allows you to enjoy the countryside and the view. And they extend the riding possibilities for the majority of people who aren't fit enough (or young enough) for the Tour de France! My e-bike allows me to continue experiencing the magic of that first bike ride in West Seattle 70 years ago



WSHS 1966 Continued



Tom and Charlaire's 57th wedding anniversary, June 21, 2025. Charlaire Chew Jensen is also our classmate from '66. Soon they will be celebrating their 58th! Congrats!

By the time you read this I'll have taken my first Alaska Cruise in May of 2026 and will have attended the graduation of another granddaughter from Grand Canyon University in Arizona. We used to enjoy vacationing in Hawaii, but my old bones can no longer take boogie board wipe-outs, and I find I have become much too buoyant for diving. So, for vacations these days, I look forward to seeing graduations, some great country, lots of eagles, and the occasional bear in the distance.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on June 6th.

Hall of Fame: Kevin Mason



Kevin Mason

Kevin is an extraordinarily talented artist: Cocktail singer/crooner; expert Victorian wood craftsman; gardener, cook and photographer. The black and white photos that need to be included for this article would not reflect the colorful photos he posts on his personal Facebook page. These include photos of the beautiful flowers in his garden; or the lovely, healthy meals he concocts; or the spectacular scenery in and around Port Townsend, the town and area he loves.

Kevin spends much of his time entertaining people at his various concerts in Port Townsend. Here is a small representation of concerts in 2025:



Kevin, with his trusty camera, capturing the sites of Port Townsend as a 20 year volunteer photographer for the Port Townsend Film Festival. (Photo taken by Deja Webster, of Deja View Photography in Port Townsend.)



One of the amazing photos that Kevin has taken of so many of the historic buildings in Port Townsend. His portfolio of pictures on his personal Facebook page are truly amazing.

To learn more about Kevin: visit his websites:

https://www.cocktailsinger.com https://www.victorianworkshop.com

All School Reunion June 7, 2025

We always have a great turn out!



Seated left to right: Glenn Vosper, Vicki Nelson class of '68 and wife of John McNulty, Dave Mansell & wife Ann

Standing left to right: Melodie Vrtnar Rogers, Tom Jensen, Nancy Noble Hammond, Sue Coghill Lindblom, Kevin Mason, John McNulty, Ruthi Sundnes Winter, Leland Lien, Carolyn Woodgate Rippee.

Not in this photo: Mark Stevens, Bill Hart. Oh wait! Here is Mark!



Diana Rakus, Sheila Pless, Nancy Noble Hammond, Leland (Lee) Lien, Barbara Bowen Quintana, Vicky Beall Hall, Linda Rodstol Brice, John McNulty

Our annual gathering on 6/6 at 'The Bridge' in West Seattle is always a successful, happy event! So grateful for another good turnout! Lots of great conversations and laughs on a sunny day! Some classmates who have never come to this annual event showed up on this day in 2025!



Front wiggly row: Seated: Margaret Mengedoht Vicente, Lynda Kuntz McVay, Jackie Dreyer, standing behind Jackie is Alice Cleveland Kissel, Patricia Powell McGuire, Lynne McShane McNulty, Glenda Sturdivant Barrett

Second row: Vicky Beall Hall, Ruthi Sundnes Winter (hands on Vicky), Patty Jacobsen Spangler, Dotty Smith Mahaffey behind Patty, Nancy Noble Hammond, Sheila Pless, Barbara Waite Cooper, Vinette Meduna Tichi, Kathy Braymer Shepard

Third row: Adelle Hermann Comfort, Sue Coghill Lindblom, Tom Collier, Diana Rakus (hat on), Barbara Bowen Quintana, Delores Johnston Peck, Sue Armstrong Holmberg.

Fourth row: John McNulty, Ken Stapleton, Greg MacPherson, Linda Rodstol Brice, Tom Jensen, Leland (Lee) Lien, Dennis Madsen, Judy Bates Maybay, Jerry Hume



Marsha Nakatani (Greg's partner), Greg MacPherson, Ruthi Sundnes Winter Nancy Noble Hammond, Ruthi Sundnes Winter



Diana Rakus, Ken Stapleton, Greg MacPherson, Tom Collier



Dotty Smith Mahaffey, Lynda Kuntz McVay



Dotty Smith Mahaffey, Lee Lien, Nancy Noble Hammond



Tom Collier, Vinette Meduna Tichi, Marsha Nakatani

WSHS 1966 Continued

The Annual gathering of the Class of '66 at 'The Bridge' in West Seattle, continued



Patricia Powell McGuire, Linda Rodstol Brice



Barbara Bowen Quintana, Delores Johnston Peck



Linda Stapleton, Doug Stayner, Delores Johnston Peck, Ken Stapleton



Doug Stayner, Tom Collier



Lynne McShane McNulty, Dotty Smith Mahaffey, John McNulty



Alice Cleaveland Kissel, Barbara Waite Cooper



Sue Coghill Lindblom, Alice Cleaveland Kissel



John McNulty, Dotty Smith Mahaffey, Barbara Waite Cooper



Margaret Mendedoht Vicente and Jackie Dreyer



Adelle Hermann Comfort, John McNulty, Dennis Madsen

Some classmates capitulated when asked to write an article about certain events in which they participate regularly! Thanks for supporting our Chinook article and spreading the good news about your experiences!

Tom Friberg

SPRUNGING ALKI AND WEST SEATTLE by Tom Friberg:



Tom and his wife Shannon (photo was definitely not taken while cleaning up in West Seattle)

A Cleaner Alki is a community cleanup group that grew from a long-running Saturday morning beach cleanup driven by Erik and Garet Bell, brothers and fourth generation West Seattleites. For them, The Cleaner Alki cleanup was a way to deal with the tough times of the Pandemic.

Then Erik Bell posted an open invitation on the local Facebook group West Seattle Connection, inviting neighbors to join him at the beach for a cleanup. Pleased by the response, Erik launched A Cleaner Alki (aka "By and By") in 2021.

During the next few years, the group grew to over 2,000 members and expanded beyond the beach and into the community to deal with the many complicated cleanup needs around West Seattle. Shannon and I participate because we can be outdoors, getting great all-body exercise, meet great people, and... good things result.

The various group cleanup events are at the beach, parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, business junctions, highway cleanups, industrial areas, abandoned encampments and illegal dumping grounds. Almost every scheduled weekday event is litter, and spruce-up cleanups. Sprucing includes cutting blackberries, pulling ivy, trimming trees, and clearing pathways.

By partnering with Seattle Parks Foundation A Cleaner Alki is able to pursue grants and receive tax-deductible donations under their 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status. They also partner with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Seattle Parks & Recreation and Green Seattle Partnership Forest Stewards.

A Cleaner Alki does much for West Seattle and its people.

Note: If you don't use Facebook, you can contact Seattle Parks Foundation at 206.332.9900 and ask how to be involved with A Cleaner Alki.



Shannon and Tom hard at work



Tom and Shannon (center)

Ruthi Sundnes Winter:



Ruthi in her 'Norwegian Folk Dress' which she wears frequently when playing for the 'Winter Band'

From Ruthi:

Most every October, Mike and I head out to another interesting place on the globe. This year we went to Turkey and Greece. Our WSHS history classes barely touched on ancient history, so I was happy to learn more. For three weeks we were on a tour that focused on antiquity. We started in Istanbul with the Hagia Sophia church/mosque/museum from 400 BC and then made our way down to Ephesus in Turkey to experience a very large and impressive ancient city that has been unearthed. One room that caught my eye was the communal toilet. It had 25+ seats in it! I figured that the potty room had to be a place where people sat and gossiped!? And we are talking 2,000 years ago!

We then hopped on a small ship and headed to the Greek Islands. Even though Santorini was the most beautiful with its blue domed churches, I think my favorite was Kalymnos where the locals dive for sponges (and where there were no cruise ships to compete with!). If you are a cat lover, both Turkey and Greece have cats everywhere. They don't belong to anybody, but everyone feeds them. There's always a cat sitting on an ancient statue or one begging for a pat on the head.

Back on Mainland Greece, we stopped at a honeybee farm and got to be beekeepers for a day. I even got to pet honeybees with my finger. They were too busy working in the hive to sting! We were lectured on how the world has lost 80% of its pollinating bee populations. So now I'm a true believer of bee keeping and saving these tiny pollinators. Of course, the grand finale of the trip was climbing up to the Acropolis in Athens. Nothing can match the site of that awesome 2,500-year-old architectural wonder! It was the perfect way to end my European adventure!



Ancient toilets unearthed in Ephesus, Turkey. Imagine the camaraderie!



Can you find the comfortable cat?



Ruthi the beekeeper

Ruthi: Thank you so much for sharing your travel escapades! Maybe other classmates will reach out to say they have been to these places, too.



WSHS 1966 Continued

John McNulty

The Continuing Sagas of John McNulty And Vicki Nelson (Class of 1968)

As some of you know about Victoria and me, there is not much TV watching and bon-bon eating in the McNulty/Nelson household. We continue to participate in numerous volunteer activities between traveling and doctor appointments.

In November 2024, we learned that we could volunteer for a Water Quality Monitoring Program of Longfellow Creek organized by the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association (DNDA). Volunteering for this work was an easy choice, given my experience in geotechnical and environmental projects around Seattle. The program is part of a larger group known as Global Water Watch (a world organization dedicated to engaging the public in compiling physiochemical and bacteriological water quality conditions in local rivers and creeks around the planet).

Salmon, absent for 60 years, began returning without intervention as soon as toxic input was ended and barriers were removed. Construction of a fish ladder at the north end of the West Seattle Golf Course will allow spawning salmon up along the fairways. Farther upstream the city has been enlarging and building more storm-detention ponds, recreation areas, and an outdoor education center at Camp Long. (Refer to Links below)

The Longfellow Creek Community Action Project's Water Quality Monitoring Program is designed to engage local residents in deepening their understanding of watershed health through hands-on, community-based science. The primary focus of data collected as part of this program is water quality. This project addressed the following questions:

- What are the current physiochemical and bacteriological water quality conditions in Longfellow Creek?
• How do current water quality parameters - specifically temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, hardness, turbidity, conductivity, and E. coli concentrations - compare to historical data sets, and what trends or deviations can be observed over time?

Every month, rain or shine, we go to our assigned spot on this beautiful creek that runs through an urban forest to collect these critical samples. Our families go back multiple generations in West Seattle, and we are committed to giving back to this community that has given us so many wonderful memories. For further information you can search these references:

- Longfellow Creek - Wikipedia
West Seattle Blog... | Saving, and loving, Longfellow Creek and its salmon



John and Vicki: Thank you for the work you do in maintaining the water quality in these local areas to keep them pristine and to save the salmon!



Sandi Hagopian Powers and Colleen Grady in Arizona in March 2025



Linda Rodstol Brice and Janet Mayer Kahn in Baker City, Oregon in May

Annual gathering of Brownie Troop 1496 from Schmitz Park Elementary!

Left to right: Barbara Waite Cooper; Adelle Hermann Comfort; Kristine Davis Sanders; Melodie Vrtnar Rogers; Kathryn Bullock Peterson (all the way from Montreal, Canada!); Barbara Cameron Bair (had to leave WS and Schmitz Park at age 11 but comes up from Arizona every summer to reconnect); Ara Green Knorre. We missed Lynda Kuntz McVay, who had to cancel. If there is anyone 'out there' who was in Brownie Troop #1496 and is interested in joining our annual gathering, please contact me @ adelle1016@comcast.net



Colleen Grady and Sandi Hagopian Powers meeting for lunch in Arizona on 12/22/24. Lovely ladies inside and out!



Susie Galloway Singleton, Sue Armstrong Holmberg, Vicky Beall Hall, Diane Glover Pollard, Kathy Welch Engum. They meet up a couple of times a year. On this day it just happened to be Diane and her husband Craig's (class of '64) 56th wedding anniversary, November 2025

From Cheryl Conway Harlick:

June 11, 2025, Yesterday, Cheryl Johnson Forsberg, JoAnn (Jodie) Spracher Davidson and I met for lunch and a great time in Lake Forest Park. Jodie and I realized we both went to Kindergarten in 1953 at Gatewood. We had a wonderful time together and if any of you 66'ers ears were tickling you may have been part of our memory gab fest. (no picture was taken because they were having too much fun!)

The annual 'Christmas in the Country on Bainbridge' retreat had to be cancelled this year, but that didn't stop this group from meeting up on December 5th for conversation, good food and lots of laughs at the Chelan Café in West Seattle.off with "Firm and Loyal, too!"



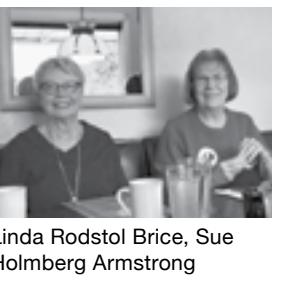
In front: L: Margaret Wakelee R: Sue Coghill Lindblom Left to right around the table: Kathy Braymer Shepard, Adelle Hermann Comfort, Nancy Noble Hammond, Patty Jacobsen Spangler, Ruthi Sundnes Winter, Linda Rodstol Brice, Sue Holmberg Armstrong



Kathy Braymer Shepard, Adelle Hermann Comfort, Nancy Noble Hammond



Patty Jacobsen Spangler, Ruthi Sundnes Winter, Linda Rodstol Brice



Linda Rodstol Brice, Sue Holmberg Armstrong



Sue Coghill Lindblom, Margaret Wakelee



The person who accidentally wore her slippers last year to the Christmas on Bainbridge retreat was in her regular footwear for this event!

Ladies: Save 12/4/26 for the next Christmas gathering!

Ken Stapleton posted this on our Facebook page in January of 2025:

The author is 'unknown'

They call us "The Elderly" We were born in the 40-50-60's. We grew up in the 50-60-70's. We studied in the 60-70-80's. We were dating in the 70-80-90's. We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's. We venture into the 80-90's. We stabilize in the 2000's. We got wiser in the 2010's. And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020. Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades... TWO different centuries...

WSHS 1972

By Class Reps Kathie Dempsey Itter and Gail Paulson Gagner

Thank you to those who provided stories for our class article. We would love to hear from more of you. Please send stories and pictures (jpeg format) to kathitter@gmail.com for next year's edition.



Bill and Roberta Stof Manly moved to Sequim from Northern Virginia last September. Thrilled to be back in Washington State, Bill is happily retired. They look forward to spending time exploring the West Coast in their RV, catching up with friends and family and enjoying a variety of creative pursuits.



Mike Ovesen retired in 2018 and now spends his time between PALM SPRINGS and Seattle.

He Worked In sales for Burroughs Corp & Sealed Air Corp.

Enjoying the good life...



Dan and Colleen Carpenter Kord celebrated 50 years of marriage with a Baltic Sea cruise that traveled to Skagen Denmark, Berlin Germany, Stockholm Sweden, Helsinki Finland, Tallin Estonia and Kristinsland Norway ending with a few post cruise days in London. Returning home their children and family hosted a wonderful anniversary

party where they celebrated with the best of friends (many were WSHS classmates).



Front row: Jon Rinker, Blake Ruffin, Steve Itter, Dan Kord
Back row: Nancy Rinker, Suzanne Ruffin, Kathie Dempsey Itter, Colleen Carpenter Kord

These classmates have been partying together since before they graduated. This occasion was a Fat Tuesday Lunch hosted by the Kords.



Jaye Hanson Bywater went to work for Pacific NW Bell in 1973. Married Kevin Bywater (class of 1974) Oct 1979. They have 2 children, both married and 4 grandchildren. Both families live in the area. After retirement they moved to a small cabin in Mount Vernon, WA on Lake Cavanaugh.

Jaye retired from the phone company in 2005 and went to work for T-Mobile for 11 years. Kevin drove a metro bus for 38 years. They now find themselves cruising the world and enjoying family.

Remembering...

Patti Kirchner Dunn



Patricia Ann Dunn, 71, of Ponca City, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025.

She was born on January 4, 1954, in Seattle, WA, to Alice and Robert Kirchner. She graduated from West Seattle High School in 1972. She continued her education and received her bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and her master's degree from Seattle Pacific University. Patti went to dedicate over 30 years of her life to education, serving many roles within her career, starting as a classroom teacher and retiring as a principal. Her commitment to shaping young minds left a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues.

Beyond her career, she found her greatest joy in being a grandmother to her two beloved grandchildren, who were the light of her life. She also had a special love for her schnauzers, who were always by her side and brought her endless comfort and companionship.

She will be remembered for her kindness, strength, and unwavering devotion to her family. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her sister, Barabra Mclean and Brother, Robert Kirchner (Seattle, Wa), her son, James Dunn and daughter Beret Watters (Ponca city, Ok), and her grandchildren Colton and Kylee Watters (Ponca City, Ok). She was preceded in death by her parents, Alice and Robert Kirchner.

A celebration of life will be held in Seattle, WA during the Summer of 2026.

Jeri Larsen Graham



Jeri Larsen Graham was born in Seattle on October 11, 1954, and passed away in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico on September 2, 2025. Having dual citizenship, Jeri loved living in Cabo where she had many friends that she considered family. Jeri and her husband John were married for 44 years and had two children. She was very generous donating Diamond Club Mariners and Seahawks tickets for her WSHS Class of 1972 reunions. Jeri was fun, loving, and always put family and friends first. She will be missed by so many.

WSHS 1961

By Class Rep Gail Gunderson Evans

Dear and faithful classmates,

As hard as it is to believe, we celebrate our 65th high school graduation this June. For those of us still standing upright, we probably don't even "feel" 65, much less out of high school for 65 years. "How time flies!"

I will not be able to attend the All-School Reunion this June, because we have a family wedding. But! I am hosting our Class of '61 Reunion when it is sunny, on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at our home on Angle Lake in SeaTac, close to the airport. The information is shared in the class newsletter I mailed in late January/early February. My e-mail is Gail.D.Evans@hotmail.com and my cellphone number is 206-935-3294. Just show up. I will serve light refreshments and a variety of drinks, but you may bring anything you would like to share. It will be from noon on! This is a casual affair. Just show up!

Because of my lengthy class newsletter sent in January, I will not repeat news here, but here is who I have heard from via Snail Mail this last year plus! Abnett, Creevey, Damm, Gallaher, Goddard, Hatch, Holert, M. Johnson, E. and B. Lewis, Gary Moore, Noffsinger Schuroll, Maginnis, Draper, Young, Schmidt. Thank you all.

Your Class Scribe,
Gail Gunderson Evans

P.S. You can also check many of us classmates out on Facebook.

WSHS 1974

By Class Rep Mark Wittman

It's time for my once a year, hour-long fulltime job as Class Representative to try to come up with something to say for The Chinook. Most of us are hovering around the 70 years old milestone. It does take a little getting used to saying it out loud. Time sure flies when you're having fun and living life. We should count ourselves lucky to still be here to enjoy it....but still!

As usual the call went out on the class Facebook page (West Seattle High School - Class of 1974) for updates or ideas to put in the letter. Jack Van Campen and Lydia Nancarrow Habr shared that they are in the 50 years married club with kids also around 50 years old. How is that even possible? I need to lie down.

Here is the part of the letter that's hard to type. As far as I know, we lost three classmates in 2025. I was told that Michael Linstead passed away in March, Chuck Petek in April and Virginia Lloyd Tkaczyk in July. It's always sad to hear that news.

There's not much else to report. I hope everyone enjoys their 70's. There are certainly more challenges as we age, but we're still here to face them head on. I hope everyone has a happy and healthy year ahead.

Mark Wittman,
markawittman@gmail.com

WSHS 1962

By Bruce Thomason

June 10, 1962 West Seattle High School Graduation
Seattle World's Fair Arena

In retrospect of the time, we were aware of the Cuban Missile Crisis, looked up to and respected John F Kennedy and in all probability went to see the movie Lawrence of Arabia. We may have watched The Beverly Hillbillies or Johnny Carson and danced to the Twist or the Watusi. In many respects we were naive, saw the emergence of counterculture and had no idea what a wonderful wide world we would see in the future.

At this time, we would like to pay homage to the many classmates that have passed throughout the years. We did not have a class article the last couple of years and since many of our classmates are not on Facebook, along with family members and friends, we mourn the passing of and celebrate the lives of Harry Buckman, John Copernoll, Jan Dalrymple Espinosa, Don Dinsmore, Jim Nokes, Nancy Trulich Holert and Dorcianne Scott Toth. To the best of our knowledge it appears as if nearly half our original class have passed

Our class reps Ed Ogle and Ginny Rhodes Montgomery, started and maintain our two Facebook pages. The first is West Seattle High School Class of 62 and the second is Light a candle for WSHS class of 62. If you're not a member of Facebook, if for no other reason please think about joining to see the many photos and stories of your classmates.

Years ago, our class rep Elsie McCoy and I, hosted our first WSHS class reunion lunch at JAK'S Grill in West Seattle. For every year thereafter, Ginny would host the lunch and it was always super fun and she did an excellent job. When Ginny, husband Jon and daughter Brandi built their dream home and moved to Sequim, Lucinda Wingard suggested we try The Claim Jumper. It was an excellent choice, but unfortunately the restaurant is now permanently closed. On a more positive upbeat, when Ginny moved to Sequim, her next-door neighbor Mary Jane Duncan, was an old friend of mine when we worked together at The Seattle Times newspaper.

I found it interesting when I looked at our school yearbook and Roger Larsen, one of the two classmates featured in this upcoming alumni edition, was going to attend the Perry Institute. He didn't. The other classmate that will be featured is Jerry Cufley. Jerry was going to college to become a pharmacist and he didn't.

Jerry Cufley lived just down the alley from me. He was the third of five children in his family and very smart. In grade school, he was selected to be the captain of the school crossing guards. In high school, he was one of the top ten students. At that time, he worked for Mark's Pharmacy with his sister Bernice, Jack Karaffa, Dennis Smith and Clive Comfort. Albert Mark was a phenomenal gentleman and working for him was a highly prized and sought after job. When he entered the University of Washington, it was to study pharmacy which he initially did. With his high intellect and outstanding grades, it was suggested that he enter medical school. He graduated summa cum laude from medical school as an internist and gastroenterologist. He was absolutely the pride of our neighborhood and often referred to as the kid from the wrong side of the tracks!

There's so much more to Jerry than his medical degree. When I lived in West Seattle, I would often see him at one of his children's houses and he was helping to home school the kids. Another little-known fact, is that Jerry was admitted to Yale University and had never actually applied there. He found out that a West Seattle High School English teacher, had submitted copies of his writing along with an application for admission. It was an honor but he declined as he needed his job at the pharmacy when he first started at the University of Washington.

Jerry married the love of his life Linda. She is a remarkable woman, an avid gardener, member of the Woodinville Garden Club and Natural Horticultural society. She is also a member of Pollinator Pathway NW which promotes native plants and not using pesticides. The end result is to create a habitat for native bees and butterflies. As an avid gardener myself, I found this amazing and will absolutely no longer use pesticides.

Jerry has also written a book which has not yet been published. It is a work of fiction and he has collaborated long distance, with our former classmate Sherry Woods Matson. Sherry is a retired extraordinary teacher, living in Alaska and an immense help to Jerry as she helps in editing the many pages.

As this is the last class article I will ever write, due to my arthritic hands, it has been fun talking with and reuniting with friends. Bob McClane underwent a very severe back surgery and pleased to report

he is doing just fine. He spends his time helping at church, league bowling, and taking care of the dog and is house.

Our favorite expat Jane Hyde, told me there was nothing new and exciting in her life. She is living in Arcachon, which she says is like Seattle, but with better weather and wine; living on a sound with a view of the beach, tides, wild geese and more. Arcachon is in the Bordeaux region of France. She retired from the phone company some 20 years ago and no longer spends time as a copyist at the Louvre. She enjoys walking her Lowchen Lucy from one oyster and wine bar to another. She still has a pied a terre (apartment or condo) in Paris but can only take Paris in small doses.

Ron Kostanich and wife Pat, have moved from Shelter Bay to La Conner. Ron has had a hip and knee replacement due to his athletic days at West Seattle. He retired from Xerox years ago and is now involved in philanthropic giving to various community endeavors.

Our longtime friends, Don and Lynn Rutherford, spend time traveling the world and are now home! They had Valentine's dinner at my all-time favorite Italian restaurant Massimo's.

Barbara (Barbi) Wright Rosendahl, my friend since kindergarten, continues to enjoy her retirement, spending time between her beautiful homes in Bellingham and Bucerias Mexico.

Brian Paust continues to post his amazing bird photos on Facebook and has developed a large number of followers.

Louis Fiset, I have not seen since he and Jerry Baker were throwing fastballs to Ron Kostanich at West Seattle. From what I read, he is a retired Dental Professor and prolific writer and has written a number of articles and books on the three generations of the Japanese; the Issei, Nisei and the Sansei. From my days in the newspaper business, I was longtime friends with members of all three generations. Our friendships were so strong, that I was the only Hakujuin (Caucasian) in the Nisei bowling league at Rainier Lanes.

Drew Thoresen, a retired business executive and a friend since grade school, is the founder of Seattle Metro Pickleball. What Drew and the Board of Directors have accomplished is almost unbelievable. They have taken a sport that started years ago, but went everywhere but here, to total prominence not only in Seattle but in cities throughout the state. Years ago, I called the late Dick Farman, Mr. Pickle. A name that should now be passed on to Drew.

Sherry Woods Matson, is another longtime grade school friend. She has had more than her share of heartache in losing both her husband Darryl and brother Don, in the same year. She is a masterful word-smith, proud mother of a beautiful daughter and two brilliant grandchildren. Her grandson attends MIT and her granddaughter Yale. In reference to Sherry and the kids, I can think of no more appropriate idiom than "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

Mike and Karen Tando, welcomed the arrival of their beautiful baby granddaughter Brooke.

Suzanne Spencer maintains a healthy diet, enjoys retirement to it's fullest and is active in many different outdoor activities.

As for myself, I live with my beautiful wife Barbara and our special and spoiled Havanese Lily. I continue to look forward to my monthly sushi lunches with classmate and friend, Danny Smith.

Roger Larsen - briefly biography

Let's start with one of Roger's favorite lines; "A short story endless".

The burning question: Did Roger attend the Perry Institute as he had planned? NOPE, he landed a job at Value Mart warehouse in Georgetown prior to graduating High School. Where he met his first wife Bunny, they had two daughters, the oldest Shari, and DeDe. Eventually moved to Idaho briefly when he got into the "rag business" selling garments with his older brother Ray Larsen. He traveled a great deal through Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Washington and Oregon. Eventually moving back to Washington where he raised a family in the SeaTac area.

Ray & Roger would team together to build their own business called NGA Net Gain and Associates, where Ray had a couple of his children working and Roger's oldest started her career in the Rag business as well. They built labels Hot Stuff, Sassy Chassy youth and young men & ladies jeans and did really well for themselves and grew into a very nice business. Roger traveled many times to China, Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong and built many long lasting friendships where ever he traveled. Eventually all good things end, and Ray and Roger went their

WSHS 1995

By Class Rep Lynda Bui and Andrea Vega

Hello, classmates! The class of 1996 & 1997 wanted us to join them for our 30th reunion, and the much anticipated celebration is coming up this summer. Check out our plan over in the "Reunion Reminders" section of the Chinook (scan the QR code).

Save The Date: Saturday 7/18/26, 7:00-ish

Location: Dakota Park Place (4304 SW Dakota St, Seattle, WA 98116)

Glad you found this note; we hope you are doing well. Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address to stay in touch, and let us know if you'd like to be involved in our reunion planning!

Your Class Reps,

Lynda Bui & Andrea Vega

WSHS 1996

By Class Rep Dana Rambo Hopkins, Danielle Johnson, and Christine Ericson Jones

Check out our innovative 30th reunion plan over in the "Reunion Reminders" section (scan the QR code!) and keep up-to-date with our group on Facebook, "WSHS c/o 1996."

Save The Date: Saturday 7/18/26, 7:00-ish

Location: Dakota Park Place (4304 SW Dakota St, Seattle, WA 98116)

The plan includes a joint celebration with the c/o '95 & '97 and we've been having fun at alumni-mini-gatherings each year at these annual events: West Seattle 5K (this year on 5/17/26, sign up early to get a t-shirt), the All-School Reunion (this year on 6/6/26) and the Homecoming / Huling Bowl football games (schedules TBD).

Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address to stay in touch, and let us know if you'd like to be involved in our reunion planning!

Your Class Reps,

Dana (Rambo) Hopkins, Danielle Johnson & Christine (Ericson) Jones

5 Reasons to Attend Your 30th Reunion: the c/o 1995, 1996 & 1997 Edition

1 It will be *triple the fun* since we're teaming up. A joint celebration across neighboring classes (1995, 1996 & 1997) means more familiar faces, more energy, and more chances to run into your people.

2 Because 30 years is a mic-drop milestone. You only get one, and it's the perfect excuse to celebrate how far you've come (and laugh about who you *thought* you'd be).

3 It's the easiest way to reconnect IRL, without the awkwardness. Reunions are *designed* for "So what have you been up to?" conversations. No perfect opener needed. Show up and let nostalgia do the work.

4 Your favorite people might be there... Old friends, teammates, that person you always meant to talk to. Reunions have a way of surprising you in the best possible way.

5 Stories you can't get anywhere else. The "remember when..." moments are priceless, and somehow funnier when everyone is old enough to admit what really happened.

WSHS 1997

By Class Rep Kyle Minaglia and Helen Johnson

I hope you're enjoying this year's Chinook. The class of 1995 & 1996 want to combine forces for our next reunion, so get ready to celebrate a little early at a multi-year gathering this summer. Check out our plan over in the "Reunion Reminders" section (scan the QR code).

Save The Date: Saturday 7/18/26, 7:00-ish

Location: Dakota Park Place (4304 SW Dakota St, Seattle, WA 98116)

Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address to stay in touch, and let us know if you'd like to be involved in our reunion planning!

Your Class Reps, Kyle Minaglia & Helen Johnson

WSHS 1954

By Class Rep Al Freeman

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 71ST CLASS REUNION IN JUNE OF 2025

Our 71st Annual Class of 1954 Reunion included written greetings from Judy Lawrence Rogge, Neil and Wyoma Sandal, Jerry and Phyllis Miller, Ted and Leila Angle.

Alums who attended the reunion were: Iris Fisher, Larry Gill and my wife Connie and I. Featured at the reunion were Ron Rice's three videos that were viewed of his mission work in Nigeria. The following was received in an email from Ron prior to the 2025 reunion:

I try to get to every reunion since I live less than a mile from WSHS. I continue my ministry of providing wheelchairs for some of the uncounted tens of thousands of polio survivors in Nigeria who spend their lives crawling on the ground. We have a shop in Jos, Nigeria with 46 employees where we build a hand-pedaled tricycle for \$150. So far we have built and donated over 37,000 of these tricycle/wheelchairs since beginning this project almost 25 years ago. That's 37,000 people who have had their lives transformed from crawling on the ground to having mobility and being able to go to school, to the market and have a more normal life.

After 31 trips to Nigeria, I have had to give up my travel there because of the serious risk of kidnapping and my health issues, but I have good people there and the work continues uninterrupted. I just got a report and photos this morning of the distribution of 100 wheelchairs Saturday in the city of Ibadan.

My big job is raising money. I have to raise almost \$30,000 a month to maintain our production. People have been generous when they see how \$150 can transform the life of a child or adult. A couple of classmates have been faithful supporters.



Watch the 5-minute video on my website www.WheelchairsforNigeria.org. It will blow your mind.

Looking forward to seeing 1954 classmates at the 72nd Reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2026! Al Freeman



WSHS 1970

By Class Rep Patricia Kloster

Class of 1970's 55th

August 10th was hot and sunny at Alki Beach, as the Class of '70 gathered to celebrate both the 55th year since graduation but also to finally honor classmate Susan Rutherford for her induction into the WSHS Hall of Fame (during Covid). Of course, Susan arrived on her bicycle, using any excuse to enjoy summer in West Seattle! See photo below.

About 50 classmates gathered for an afternoon of catching up since our 50th+2 reunion, also delayed due to Covid. Ken West flew in from



Arizona, Duane Noble came from Richland where he creates handcrafted guitars, Dru Confer Hill from Anacortes, where she illustrates children's books written by her daughter and many joined who still live in West Seattle. I heard from many others as well, who couldn't attend. Gene Olsen planned to attend but had Covid; Tom Williams was busy building a new home in Idaho; Jay and Elaine Nokes Kuehny were traipsing around Europe.

As we approach our mid-70's, it's obvious we're not 18 anymore. Unfortunately, we lost classmates Dwight and Nikki Yeigh-Knodel just months apart. Several of our classmates have lost spouses as well. Special thanks to Cathy Andrich Pfau for helping coordinate food and decorations, Jami Hanning Vaux for bringing our class banner, plus Jim Mansell (and others) for helping schlep everything back to our cars at the end!!

Be sure to e-mail me if I don't have your e-mail address so I can let everyone know details of any upcoming events - we hope to have some lunches between now and our 60th Reunion in 2030!

Cheers, Patricia Kloster pjkloster52@gmail.com



WSHS 1963

By Class Rep John Norden

Dear Classmates,

It is hard to imagine that another year has gone by and that we will hopefully see you at the June 6th All School Reunion.

I was having lunch with one of our classmates the other day and we both brought up an interesting discussion point that we realized how lucky we are to have lived during one of the most amazing times in our world. From 1945 during the end of the war when we were babies and many of us were around when the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Cold War followed the surrender of Nazi Germany with the United States and the Soviet Union in 1947 and in 1950 the Korean War with the cold war lasting until December of 1991 when the Berlin Wall collapsed and the Soviet Union was no more.

We voted in President John F. Kennedy the first Catholic to lead the country and we lost him while visiting Dallas on November 22, 1963. We

fought a long, needless war in Viet Nam and lost so many and other wars in the middle east.

Over the last 70 years U.S. inventions have been dominated by the digital revolution and space exploration with primary adventure being the journey to the moon and subsequent exploration of the solar system. Key innovations include the microprocessor, the internet and the smart phone along with Medical Advancements.

Don't mean to get carried away but Wow!

You have heard this before from me but reach out to some of the kids you grew up with to see how they are doing and if they need anything. Just a call can make the day for our classmates.

Best to you all,

John Norden

WSHS 2006



WSHS 1926

SENIOR CLASS POEM

AND NOW OUR HIGH SCHOOL VOYAGE IS DONE
WE'VE CROSSED OUR FIRST GREAT SEA;
WE'VE LEARNED TO SAIL THAT FOR OTHER TRIPS
OUR SHIP MAY WORTHER BE.

WE'VE LEARNED THAT EACH MUST PULL HIS OAR
TO WIN AGAINST THE WEATHER,
BUT STILL WE MAKE NO PROGRESS, 'TILL
WE PULL OUR OARS TOGETHER.

WE'VE LEARNED, WHEN AFTER ALL OUR WORK
OUR EFFORTS SEEM IN VAIN,
TO KEEP UP HOPE -- TO STILL "SAIL ON!"
TO START AND TRY AGAIN.

THIS PORT WE'VE REACHED, BUT, NOT CONTENT
WITH JUST ONE VOYAGE MADE,
WE'LL START ON OTHER TRAVELS;
WE'LL FACE OUR LIFE AHEAD.

NOT AS A SCHOONER SAFE IN PORT,
A CRAFT WHOSE WORK IS DONE,
BUT AS A SHIP WITH SAILS FULL SET
FOR A VOYAGE YET BEGUN.

-PARAGRAPHS PROUD-

WSHS 1975

50 for 75

By Class Rep Laurie Hooper Wilson

West Seattle High School Class of 1975 50th Reunion

Fifty years—an entire lifetime of memories, milestones, and friendships—brought the West Seattle High School Class of 1975 back together in the summer of 2025 for a truly unforgettable reunion.

Looking back to June 12, 1975, when we gathered at the Seattle Center Arena for our commencement, none of us could have imagined the paths our lives would take. That moment marked the beginning of journeys that would span careers, families, and life experiences far beyond what we knew then.

Held at the West Seattle Golf Course, our 50th reunion brought us full circle. The evening was filled with laughter, music, and the kind of connections that only time can deepen. Classmates who first met as children—some as early as kindergarten, grade school, and junior high—found themselves once again side by side, picking up conversations as if no time had passed.

Music from The True Romans carried us through the evening, bringing back memories of dances, school events, and the soundtrack of our youth. The dance floor quickly filled, proving that while the years may pass, the spirit of the Class of '75 remains as vibrant as ever.

Earlier in the day, many classmates participated in a golf tournament, where friendly competition and laughter set the tone for the reunion. It was more than just a game—it was another opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and create new memories together.

In the months leading up to the reunion, much of the planning and excitement came together through our West Seattle High School Class of 1975 Facebook page. What began as a way to share updates grew into something truly special. Classmates reconnected, shared photos and stories, and supported one another in ways that reminded us just how strong our class community continues to be. Even now, the page remains a place where friendships continue and memories are shared.

As we celebrated, we also took time to remember those classmates who are no longer with us. Their absence was felt, but their presence lives on in our memories, our stories, and the lasting impact they had on each of our lives. They will always be a part of the Class of 1975.

The West Seattle High School Class of 1975—once Indians, always united in spirit—proved that time may pass, but true connections never fade.

Dedicated to the classmates we have lost—forever remembered, forever part of the Class of 1975.

Get Ready 1976! You're Next!

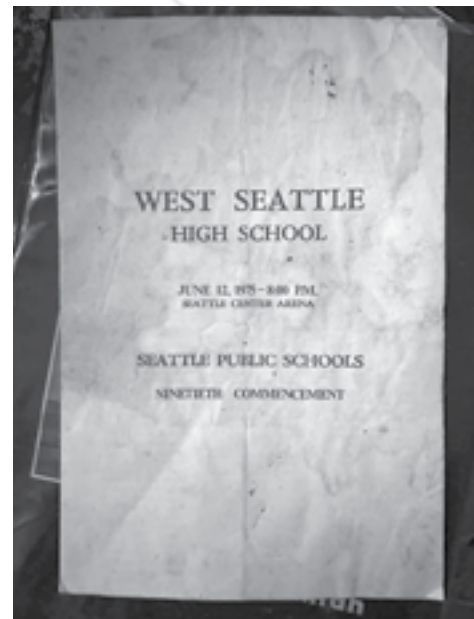
WSHS 1986

By Class Rep Jeff Stern

Forty years ago, the biggest movies were Top Gun, Crocodile Dundee, and (fittingly) Back to School. The top songs included Broken Wings, How Will I Know, and Party All the Time. Yes, hard to believe but now the West Seattle High School Class of 1986 will be holding its 40th reunion this year.

Events will be held in conjunction with the WSHS All-Class Reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2026. So 86ers please mark your calendars and keep the weekend of June 5-7 open. And please spread the word to any of your fellow classmates with whom you're still in contact. Further details will follow. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Stern, the class representative, via email at jeff@sternski.com.

Thanks and hope to see all of you soon.



WSHS 1964

By Class Rep Muriel Verbon Knapp

Happy 80th birthday to each of us who has made it in the last number of months or will be making that great achievement sometime in the next number of months to come! To honor that achievement, at our 60th reunion in 2024, the classmates in attendance decided we should celebrate our collective birthday this coming summer. The date decided on is the actual birthday of **Maureen Meyers Vanderpas**, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at Lincoln Park in West Seattle. We have made requests of the Parks Department to book Shelter 5. We have not yet received a response to our written request. We can't ask the Parks Department about the status; we just have to wait to receive confirmation. We have requested the use for all day but hope at least to get a confirmed time of 11:00am to 2:00pm. We intend to order Husky Deli sandwich trays with salads, so we will need to know how many people might be in attendance. Once we receive confirmation from the Parks Department of the date/time, we will send out postcards so that you can RSVP. **Suzann Francisco** and **Glenda Braun** have been very helpful in this whole process of organizing the event. Meanwhile, please keep the date in mind so that you're able to attend. We have so much fun at the reunions because at this stage in the game of life, we are all simply people who have the common foundation of graduating from West Seattle High School in 1964 and anything that defined us as separate groups of friends in high school simply doesn't exist anymore.

I haven't heard from so many classmates this year. I catch glimpses of **Mary Sue Wenger Brooks**, **Sylvia Haglund Balistreri**, **Susan Aardal Montacute**, **Alan Delsman**, **James Fenton Sr.**, **Marsha Franks Munson**, **Gary Gordon**, **Lois Leland Cheney**, **David Little**, **Marlene Loop Blessing**, **Doug Mill**, **Claudia Minden Weisz**, **Jack Osier**, **Gerry Schulz Benedetti**, **Darlene Schwan Hill**, **Linda Snyder Layman**, **Gloria Strom Shawstad**, **Diana Smith Schmidt**, and **Nancy Terrana McCandless** on Facebook. It is always good to see our classmates enjoying life with travel and other social activities. I see **George Jugum** faithfully walking around Genesee Hill where we both live. Truly, walking is the best exercise for all of us.

I see **Susan Moody Williams** on coffee dates and see **Sandra Kores Fromm** from time to time at West Side Presbyterian Church. **Diane Dalrymple Neesz** and I are able to see each other once in a while in Edmonds, though she lives at Port Ludlow. **Karen Krows** and I did a lot of work documenting the history of Daughters of the Nile, a fraternal group started by her grandmother right here in West Seattle way back in 1913. The organization, that has as its sole philanthropy the Daughters of the Nile Foundation that donates over \$2M each year to Shriners Children's™, is a testament to the strength of women to create long-lasting social connections that work for the support of children in medical need.

We have received only a few returned mail envelopes for **Dale C. Baskett**, **Hazel Boyles Alley**, **Jean Horton Hagen**, **David F. Logan**, **Beverly Lucas**, and **Norm L. Spencer**. If you know of their current whereabouts or even any other classmate that somehow fell off our list of contacts, please let me know.

I do want to say how humbled I am by the nomination to the West Seattle High School Hall of Fame for me made by **Lorraine Toly** and the votes of affirmation by the West Seattle High School Class Representatives. Such an honor was never anything I ever thought would come my way. We all do outstanding work in our communities, and I am blessed to be singled out. As a Class, we do have collective hearts for good causes that benefit humanity. I take this award as a representation of all the philanthropic and professional work my classmates have done over the years that might have gone unrecognized but is just as deserving as the award the Alumni Association has bestowed on me. Thank you.

Please keep in touch. You are all important not only to me, but to everyone in our Class. As has been the case for many years, my contact information is:

home address – 4030 55th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116;
home phone – 206-932-7283; cell phone – 206-890-8868;
email – murielknapp@msn.com.

Please feel free to contact me any time. I love to talk and catch up with what's happening with you. Keep healthy and happy!

WSHS 1978

By Class Reps Denise Dawson Minnerly and Denette Wells



Hello Classmates:

We hope 2026 has started out well for everyone!

Our 50th Reunion is fast approaching (2028). Denette & I are in the early stages of planning a memorable event.

Sadly another classmate has passed away since the last Chinook was published: Tamara Hodson ... she will be missed by all her classmates & family!

Pictured below is Stephanie Conn Finn, Denette Wells & Chris Hansson from The All School Reunion (2025).



Pictured below is Nanette Ginsberg, Corri Frye Richter, Robin White Garcia & Michelle Herrera Carr at a recent class get together.



If you have any thoughts or ideas for our 50th, please feel free to contact one of us at our information shown below.

Until then, enjoy life, stay healthy and hope to see you at the All School Reunion in June!

Sincerely,

Denise Dawson Minnerly – Class Rep "78"
(206) 200-3290
deniseminnerly@gmail.com

Denette Wells– Co-Class Rep "78"
(206) 290-3669
denettew@comcast.net

WSHS 1966 Continued from page 17

TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from hand-written letters to email and Whats App.

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, color TV and then to 3D HD TV. We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smart-phones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric. Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as "exennials," people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We've kind of "Seen-It-All!"

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE!



Ken and Linda Stapleton
Married in July of 1970 and going strong through the years!

GRATITUDE! On behalf of all of us:



Thank you to our Class Representative **Melodie Vrtnar Rogers**, who attends the Alumni meetings on our behalf and reports to us about cash on hand, investments, scholarships and so much more. Thank you so much for representing us, Melodie. We appreciate your updates on our FB pages!



Thank you to **Tom Jensen** who has taken on the role of VP of the WSHS Alumni Association in charge of the Hall of Fame. Tom, thanks for your efforts to honor the Hall of Fame in the manner deserved by all recipients, past and future!



Thank you to **Kathy Braymer Shepard** for always being a cheerleader and organizer for events, a guiding light, and the best copy editor and spell checker for our articles!

**Our beloved classmates
who passed away in 2025...**
gone but never forgotten.

Grover William (Bill) Smith 3/15/25

Frank Braun 4/11/25 **Van Stratton** 8/4/25

Ken Sanberg 4/11/25 **Gary L Smith** 10/9/25

Classmates who passed away in 2024, but we did not learn until this year:

Janet Cullor 7/24 **Jim Eldred** 10/27/24

For those who have not yet joined our Facebook pages, check us out at:

West Seattle High School Class of 1966 and West Seattle High School Women Class of 1966

Please consider paying the WSHS Alumni Association annual dues of \$20. You can also contribute to the Scholarship Fund Account or to the Operating fund by designating this on your check. Donations 'in memory' or 'in honor' of loved ones are also welcome. Mail your check payable to WSHS Alumni Association and send to 4742 42nd Ave SW #215, Seattle, WA 981116-4553. The website is: <https://wshsalumniassociation.org>

Adelle Hermann Comfort signing off with "Firm and Loyal, too!"

WSHS 1959

By Class Reps Lynda Moody Hurst and Deronda Blake Stanley



"Inside every old person is a young person wondering what happened." Terry Pratchett

Here we are at the 85th marker. My kids are excited to celebrate my birthday in a few weeks; I seem less excited about it than they are. But I will agree that we are blessed each day with a variety of gifts, with "life" at the top of the list.

Have you been able to connect with a school classmate in 2025? I hope so! Bob and I had a lovely visit with Sara (Harpster) and Jim Thomas last summer. Sara and I attended Whitworth College our freshman year and Jim was best man at our wedding, so catching up was a delight! Carol Besser Addison, Shirley Jutte Jackson and Deronda Blake Stanley had a reunion in August. Also, in August a group of 59-ers met at Salty's: Deronda, Shirley, Shirley's cousin and classmate Butch Jutte, Joe Matthews, Al Bender (wife Carol) and Gary Ross. We all have experienced conversations with friends where we jump into the conversation right where we left off; it's always fun and rejuvenating!

Thank you, Joanne Rogstad! You get the prize for being the best at letting us know your new address. So helpful! And a big Thank you Jim (and Bunny) Pillings for coming to our All School Reunion in 2025! Jim's smile and upbeat attitude always lift my spirit.

A few class updates: Gloria DeBritz Alldredge is now a full-time resident in Palm Desert. Mary Lou Hay Jones visits regularly. David Livingstone passed away in October 2025. Dave was part of our 50th Reunion Committee; his faithful friend, Gary Ross, provided a ride for him to our planning meetings. Dave had a servant heart and always enjoyed being with '59 classmates. We continue to learn that many of you have moved into senior housing or are altering your living arrangements. In our case, after remodeling our basement this fall, our son and his wife and baby girl moved in to help us as needed. Reminder: Do let us know if you have moved, even if you only change apartments in the same building. Also, any information to help locate LOST classmates or advising us of those who have died, is most welcomed.

Many of you may know that the Seattle School Board has increased the cost of renting the high school for one evening a year to an unaffordable level. Your Alum Association has been working hard in dialog with the School Board so that we can have an All School Reunion in June 2026, even as SSB grapples with their overall budget demands. Please check the updates on the reunion I am sure you will find in this spring's Chinook. Personally, I think the West Seattle High School All School Reunion should be a priority for the School Board as a showcase of a success in public education, rather than working to make it fiscally impossible to have such a gathering. They should make it a model of what a good school can be - a school with a caring and supportive alumni association (who gives a lot of scholarships!) and therefore, can strengthen and be supportive of the school staff and students, and the surrounding communities.

It's our 85th year classmates! Happy Birthday!

Your Class Reps: Lynda Moody Hurst and Deronda Blake Stanley

WSHS 1980

By Class Rep Terese Anderson Machmiller

Greetings, Class of '80! Hello Class of '80!

We hope you are all doing well, and having a great 2026 to date.

We welcome Fran (Manly) Coy as our new 1980 Class Rep, handed over by Diane (Begunoff) Venti. Fran has worked hard on prior reunions, and continues to live in West Seattle with her husband Karl (WSHS Class of '79).

THANKS to Diane for being our class rep for these last many years (2012-2025), and especially for the class reunion she threw last summer, where many of us got together at Kenyon Hall to enjoy live music by Monty Smith and fellow musicians, awesome food, beverage and setup/cleanup contributed by a number of classmates, and time to catch up on life. Thanks to Brian Kumasaka, Andrea Grad, Jon Sleight and Diane for financing the event. Here are some pictures!

We look forward to seeing you at the all-school reunion held on the first Saturday in June!



WSHS 1962 Continued

By Bruce Thomason

separate ways, and so did Roger and Bunny.

Roger met and married Lisa, and they started a business Roger aptly named, Outrageous Inc. est. 1985. Roger is a fantastic salesman and talked a bank into loaning him funds to produce Fleece pullover jackets with an order from Fred Meyer and on a hand shake he built Outrageous Inc. an import manufacturer of wearing apparel. In 1987 his oldest daughter, Shari came onboard and has worked side by side with Roger for the last 39 years and counting. Lisa became a full time mom to two daughters Alexa and Gigi. Gigi would eventually join the business as well. At one point Outrageous was the #2 largest importer of Denim shirts in the distributor business in the USA. Roger has always maintained a flexibility to change with the times. He is a man of his word and has a reputation of being true to his word all over the world. He is a half world traveler. He has been to many countries, Russia, all over China, Vietnam, Singapore, Pakistan, Indonesia, Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Roger just turned 83 on February 1st! He is always busy, loves coming to the office daily, and has been a caretaker to one of his oldest friends who is fighting cancer. Roger would give the shirt off his back. He is a grandfather to 4, and a Great-grandfather to 3. Roger has a lot of stories of being a road salesman and half world traveler.

The only things on Roger that have grown worse with time would be his spelling and his hearing, otherwise he is the same sweet thoughtful, humble and very helpful to anyone in need guy. Roger has built a family business and raised 4 daughters, who have all worked with him at some point and taught us all good work ethics. He made a beautiful home with his wife Lisa in Normandy Park Washington. Friends and family near and across the world think the world of Roger.

WSHS 1955

By Class Rep Ted Foss

CLASS OF 1955 WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
AUGUST 26, 2026, WEST SEATTLE GOLF COURSE

Greeting Classmates-

I hope that you are in good health! Can you really believe that we graduated from high school 71 years ago?? What have each of us been doing all those years?? (College, military, business, or another choice?)

Of course we must not forget our deceased classmates who graduated 71 years ago.

Here is the schedule for the day:

10:00 am to 11:30 a.m. social time and check in time
11:30 am to 12:00 pm will be photos for the 2027 Chinook
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm lunch time
1:30 pm to 2:15 pm program
2:15 pm sing the Alma Mater.

The lunch menu is as follows:

Cheese burger, French fries, tossed salad, "surprise", tax and gratuity are included in the price. Beverages - are extra. \$35.00 is the total.

The attire for the event will be casual.

You must RSVP before August 12th if you will attend this activity!!

Please contact me at tedfoss@msn.com, or home phone number - 206 932-5349, if your last name begins with A to I. If your last name begins with J-R, contact classmate Russ Dow at 206-972-9696 or by e-mail russ.patricia@juno.com, or if your last name begins with S-Z contact classmate, Chris King at 206-938-1937 or email seaking55@aol.com

Let us all do what we can to stay healthy and enjoy our family and friends!

See you in August,

Ted

**Your \$20 Membership to the West Seattle High School Alumni Association
helps bring the Alumni Chinook to your doorstep.**

Join or renew today complete the membership form on page 5.

WSHS 1965

By Sue Campbell

60 for Class of 65

On June 8, 2025 the class of 65 gathered to celebrate our 60th reunion at the beautiful Glen Acres Golf & Country Club. It was a gorgeous sunny afternoon and everyone was excited to catch-up with classmates they haven't seen for awhile. The turn-out was all we could have hoped for, thank you to all that came out to make it a huge success. We definitely missed those that couldn't make it.

The organizing committee: Dan and Pattie Anderson Boyle, Doug Garvey, Jim Jacobsen and Sue Morton Campbell made sure everything went smoothly. Big thanks to Dan & Pattie Boyle for securing the room for the event. The staff did a outstanding job with delicious food and service. Dan & Pattie also found our amazing talented pianist Dan who created just the right mood. We celebrated our veterans and got a great photo of them together. I hope you enjoy the many photos taken with the help of Denette Wells.



I want to give a special thanks to our class rep Patty Magnuson who faithfully attends all the meetings and reports back to us all the important information, we appreciate you so much. Please join our class Facebook page: West Seattle High Class of 65-50 year reunion, where there is always info about upcoming events and news from fellow classmates. Let's keep in touch. Even though I no longer live in West Seattle it will always be my home and in my heart. Take good care and let's meet at the beach this summer !!

One more request: Please attend the All School Reunion Saturday June 6th 2026 4-7 pm. We need to keep this tradition going. Here are a few quotes from fellow classmates regarding the reunion:

John Knoche: I went to our 60th class reunion, my first WS class reunion with no expectations. I was thrilled and grateful to find so many classmates successful and living full and active lives. The afternoon was fun, entertaining, engaging and over much too soon. It meant so much to me to catch-up on many friendships from our younger days and early adventures, thank you.

Patti Cook Woeck: "BEST" If you missed being there hopefully you were involved in something more special. We've been together for so very long and have very special memories. Mine are: Alki Elementary, Madison then WSH "WE ARE THE INDIANS, PROUD and LOUD. NOW CLUB 79".

Pattie Anderson Boyle: "Perfect Day" Lots of smiles, hugs and reminiscing with classmates, some you hadn't seen since graduation. Sharing memories of growing up in West Seattle and the old days at WSH. The large group was genuinely glad they came. It was a day enjoyed by all.

Sue Campbell



WS CLUBS

West Seattle Monogram Club

By Club President Dick Sleight, Class of 1973

The Monogram Club at 61

Founded in 1965, the West Seattle High School Monogram Club has supported our alma mater by providing college scholarships for our scholar athletes. Beyond this, the club welcomes former varsity athletes and guests to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship at our quarterly luncheons. We gather at the West Seattle Golf Course clubhouse for lunch and a sports-related program on the first Thursday each February, June, October, and December. The club is open to all those who earned their varsity "W" at least forty years ago. If that's you, you're already in.

This past year witnessed a few changes for the club. At our June meeting, the next "slate" of club officers was elected. Randy Sleight, class of '71 and varsity letterman in Cross Country, Soccer, and Tennis was chosen as our new president, while Ted Foss from the class of '55 was named President Emeritus.

New also last year was our club web site, MonogramClub.org. You can now learn on the web about upcoming luncheons and featured speakers, about recent gatherings, officers, scholarships, hall of fame, and even share your own stories and school memories in the Monogram Club Quarterly newsletter.

Our recent meetings featured our new officers in October, Tim Morgan in December, and Bruce Amundson in February. Tim and Bruce were Tennis teammates from the class of '71. Our February luncheon on the 5th (Hank Aaron's birthday), fell just three days before the Seahawks 29-13 rout of the Patriots in Super Bowl LX. Kudos to our club treasurer Don Conner, class of '58, whose prediction of that score tied for closest to the final point total, and won our contest by forecasting a low score for New England. Feel free to contact one of our club officers if you would like to suggest a future speaker or volunteer yourself. So many of us now have decades of stories to share.



Club members at our December 4, 2025 luncheon. Front Row (left to right) Joann Fukuma '84, Randy Wagers '73, Harald Sund '61, Tim Hill '54, Randy Sleight '71, Nancy Sleight '73. Back Row Tim Rohr '73, Randy Olin '73, Tim Morgan '85, Kraig Kennedy '65, Ted Foss '55, Don Conner '58, Dick Sleight '73. Not pictured Mark Zoffel '84.



New club president Dick Sleight, '71, with President Emeritus Ted Foss, '55

Current and prospective members should update their contact information at SL8@spu.edu. Please provide your name, mailing address, email address, your class year at West Seattle, and the sport(s) in which you lettered. Sharing your email address with our club secretary will allow us to remind you about upcoming luncheons.

This year, we welcomed former athletes from the class of '84. We invite and encourage those of you who earned your first letter in 1986 or earlier to learn more at MonogramClub.org, and we hope to see many of you at our annual scholarship-themed luncheon on June 4, 2026. What The Beach Boys sang in 1963 still rings true. Be True to Your School!

The Monogram Club Scholarship Awardees for 2025



Liam Baier



Olivia Chen



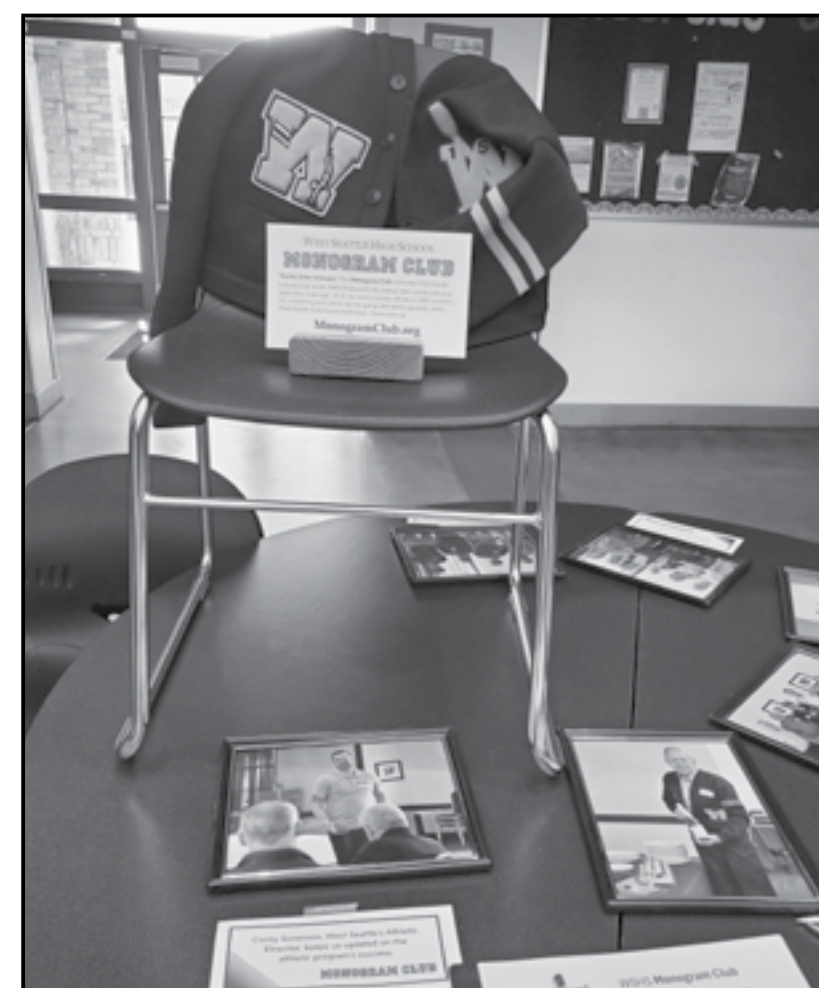
Addison Shepard



Jacob Hiey

This year the Monogram Club awarded their four scholarships to these well deserving members of the class of 2025.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners!

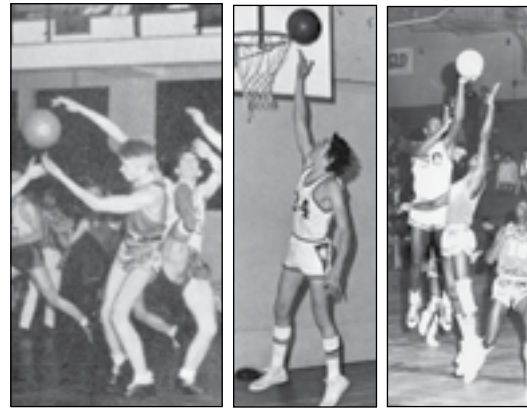


The Monogram Club display at the ASR



WSHS Student Life: Through the Decades

Boys Basketball



1946 1976 1966

Girls Basketball



1926 1986 2006

Volleyball



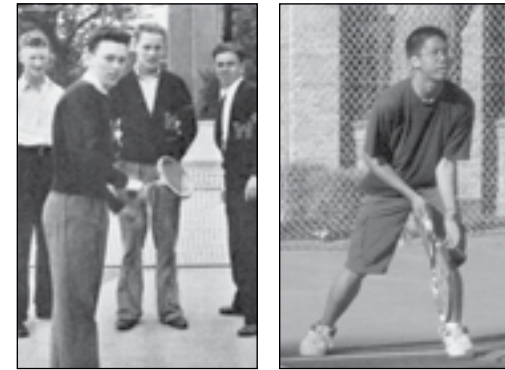
1976 1996

Football



1936 1966 2006

Tennis



1936 2006

Gymnastics



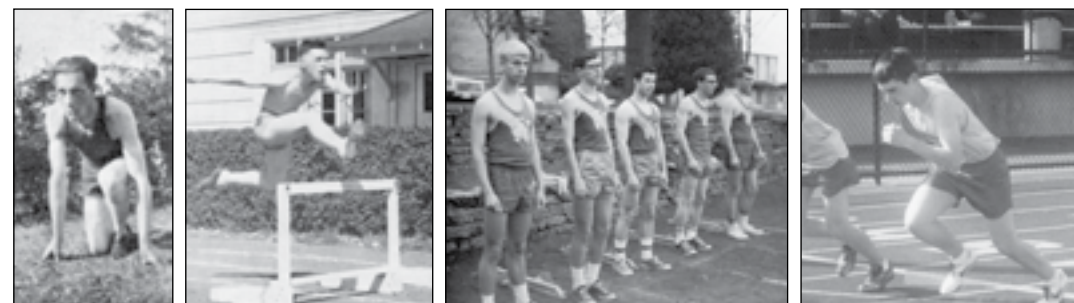
1936 1976 1986 1996 2016

Golf



1936 1986

Track



1926 1946 1966 2006

Baseball



1926 1946 1976 2006

Ski



1966 1986

WSHS Student Life: Through the Decades

Band



1936 1976 1986 2016

Talent Show



1946 1956 1966 2016

Choir



1966 2006

Drama



1926 Senior Play "Peg O' My Heart" 1936 behind the scenes 1946 Senior Play "Don't Take My Penny"



1956 Senior Play "Time Out For Ginger" 1966 "You Can't Take It With You" 1996 "The Butler Did It" 2016 "The Addams Family"

Prom and Dance



1956 1976 1996 2016

WSHS Student Life: Through the Decades

Dance Class



1936



1976

Chess Club



1936



1966

Yell Squad / Cheer



1936 Yell Squad



1956 Cheer



1976 Cheer



1986 Cheer



2006 Cheer

Homecoming



1956



1966



1976



2006



2016

Student Life



1926



1936



1936



1946



1946



1946



1956



1956



1966



1966



1976



1986



1986



1996



1996



2006



2006



2016



2016



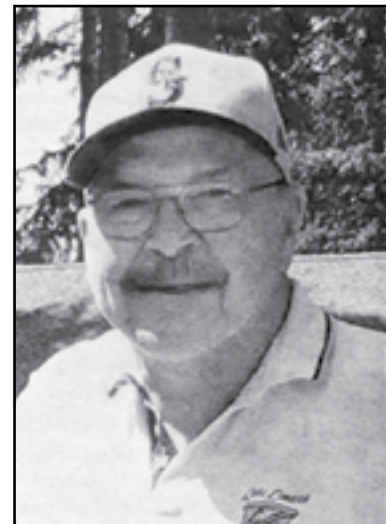
OBITUARIES

James Murray Nokes

Class of 1962

James "Jim" or "Jimmy" Murray Nokes: Husband, Brother, Dad, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, and always, Friend.

Jim passed away on July 19, 2024 at Tacoma St. Joseph Medical Center following a courageous battle with a failing heart. Born in Seattle, WA and raised in West Seattle with his four brothers and only sister. Jim graduated from West Seattle High where he excelled in three sports, basketball, baseball and football, where as a starting linebacker won the 1962 city championship. Following graduation Jim attended Olympic Junior College for two years before joining the U.S. Army for three years. Jim started his working career at Washington Iron Works and following his apprenticeship became a journeyman molder making steel castings.



Jim Nokes
February 11, 1943 - July 19, 2024

His expertise and great attention to detail made him a leader in his trade. Following the closing of WIW, Jim moved on to work as a warehouseman with Fisher Flour Mills. At Fisher Mills, he worked his way to superintendent. Fisher sold to Pendleton Mills and he relocated to Vancouver, Washington and continued with the new ownership to his retirement in 2013.

Jim was a renowned fastpitch softball player accruing numerous awards and honors including being on the 1980 Peterbilt Fastpitch softball team that won the ASA National Championship, USA National Sports Festival Championship, and Pan Am Games. He continued his Fastpitch pursuit that included playing the game well into his 50's to embrace playing on the same team of his son John. Jim was inducted into the Greater Seattle Fastpitch Hall of Fame in 2000. He was also an avid golfer at Lake Limerick Golf Course and a powerhouse bowler at Westside Lanes in Olympia, chasing and attaining the 300 perfect game Vancouver, WA in September of 1997.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, just two months short of their 30-year anniversary, Debbie Nokes; children, John (Debbie) Nokes, Debbie Johnson, Derek Nokes, Jason Nokes, brothers, Jerry (Sheila), Joe, sister Irene (Dean) Dyson; grandchildren Brittney, Tyler (Porcscha), Alyssa, and Morgan Johnson, Jacolby (Kassie), Kaela, Max and Hannah Nokes; great-grandchildren, Nnamdi, Annaya, Alaia, and Mateo; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, George (Joe) and Della Nokes; brothers John and George, Jr.; and sister-in-law Lottie.

Alan (Rusty) Woodward

Class of 1962



Alan (Rusty) Woodward
Senior Photo 1962

Alan (Rusty) Woodward was born in Oakland, California on July 27, 1944, and then some time after that he and his family moved up to Seattle.

After his graduation from West Seattle High School he joined the Navy. I honestly don't know if he was in the Navy for 2 years or 4 years, but when he came back home to his parents' house he worked for Al Schoenfeld at Schoenfeld-Muntz TV, repairing television sets. He even made house calls.

I met him one evening when my brother took me along to the roller skating rink. Rusty was as dreamy as a movie star and a wonderful skate dancer. I could hardly stay on my feet. Eight months later we were married.

We took an airplane down to Athens, Texas, one year so he could take a class on repairing Curtis Mathes television sets. He loved his job at Schoenfeld's but people were starting to just buy new sets instead of getting the old ones repaired, so he was let go.

He found a new job driving a school bus. He loved driving his kids

Colonel Don Lee Peterson

Class of 1953

Colonel Don Lee Peterson (USAF - Retired)

Dad was the first-born child of Trygve Marinus Peterson and Dorothy (Skillingstad) Peterson. An Alki Beach boy through and through, he grew up on the local playgrounds and ballfields. He delivered groceries for his dad's small Alki grocery store, played basketball, football and baseball for West Seattle High School, earning All-City and All-State recognition in baseball. He won a scholarship to play for the University of Washington Huskies baseball team and also won an ROTC scholarship.



Colonel Don Lee Peterson (USAF - Retired)
December 28, 1934 - April 20, 2025



Don Peterson Senior Photo

He met his wife to be of 66 years, Imogene (I my) (Wheeler) Peterson at the UW where she was a Kappa Delta and he a Fiji, marrying after graduation.

Dad joined the U.S. Air Force and after completing Officer Training School and pilot training soon joined USAF Security Service, which focused on national security, intelligence and surveillance. He rose quickly through the ranks as a highly decorated, often promoted and respected leader. He was selected to attend the Air War College, earning a Masters Degree and later was promoted to Full Colonel "under the zone".

While we moved 14 times in 18 years, including 7 years in Turkey, Germany and Italy, Dad took a step back in his career in 1978, declining a command post that surely would have led to his achieving Brigadier General. Instead, he became the Deputy Athletic Director and head of the PE Department of the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs, his final post that would allow their two youngest daughters to attend just one high school.

After his 35 year Air Force career, he also worked for the U.S. Amateur Boxing Association at the Olympic Training Center the Denver Post Senior PGA Tournament of Champions event and Excell Consulting. Dad was also a member and former president of the West Seattle High Monogram Club.

After 20 years in Colorado Springs, Mom and Dad returned to Alki in 1998, where they lived until 2022 when they moved into Providence Mount St. Vincent Assisted Living. Dad passed away peacefully at Swedish Hospital in Hospice Care as a result of ongoing heart related issues and pneumonia, 15 months after Mom's passing.

Dad is survived by his brother, Dave (Jan); cousin Jeff Skillingstad (Cheryl); and children: son Don Jr. (Cindy), Lisa Doepken, Page Peterson and Kathy Peterson. Grandchildren: Sam, Hayley, Marina and Lexy.

around and Paul Allen, generous soul that he was, had volunteer school bus drivers take battered women and their children to Jazz Alley to enjoy the musical performances and eat pizza. Drivers' families got to go along, too. It was great fun.

And there was Street of Dreams he volunteered for and we got to tour the big fancy houses, and also watch the "Bacon Bowl," Seattle policemen and Tacoma policemen playing football for charity.

Outside of his work, he took us to see the Monster Trucks, to pumpkin farms and hay mazes, to drive-in movies, to Emerald Downs to watch the horse races, Roxbury Bowling Lanes, Marymoor Park to fly kites and airplanes, to Paul Allen's Living Computer Museum, the Puyallup Fair, SyKart and Champs Karting, to watch the Rat City Roller Derby, Nickels Video Game arcade in Kent, Family Fun Center in Tukwila, K1 Speed, Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra at Benaroya Hall, Connections Telephone Museum, Jordan World Circus, and lots of other fun stuff. It was great fun.

But then he started to get sick. He could not drive his school children around any more. He was told he had Lewy Body Dementia. We tried to take good care of him. We had him with us until Oct 14, 2025. He was 81.

Now he's in a niche at Bonney Watson SeaTac. He has a couple pictures and some of his favorite things around him. We all miss him very much. I hope his Dad is taking good care of him.

Loretta Woodward

Jim Whittaker

Class of 1947



Jim Whittaker
February 10, 1929 - April 7, 2026

Jim Whittaker, the first American to reach the summit of the earth's tallest mountain, and a 1947 graduate of West Seattle HS, passed away April 7th, 2026, at the age of ninety-seven.

Jim and his twin brother, Lou were born February 10, 1929, and grew up in Arbor Heights, attending Fauntleroy Grade School. The siblings (Lou passed away in 2024) began to climb in Boy Scout Explorers, then later with the Mountaineers. Jim enrolled in the Mountaineers Basic Training Course in 1945, and continued his membership for the next 82 years. Both Jim and Lou began guiding climbers on Mt Rainier, and took over the management of the national park's guide service in 1949.

While attending Seattle University, Jim worked selling ski equipment. Both brothers were drafted during the Korean War. Their Rainier experience led them to the assignment of teaching high-altitude and winter survival skills at the Army's Mountain and Cold Weather Command. Jim was the first employee of REI Coop, later becoming their CEO in the 1960s.

Over the years, Jim scaled all of the world's highest mountains; aside from his multiple ascents of Everest, he also reached the summits of K2, the world's second-highest peak, Mt McKinley (now known as Denali), Mt Kennedy in Canada, and many others, most of which he climbed more than once.

Jim carried fond memories of WSHS, as he shared with the West Seattle Alumni Chinook in 1990; particularly teacher Belle McKenzie, who told him "you can go places...go far", and Gordon "Pop" Hannaford, whom he considered "a great inspiration". "There is no question in my mind that the motivation and keen insight that were given to me by the teachers at West Seattle caused me to move onward and upward through life, exploring all possibilities."

Jim was inducted into the WSHS Hall of Fame in 1986. The photograph of him on the top of Mt Everest in 1963 is currently displayed in the school library.

In 1979, the Whittakers moved from West Seattle to Port Townsend, where he lived for the rest of his long life. He is survived by his wife, Dianne Roberts and five sons.

"There is no question in my mind that the motivation and keen insight that were given to me by the teachers at West Seattle caused me to move onward and upward through life, exploring all possibilities." Jim Whittaker



Jim Whittaker
Senior Photo 1947



Jim Whittaker was the first American to scale Mount Everest on May 1, 1963

Bonnie Arlene Beerman

Class of 1946



Bonnie Beerman
April 8, 1928 - August 18, 2025

Bonnie Arlene Beerman, age 97, a true West Seattleite, died on August 18, 2025. She passed away peacefully at home with her daughter Arlene by her side. Born on April 8, 1928, at her parents' home in the West Seattle Junction to William and Arlene Rochester, Bonnie was a proud graduate of West Seattle High School (1946) and attended the University of Washington. Her friends Walt and Carol Tabor introduced Bonnie to Moe Beerman in 1955. They were married from March 2, 1956, until Moe's passing in 2008. They raised five children: Leslie,

promoted to Assistant Vice President and Manager at West Seattle Branch. Bonnie was honored with a Women of Achievement in the field of Banking.

Over 30 years of community involvement, she served on boards of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Fauntleroy YMCA, and as a trustee and vice-chair for West Seattle Community Hospital. After retiring at the age of 62, she and Moe worked on a committee organized by Earl Cruzon to launch the Murals of West Seattle in the West Seattle Junction and bring the Walking on Logs statues to the Fauntleroy Expressway. She also volunteered providing tax assistance at the Senior Center of West Seattle (now Center for Active Living). Her passion for serving continued at Fauntleroy as a Financial Assistant until her mid-80s.

Bonnie is survived by her children, Leslie; Robert (Anne); David; Brian (Patricia); Arlene. She was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother to Michelle (David) -Wyatt and Benjamin; Zak; Bruce- Lilly and Emmett; Olivia -Armand, Lorelie, Helios and Bastion; and Nicole. Bonnie's sister Chirlee and many nieces and nephews also miss her dearly.



Bonnie Rochester
Senior Photo 1947

Gary L. Smith

Class of 1966



Gary L. Smith
Senior Photo 1966



Gary L. Smith serving as
Master of Ceremonies at the
All School Reunion

Gary L. Smith, Class of 1966, the Master of Ceremonies for our All-School Reunions for many years, passed away October 9, 2025. Engaging and personable, Gary led our programs with reminiscences, anecdotes, recognitions, introductions and a rousing rendition of our Alma Mater.

Born and raised in West Seattle, Gary went on to found the Independent Business Association, where he served as Executive Director, championing small businesses, assuring their voices be heard.

He was a devoted and active member of the St Jude Parish, always ready to end a hand and share his many talents, as an engineer, builder and mechanic, especially known for his ingenuity.

Above all, Gary cherished his family: his wife of 52 years, Pat, their daughters Michelle and Danielle and 4 grandchildren.

"Gary's legacy of love, faith and generosity endures."

Don Sleight

Class of 1959



Don Sleight

Don Sleight, of the class of '59, passed in 2024 at the age of 82. He not only had a unique impact at school, but later in his professional career he helped do a major service for the entire West Seattle community. Don's siblings, Randy, Laurie, and Dick, and his children Jon, Chris, and Debbie all graduated from his West Seattle alma mater.

Don played tennis at the Lincoln Park courts and worked at Colman Pool there in the summers, but it was in the winters that he made his mark for West Seattle High School.

Back in 1950s, many of the Metro League and neighboring high schools had ski teams. Don Sleight was already a champion ski racer when he arrived as a high school sophomore in 1956. His reputation on the slopes of the Pacific Northwest ski areas was such that the juniors and seniors on our ski team elected him team captain, a post he held through his senior ski season. And, indeed, West Seattle won the Seattle All-School ski championship all three of those seasons.

Fast forward a few years. While Don continued to excel on the regional ski racing circuit, college, family, and career began to take center stage. He graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. His specialization in "power" made him a good fit for his early career at the

Bethlehem Steel plant south of Harbor Island. He bought a house near Madison Junior High and he and wife Judy (a Ballard grad) raised their family there.

If you were around West Seattle back before the early 1970s, you probably remember an unfortunate truth about our community. It was not uncommon for us to experience what further south we would have thought was the "Tacoma aroma."

The Bethlehem Steel smelter often gave off a malodorous reminder of its presence.

The mill used an electric arc furnace instead of coal to melt steel. So, as the plant's Electrical Engineer, Don was intricately involved in tackling this pollution problem he knew so well as a local resident himself. He was justly proud of one of his major projects when in 1972, Bethlehem's "baghouse" air pollution control system adjacent to the electric furnace shop was completed. We drive past it, now owned by Nucor Steel Seattle, just south of the West Seattle freeway. West Side breaths easier today because of Don's work and that of his Bethlehem Steel colleagues.

**DECEASED LIST (as of 3/3/2026)****Faculty**

Glen Utgaard
Glen passed away July 17, 2025

Class of 1940
Benedict, Lawrence
Lawrence passed away in October 2025

Hiker, Marjorie Hinderliter
Marjorie passed away in December 2012

Class of 1942
Capleto, Dorothy Burgess
Dorothy passed away May 21, 2025

Class of 1943
Ossinger, Jeanne Douglas (Class Rep)
Jeanne passed away in 2025

Class of 1944
Brett, Robert E
Robert passed away April 8, 2024

Sampson, Marie King
Marie passed away December 25, 2025

Schilling, Virginia Smith
Virginia passed away September 15, 2025

Taylor, Paul F
Paul passed away April 23, 2022

Class of 1945
Calvin, Charles N
Charles passed away November 10, 2025

Di Martino, Tresine "Tessie"
Tessie passed away February 17, 2022

Class of 1946
Batts, William "Bill"
Bill passed away November 4, 2025

Pavey, Anne Kurtz
Anne passed away February 15, 2025

Rochester, Bonnie Beerman (Class Rep)
Bonnie passed away August 8, 2025

Sayan, Douglas "Doug"
Doug passed away in November 2025

Class of 1947
Anderson, Mary Joan Niebergall
Mary passed away August 8, 2025

Bersos, Ivan
Ivan passed away March 22, 2025

Harris, Riach
Riach passed away April 14, 2025

McKenzie, Barbara Schmidt
Barbara passed away in September 2023

Rektor, Shirley Gilbert
Shirley passed away August 3, 2025

Segota, Louise Niemi
Louise passed away February 13, 2024

Tilbury, Richard P
Richard passed away in 2023

Whittaker, Jim
Jim passed away April 7, 2026

Class of 1948
Johnson, Dolores Oliver
Dolores passed away May 13, 2025

Class of 1949
Erickson, Lois Ann Thompson
Lois passed away October 15, 2025

Stoneman, William "Bill" C
Bill passed away January 24, 2022

Class of 1951
Peterson, Barbara Demchuck
Barbara passed away August 23, 2020

Scanlon, Beatrice "Betty" Bonney
Betty passed away in 2025

Vanderslice, Phyllis Albus
Phyllis passed away October 15, 2024

Class of 1952
Gillis, Barbara Arnett
Barbara passed away April 23, 2025

Gough, Marilyn Riley
Marilyn passed away February 25, 2025

Hill, Marlene Mann
Marlene passed away September 1, 2025

Jackson, Marlene Zoffel
Marlene passed away July 21, 2025

McClelland Jr, Rodney
Rodney passed away September 4, 2023

Nolan, Richard "Dick"
Dick passed away January 9, 2022

Stewart, Donna Nolan
Donna passed away May 3, 2025

Class of 1953
DuCharme, Joy Wood
Joy passed away October 15, 2025

Fox, Ronald
Ronald passed away May 4, 2025

Peterson, Col Don L
Don passed away April 20, 2025

Class of 1954
Bacon, Arthur H
Arthur passed away November 25, 2022

Bangsund, Edward
Edward passed away in 2024

Gailey, Lloyd E
Lloyd passed away December 9, 2025

Jacobson, Shirley Lee
Shirley passed away January 11, 2025

Class of 1955
Bruhns, Marion Anderson
Marion passed away January 18, 2026

Chrisman, Ruth Maddox
Ruth passed away in 2025

Dixon, Barbara Ubben
Barbara passed away October 27, 2024

Grenfell, Claudia Bailey
Claudia passed away June 10, 2025

Kelly, Colleen Kronk
Colleen passed away September 14, 2025

Laybourn, Leroy
Leroy passed away in July 2024

Olson, Roger
Roger passed away October 3, 2025

Pucci, Marlene Schlitter
Marlene passed away February 17, 2026

Smith, Donald R
Donald passed away May 21, 2024

Class of 1956
Arnold, Jack Garrett
Jack passed away March 30, 2025

Fitch, Cheryl F Anderson
Cheryl passed away July 25, 2025

Gann, Bob
Bob passed away February 14, 2025

Kavanaugh, Bill
Bill passed away May 4, 2025

Nelson, Carol Anderson
Carol passed away April 12, 2025

Pederson, Edson Sigurd
Edson passed away September 10, 2025

Class of 1957
Mercer, Denice A Thomas
Denice passed away March 3, 2025

Sellin, Ronald
Ronald passed away December 24, 2023

Sullivan, James "Jim"
Jim passed away September 9, 2025

Terry, Franklin "Marsh"
Marsh passed away May 14, 2025

Wallitner, Craig
Craig passed away January 30, 2024

Wasnick, Mike
Mike passed away March 17, 2025

Class of 1958
Boltz, Phyllis Gallup
Phyllis passed away August 19, 2023

Brado, Dreana Berggren
Dreana passed away December October 25

Dawley, Mary Jane Danielson
Mary passed away June 24, 2022

Grasst, Wolfgang
Wolfgang passed away May 3, 2025

Hayford, Janet
Janet passed away April 15, 2025

Lawrence, Audrey Campbell
Audrey passed away April 6, 2025

Pierce, Marian R Zaska
Marian passed away April 27, 2025

Vanderhoek, Bonnie L Warne
Bonnie passed away August 29, 2024

Class of 1959
Livingstone, David
David passed away October 19, 2025

Class of 1960
Apeland, Claudia M Barnes
Claudia passed away August 23, 2025

Meade, Dorothy Treadwell
Dorothy passed away April 9, 2024

Renbarger, Ronald
Ronald passed away May 19, 2025

Wenger, Timothy L
Timothy passed away August 21, 2024

Class of 1961
Bonzon, Sherry Osmonovich
Sherry passed away January 8, 2025

MacDonald, Duncan
Duncan passed away May 25, 2025

Noffsinger, Judy Guiles
Judy passed away June 5, 2025

Weiss, Larry E
Larry passed away February 26, 2025

Class of 1962
Baker, Zane
Zane passed away January 31, 2026

Buckman, Harry F
Harry passed away May 21, 2025

Nokes, James "Jim"
Jim passed away July 19, 2024

Trutich, Nancy L Holert
Nancy passed away May 22, 2025

Woodward, Alan "Rusty"
Rusty passed away October 14, 2025

Class of 1963
Abbott, Geraldine
Geraldine passed away in August 2023

Lofgren, Loren "Bud"
Bud passed away July 7, 2025

Winkle, Tom
Tom passed away May 13, 2025

Class of 1964
Benham, Terry
Terry passed away November 2, 2025

Knopp, Steve
Steve passed away in August 2025

Class of 1965
Frank, Louise Stucki
Louise passed away February 9, 2025

Hay, Charles G
Charles passed away in February 2025

Lenton, Marilyn Henry
Marilyn passed away January 10, 2025

Nielsen, Joan Dawson
Joan passed away August 9, 2025

Quigley, Karen Skore
Karen passed away May 18, 2025

Class of 1966
Braun, Frank
Frank passed away April 11, 2025

Brewer, Janet
Janet passed away November 14, 2022

Cullor, Janet L
Janet passed away in 2024

Modrell, Patrick
Patrick passed away October 1, 2024

Rogstad, Paul
Paul passed away October 18, 2024

Ross, Mark
Mark passed away February 24, 2025

Sanberg, Kenneth John
Ken passed away April 11, 2025

Smith, Gary L
Gary passed away October 9, 2025

Smith, Grover W "Bill"
Bill passed away March 15, 2025

Stratton, Van
Van passed away August 4, 2025

Stuard, Stephen
Stephen passed away in 2025

Vinson Jr, Edwin Alan
Alan passed away March 10, 2026

TRANSITIONS

Rooted Here, Reaching Everywhere

The Alumni of 1982

By Kim Johnston Rapacz, Class of 1982

Some talents fade after graduation - others grow into lifelong callings. Among our Class of 1982 alumni are three classmates who answered the call of creativity in their own way, transforming early passions into meaningful artistic journeys.

One found his voice in song, captivating audiences through music while also expressing himself through the written word. Another built her path through entrepreneurship, channeling imagination and insight into both business ventures and a compelling novel. The third tells her story through movement and color expressing emotion through dance and painting, proving that art can speak powerfully without words.

Though their mediums differ, they share a common thread: the courage to pursue the arts and the dedication to keep creating long after their school days ended.

Meet Xavier Clayton, singer, songwriter, and novelist; Lamar Rutherford, entrepreneur, novelist, and consultant; and Mary Murphy-Brown, dancer, painter, and crafter.

Xavier Clayton: From Barbershop Quartet to Global Stage

Even in the hallways of Westside High, classmates and the faculty knew Xavier as a performer. A choir member, cheer squad, bass singer of the school's first Barbershop Quartet, and a frequent performer in musical skits, he was often in front of an audience during his three years at West Seattle High School.



Xavier Clayton



Xavier Clayton



Xavier in high school choir, second from the left



From Left: David Douglas, Lamar Rutherford, Jason Wong and Xavier Clayton, 1982

Yet after graduation, and before he ever stood on European stages, Xavier's path seemed headed in an entirely different direction. Like many of his classmates, he attended the University of Washington but, instead of studying music or theater, he studied biology with plans to become a doctor. He joined the U.S. Army, serving six years as a laboratory technician working part-time at the UW Hospital to pay his tuition and books. Science was practical. Predictable. Secure. But even so, music kept humming in the background.

In 1988, three days after his 24th birthday, Xavier made a decision that would change everything; he bought a one-way ticket to London.

Chasing the Dream

It was a bold decision, and he saved money for a year and set off to backpack across Europe with a friend, one chasing a career in fashion, Xavier chasing some kind of career in music. "When I first got to Europe, I wanted to find a place to live, like a studio. I was giving myself six months to try this dream." Money was running out fast "even in the cheapest hostels of London and Munich!" he recalls. But, a chance meeting with a trombone player changed everything. "He suggested I move to Antwerp, Belgium." I'd never heard of the place. Everyone speaks English there, he said. And you can surely find a band to sing with and a studio to rent out." Very soon after arriving in Belgium, both things ended up being true. That suggestion turned into 38 years (and counting!) of life abroad.

A Voice that Fills the Room

In Belgium, Xavier found not only a home, but a stage. He became lead singer of the cover band, The Sonny Boys, performing hits from Kool & The Gang, MC Hammer, and Barry White. "I got paid to sing in Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, England, and Luxembourg. I performed with them for seven years. We were booked for weddings, parties, discotheques, carnivals, casinos, and music festivals." As they traveled, The Sonny Boys also opened for locally famous artists, as Xavier saw the world and built a creative life he hadn't known was possible.

Along the way, he wrote music: including the global hits Tribal Dance (2 Unlimited), The World Is Min (David Guetta), and Closer to Me (Chab featuring JD Davis). "I've always had a song buzzing in my head." His songs have been used in movies, a L'Oreal TV-commercial, and during NFL football games.

Success, however, came with uncertainty. For seven years he lived without permanent legal status, working, performing, and building a life while quietly fearing he would be sent back to America. Living without papers gave him a deeper understanding of the immigrant experience he grew up around in Seattle. "When YOU are the one who is the immigrant, your whole idea of immigration changes." Eventually, he secured legal residency and celebrated with a Mediterranean cruise, where he met Georges, a French judge who would become his husband.



Xavier, singer

Moving abroad brought challenges: language, paperwork, and being far from home but Xavier has thrived. "I appreciate every day of my life here, especially now." He is trilingual and went back to college to finish his studies, earning medical bachelor's degrees in both Dutch and French. Still music continues to inspire him, as he has never stopped writing and performing. Today, he balances creativity with career, still collecting royalties from songs he wrote decades ago, and has become the novelist of a Middle Grade Fantasy trilogy. An inspired story drawn from the rich culture and history surrounding him each day in Europe.

Becoming an Author

Inspired by decades of Siddha yoga practice and the book Where Are You Going by Swami Muktananda, Xavier was inspired to write his first novel. Living in France, surrounded by culture and history, continues to spark his imagination. He is surrounded by the statues of Victor Hugo, author whose notable work Les Misérables and the Hunchback of Notre-Dame. And author Alexandre Dumas who wrote the Three Musketeers, and The Count of Monte Cristo, whose mansion I pass when I go to the beach. How can you not be inspired?"

He laughs remembering his early reluctance. "I never saw myself writing books, let alone a trilogy! I hated reading. But once I started, it was one of the most thrilling things I've ever done."

Continued on Page 35

Rooted Here, Reaching Everywhere Continued

Xavier Clayton continued

Looking Back

Now he is the author of a fantasy trilogy, as well as The Phoenix within: Our Key into the Universe, and Two paths to God. His advice? "Learn storytelling. Artificial intelligence (AI) can't replace human experience. Travel. Write. Live. Fill your senses with life.

Would your classmates be surprised? "Yes. I read once, "Your everyday life is someone else's dream."

As for his journey from school quartet to global artist, Xavier says it best: "Okay, Xavier this experience at West Seattle High School, being bussed across the city it's preparation. Because you're going to keep finding yourself in new situations, and you'll learn how to survive."

The Next Venture

What's next for Xavier? His own YouTube Channel. His first one is in the works to support his website, both named "writtenbyxavier". My website is full of music, illustrations, and a free E-book for new authors. However, my YouTube channel is to help aspiring novelists with innovative advice on everything from brainstorming ideas and storytelling... to writing, revising, editing and approaching literary agents. "I'm very excited about it, and will be shooting videos from France, Italy, Spain, and Morocco. Sharing with everyone a bit of my Expat life as a writer in Europe. But, more importantly, giving a lot of tips I've learned along the way on how to write novels."www.writtenbyxavier.com

As he puts it: "Every note, every chapter, every country — it's all part of one long song."

Lamar Rutherford: From Bagels to Bestsellers

When Lamar looks back at her high school years, she remembers being driven and future focused. College and graduate school were always part of the plan. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, became a CPA, and began her career with Arthur Andersen after landing a junior-year internship that led to a position in Boston. Her academic journey culminated at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, where she earned her MBA.

But her career would prove anything but linear.

A Teacher's Words That Lasted

One pivotal moment came in high school during her senior year in Mr. Thomas's literature class after receiving a C- on a paper. It left her stunned. When she asked how to improve, he gave her advice she never forgot: "Write what you want, not what you think I want." At the time, she wasn't dreaming of becoming an author. But the lesson stayed.

Taking the Entrepreneurship Leap

After business school and time in Boston, Lamar returned to Seattle inspired by a simple observation: bagels were trending on the East Coast, but in college she had noticed that only about 20 percent of people had even tried one. She saw opportunity.

Without ever having worked in a restaurant, she leased a 1,200-square-foot space in Capitol Hill, a former yogurt shop and opened The Bagel Stop, aptly named for its location right in front of a bus stop. She invested in a 12-foot Bagel Matic machine imported from Europe, a massive mixer large enough to sit in, and commercial ovens. The first day's sales? \$180.

There were challenges: equipment deliveries that required forklifts, broken tiles, doors taken off hinges just to get machinery inside. But business grew. Lamar eventually involved her mother and sister-in-law in running the shop, and what began as a leap of faith became an eight-year venture.



Xavier, author



Lamar Rutherford

Coaching her mom to manage the store became one of her proudest experiences. Later, she would find another café venture, Shore Thing Café in La Jolla, California specializing in healthy and organic food.

From Candy Brands to Courtside Marketing

Lamar's corporate career was equally dynamic. After graduate school, she joined Nestlé in Los Angeles as a brand manager in the candy division. She worked on iconic brands and major promotional campaigns tied to films like Toy Story, The Lion King, and 101 Dalmatians. She also collaborated with the National Basketball Association (NBA), creating interactive marketing events at All-Star Games and even working on a commercial with NBA legend Charles Barkley.

Her marketing and strategy roles eventually evolved into executive leadership positions, forming the foundation for her consulting work today.

Advisor, Educator, and Vistage Chair

Now based in California, Lamar is a Vistage Chair, M&A advisor, and consultative business broker. She leads peer advisory groups through Vistage Worldwide, coaching CEOs and business owners in monthly, full day sessions focused on leadership, growth, and preparing companies to become exit-ready enterprises. She also taught entrepreneurship for University of California San Diego's Rady School of Management and has helped countless small- to mid-sized businesses navigate growth and successful transitions.

She believes entrepreneurship is the backbone of our communities, the engine that drives economic growth and opportunity.

Horses, Polo, and Pickleball

Life outside of work has been just as adventurous. Lamar once owned five polo horses with dessert-inspired names like Fig Newton and Snickerdoodle. Today her horses are named Chocolat and Baci. She began playing polo in 2012, often driving two and a half hours into the desert to compete.

She recently stepped away from polo and has embraced pickleball, a sport she was first introduced to by her father, who started playing over twenty years ago before pickleball was such a fad. She regrets not getting into it then but now enjoys playing as part of staying active and grounded.



Lamar and polo horse, Baci



Lamar, polo player

Becoming an Author: "Code-Y"

Those long drives to polo matches in the desert sparked an unexpected creative outlet. Scenes formed in her imagination. Characters developed. This was the birthplace of her first novel Code-Y. The title carries a dual meaning, both a name and a DNA strain.

Writing started as play: closing her eyes, inventing characters, exploring what they might do. Then it became a disciplined project. The manuscript took about 18 months to complete. The hardest part? Editing. After hiring a professional editor who provided extensive feedback, Lamar faced the demanding process of revision. When the editor checked back in, she knew it was time to commit. She worked through the edits and ultimately self-published through Amazon.

Publishing taught her something powerful: she could write and write well. She had fun weaving storylines, crafting names, and building worlds. (Interestingly, her own name is a blend of her grandmother's names, Laura and Margaret, forming Lamar.)

She is now more than twenty chapters into a sequel and has even shared screenplay pages with a producer, responding to a 72-hour turnaround by submitting eleven pages instead of five. As of late 2025, she awaits feedback. The possibility of seeing her book adapted for film excites her deeply.



Rita Rutherford, mom, (1953) and Lamar (1982). Brother Kyle graduated in 1981

Rooted Here, Reaching Everywhere Continued

What She's Learned

Whether running a café, marketing global brands, advising CEOs, or writing fiction, Lamar sees common threads: creativity, resilience, and the courage to start before you feel ready.

Entrepreneurship and writing both require vision. You imagine something that doesn't yet exist, then methodically bring it to life. Both demand revision, persistence, and the willingness to hear feedback.

When things get tough, she reminds herself that life is about experiences and continuous learning. Growth, personal and professional is the true north star.

Advice to Today's Students

For students with big dreams but uncertain starting points, Lamar offers practical encouragement: use the tools available to you. Writing platforms like Plotter, Scrivener, and Dabble can help structure ideas. Business mentors and peer groups provide accountability. Most importantly, trust your own voice just as her high school teacher once advised.

"Write what you want," she was told. She did.

And in doing so, she built businesses, guided leaders, and rode horses across polo fields, and created words on the page, proving that reinvention isn't a detour. It's a way of life.

You can find her book at ISBN 9798639032790.

Mary Murphy-Brown: A Life in Motion, A Legacy in Dance

Some people find their passion. Others are born into it. For Mary Murphy-Brown, dance has never simply been an activity, it has been the rhythm guiding her life since age four.

Finding Her Footing

Her journey began in West Seattle in a full-circle way. A classmate connection, Marcia Gardiner (Class of '81) led Mary's mom to enroll



Mary Murphy Brown (1982), brother John Murphy (1983), mother Patricia Murphy, nee Waterman (1946), sister Ann Murphy (1985). Family of WS alumni



Mary and Marcia

her in dance. By second grade, she and friends Anne Edenholtm (1982) and Becky Hamilton (1982) were carpooling to class, building lifelong friendships alongside pliés and twirls. By seventh grade, she was training more seriously at the former Hawthorn School of Dance renamed West Seattle Dance Academy already laying the foundation for what would become a lifelong calling.

Mary still remembers her very first performance. The song was "I Love My Dancing School." But it wasn't the music that sealed her fate, it was the moment. "Once I was in the costume with all the sequins and sparkles and walked out on stage under the lights, I fell in love with it," she says. That feeling never left.

Training with Purpose

Her formal training carried her far beyond childhood recitals. In 1980, she studied in England in a Royal Academy of Ballet summer program. During high school, she joined the prep department at Cornish College of the Arts, performing with its junior company. In 1986, she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance from the same institution, then known as the Cornish Institute of Performing and Allied Arts. Ballet, she says, shaped her most deeply. "It's the basis for everything."

Mary also credits the teachers who shaped her along the way. Ms. Margaret Harrison, the high school home economics department head, unknowingly equipped her with practical skills that proved invaluable years later from sewing costumes in college to designing and mak-

ing her own wedding dress. In college, instructor Pat Hon left an even deeper mark. "She was an amazing teacher who taught with passion and love of dance," Mary recalls. "She was a force in the classroom, strong, but caring and she wanted you to succeed." Those lessons in discipline, artistry, and heart would later define Mary's own teaching style.

After college, burned out from the audition circuit and the realities of company selection, Mary stepped back and reassessed. She knew one thing for sure: she wasn't leaving the dance world. So, she walked into the West Seattle YMCA with an idea, start a dance program. They said yes.

Taking the Leap

That leap of faith in 1986 grew into expanded programs at Fautleroy YMCA, Kent Parks and Recreation beginning in 1988, and since 2016, a program with Orting Parks and Recreation, where she now lives. The student in class became the teacher, choreographer, and mentor building community programs that have touched generations.

What Mary loves most about teaching isn't just technique. It's transformation.

More Than Steps

"On the first day, they are nervous," she explains. "We start with the basics and build from there." Week by week, shy students become performers. By recital time, the same children who didn't want anyone



Miss Mary teaching class

looking at them step on stage in costume, confident, smiling, proud. "It's amazing to see them go from unsure to confident performers."

Dance, in her studio, teaches more than steps. It builds confidence, patience, and poise. Students learn that growth takes time and practice lessons that carry far beyond the stage.

One recent student especially moved her: an adult dancer missing three toes on one foot, with little sensation in her feet. Still, she shows up, works on balance, and keeps improving. "It is amazing how determined she is and how far she has come," Mary says. For her, that determination is the true spirit of dance.

Performance day remains magical, even after decades. Mary loves the dancers' excitement and pride on parents' faces. Her definition of success is simple: "When they can go on that stage with a huge smile and show the audience what they have learned." The applause is simply a bonus.

Her choreography always begins with music. If she hears a song and can see the dance unfold in her mind, it's a keeper. If not, it's out. Inspiration doesn't follow rules, sometimes movement begins at the opening note, sometimes midway through a melody. She challenges students thoughtfully, tailoring when needed, but always encouraging growth.

Mary's own life has kept its rhythm alongside dance. She married Glen Brown in 1992 and raised two children, now joined by three grandchildren who add to her cheering section. Balancing family and studio life requires intention and sacrifice, but family has always come first. And they show up for her just as faithfully as she shows up for them.

Her influence, however, stretches well beyond her immediate family.

Three Generations and Counting.

For Diana Berry-Nichols (1982), that influence spans three generations. In 1988, when her oldest daughter was just three years old, Diana began searching for a dance studio and found her way to the West



Cover feature June/July 1986 Mary Murphy

Rooted Here, Reaching Everywhere Continued

Mary Murphy Brown continued

Seattle YMCA, where "Miss Mary" was teaching. She enrolled her daughter and a family tradition quietly began. Over the years, four of her five daughters started dancing at age three under Mary's instruction. Diana herself even tried a dance class, though she laughingly admits she couldn't quite move like Mary.

When Mary moved away from West Seattle in 1996, the connection endured. Years later, when one of Diana's daughters had a child of her own, she made the drive to Kent so her daughter could study with the same beloved teacher. In total, three of Diana's daughters and now their daughters have danced under Miss Mary.

They loved Miss Mary not only for her expertise, but for the way she made every student feel seen and special. She maintained control of her classes with grace, listened attentively, and created an atmosphere grounded in love and respect. Her dedication left a lasting imprint.

For more than 25 years, Diana has attended recitals first immersed in rehearsals and backstage moments, and now as a proud audience member. What began as a single dance class has become a three-generation legacy built on passion, commitment, and the steady influence of an extraordinary teacher.

Looking back, Mary would tell her younger self that life's challenges shape who you become. Follow what you're passionate about, she says, and you'll love your work. She is living proof.

Her hope for her legacy is beautifully simple: her classes were places where students learned real skills, had fun, and smile when they remember their time there. Already, former students are bringing their own children to her classes, a living legacy still in motion.

Ask her to describe dance in three words?

"My true passion."

And after a lifetime under stage lights, in studios, recitals, and community centers, it's clear: for Mary Murphy-Brown, dance was never just something she did. It is who she is and the gift she continues to give, one dancer at a time.

Creativity Without Limits

Even after decades of teaching dance and shaping young lives, Mary continues to find new ways to create.

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, when studios were quiet and routines were interrupted, Mary discovered another artistic outlet: painting. What began as a creative personal escape soon became something much bigger. With the same initiative and heart,



Miss Mary and grand-daughters of Diana Berry-Nichols (1982)

she has always brought to dance, she approached Orting Parks and Recreation with an idea — would they be interested in hosting a community painting class? Their answer was yes.

Today, Mary teaches a monthly painting class in Orting, guiding participants step-by-step as blank canvases transform into colorful works of art. Her classes are welcoming and relaxed, designed for beginners and seasoned hobbyists alike. Encouraged by the response, she reached out to the Kent Parks Department and launched a similar monthly class there. In both communities, her sessions have become more than just art instruction; they are gatherings filled with laughter, encouragement, and creativity.

Mary's artistic spirit doesn't stop at the easel. During the holiday season, she participates in three to four local bazaars each year, showcasing handmade creations that reflect her playful imagination. Among her most popular items are her handcrafted sock gnomes, whimsical characters designed for every occasion, from Christmas and Halloween to weddings and birthdays. Each one is thoughtfully made, giving buyers something both personal and unique.

Her creativity even touched her own family in a deeply meaningful way. For her daughter's wedding, Mary painted delicate sola wood flowers, turning simple materials into lasting keepsakes. It was a mother's love expressed through art, handmade, heartfelt, and unforgettable.

Whether she is teaching dance, leading a painting class, crafting gnomes, or designing wedding florals, Mary continues to prove that creativity has no expiration date. Her life remains rooted in teaching and reaching others now not only through movement, but through color, texture, and imagination.

Alums Still Creating

Though their journeys have taken them to different stages, studios, and cities, the thread connecting these classmates is unmistakable.

Xavier followed his voice across continents, sharing it with the world through music and words.

Lamar transformed vision into ventures and stories.

Mary turned movement into legacy.

Each began with a spark during their school years. Each trusted it enough to let it grow. They remind us that where you start matters, and how you nurture your gifts, take risks, and continue creating is what truly shapes your story.

Xavier, Lamar and Mary carry the spirit of their beginnings wherever they go: curiosity, creativity, and the courage to try. Their journeys have taken them across borders and into new chapters, not just expanding their own talents but enriching the communities and audiences around them.

Rooted here. Reaching everywhere.



Mary's craft table of gnomes and paintings

The Monster In The Classroom Continued from Back Page

Aesthetic appeal and community engagement aside, some wonder if the "Monster Wall" hides a darker truth. What does it say about West Seattle students?

A common viewpoint on the "Monster Wall" is that it meaninglessly promotes the brand of Monster and encourages people to buy energy drinks. However, brand promotion was never the intention of its creators. Monster was chosen not only for its popularity among students, but also for its variety of colors on the packaging, which create ample visual interest.

Saving the cans highlights the excess and provides opportunities to creatively re-purpose materials that would otherwise be thrown away. In fact, patrons of Ms. Perletti's class have dabbled in creating new art pieces with preserved cans, like "Monster flowers" and the mysterious "Celsius brick". Overall, the "Monster Wall" probably makes more of a statement about the waste food and drink industries create than promotion of the brand itself.

Also discouraging its perceived role in brand promotion, "Monster Wall" contributor Paloma refuted claims that the wall motivates people to drink more Monsters in order to add to it. "I know that there's already so many people who contribute to it. I don't feel more apt to buy them."

Additionally, interviewees like Paloma described the "Monster Wall" as somewhat self-deprecating. It embraces caffeine addiction as an unfortunate aspect of modern life; the striking visual demands answers to what pushes teens to consume such an unprecedented amount of caffeine, rather than romanticizing legitimate health concerns about over-consumption.

Shifting gears from an otherwise glowing report, Ms. Perletti noted that the wall is very "indicative of the amount of pressure that's on high schoolers today", suggesting our generation often sacrifices sleep to balance its many responsibilities, causing teens to rely on caffeine to get through the day.

"When you look at it and you see that amount, you can see the dependence on caffeine, but I think even more than that, it makes me question as an adult—why are students needing this much caffeine in this day and age?"

Instead of pinning energy drink consumption on teens, perhaps experts should address the root cause to which the "Monster Wall" draws attention: the stress of contemporary teenage life. On a lighter note, this project is not solely representative of Gen Z struggles: the "Monster Wall" celebrates student interests, community involvement, and self-expression in the best way we know how: art.

Lessons from Lafayette Elementary School

By Kim Johnston Rapacz, Class of 1982

Nestled in the heart of West Seattle, Lafayette elementary school is more than a place for learning – it is a welcoming community where students grow, connect, and discover who they are. It is a cornerstone of education. Lafayette Elementary School is located at 2656 California Avenue Southwest in the North Admiral neighborhood of West Seattle. The school supports kindergarten to 5th grade today, but prior to 2005, it educated students from kindergarten to 6th grade.

The school was named after the French General Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) who assisted the United States during the Revolutionary War. As a youth, Lafayette was inspired by the American colonies' fight for independence from Britain, and later became a proponent of France's struggle for constitutional government.



After the American Revolution, Lafayette returned to France as a celebrated hero. He was inspired by American ideals, and became involved in reforming French government. Lafayette was an advocate for freedom, education, and civic responsibility.

Over fifty years ago, this alumna attended Lafayette Elementary School and attended kindergarten through sixth grade. I remember the walk of the hallways, the smell of pencil shavings, and the excitement of recess more than anything else. Our teachers seemed larger than life, and the playground felt like the center of the universe. It was a time when we walked to school, knew our neighbors, and felt safe. That school helped shape who I became – not just academically, but in confidence and character.

One of the early memories I have of going to Lafayette in the 1960-1970's were the earthquake drills. The school would have earthquake drills where the students would go under their desk and put their head down and stay there until given the all clear. Lafayette's original building was affected by the 1949 Seattle earthquake and most of the school was demolished and a new facility was constructed and opened in 1950.

What stands out most is not the building itself, but the sense of community. It was a place where friendships were formed, manners were expected, and learning felt personal. The lessons in kindness, responsibility, and curiosity have stayed with me far longer than any spelling test ever did.

The lessons in kindness, responsibility, and curiosity have stayed with me far longer than any spelling test ever did.

Then, we relied on chalkboards, film strips, and the student projector team who brought in the film that you watched on Fridays. Today, students are taught with smart boards, computers, and the internet.

Memories of grade school remain – the classrooms, the encouragement of teachers, the laughter shared on the playground. The school day began with the ringing of the first bell which meant to proceed to the line before entering the class room, put your coats up, your lunch pail in your open locker and take your seats before the second bell rings.

You would walk into the classroom, the desks would be in a row, you would see the teachers name written in chalk on the chalk board with the date, and the rest of the chalkboard would be clean, because a lucky student would be selected to clean the board before we left class the day prior. Once everyone was seated, the teacher would say good morning, attendance would be taken, then someone was selected to lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance as we all stood looking toward the front corner, where the US flag stood. In 5th grade, my teacher was Mr. Tom Tacke, who after the pledge of allegiance would play one of two songs that we would learn and sing. The Soldiers of the Green Beret and Don't Fence me. He would put the record on and we would sing along to the song.

You either walked to school or were dropped off in the front of the school by a parent or family member. Going to elementary school in West Seattle often meant starting the day outdoors, with a jacket zipped up against the cool weather and the smell of saltwater never far away. Many children walked to school, meeting friends along the way as we

passed familiar houses, corner stores, and leafy sidewalks. The neighborhood felt like an extension of the classroom – safe, watchful, and full of faces everyone seemed to recognize.

Walking to school with classmates was as much a social ritual. Kids brought lunches to school or brought money for lunches or they were given a lunch card to get a meal. We talked about spelling tests, and went out to recess to play kickball, play tag, get on the single monkey bars, or do spins on the bars at recess. The walk gave everyone time to wake up, shake off sleep and begin our independence at a young age. Rainy mornings were common, but they rarely stopped the routine, boots or tennis shoes splashed through puddles, and hoods pulled tight as laughter carried down the street.

By the time the school building came into view, we would approach the corner street light, where the traffic patrol would be on each corner with their traffic flags, a 6th grader as the patrol captain and at least an adult to ensure everyone was paying attention to traffic and listening to the traffic guards.

Once on the school grounds everyone would go to the play ground and link up with others kids until the first bell sounded. If it was raining outside everyone would go to the outdoor covering, waiting there until school doors opened.

The kindergarten classes had their own separate outdoor playground, that was accessed from the South side of the school across from which is now the Good Society Bar. The playground below was divided into 1st through 3rd grades and the upper grades 4 through 6 was south of the double line which separated the little kids and the big kids.

The school had 3 portables in between the main building and the playground. During my school days two of the portables were for the 4th grade classes, and one for the 3rd graders.

In fourth grade, my class was in one of those portables, my teacher, Miss Sharon Doman, was my favorite teacher. A great memory of her class was playing Around the World. A student stands by a seated student and Miss Doman would call out a multiplication question, and the student who answered right would move on to the next student. She dressed liked Ms. Roper on Three's company, always had a smile, and was the most caring teacher. She once had an orange for lunch, and ate the peel and all, showing us that a peel wouldn't hurt us and that it was actually tasty, well for her it was.



The school had a music program. The music teacher was Mr. Snow taught all instruments. So, when you were in 3rd grade, you could start learning an instrument. The band played at school concerts and assemblies. How fortunate, we were to have such a program as today there is not funding to support school music at this level in schools.

In 1976, the bi-centennial of the United States, the 6th graders formed a drum and fife corps, using recorders in lieu of fifes with the drums. We played and marched at a bi-centennial assembly that as held in the lunch room – playing a patriotic tune. This was the year that I graduated from Lafayette and moved onto James Madison Junior High School, followed by West Seattle High School.

The lessons, the friendships, and memories provided strong foundations for students of Lafayette Elementary School. I look back with gratitude with the strong educators at the school. Lafayette holds a special place in my heart and is a special part of my story.



The Chinooks of World War 2

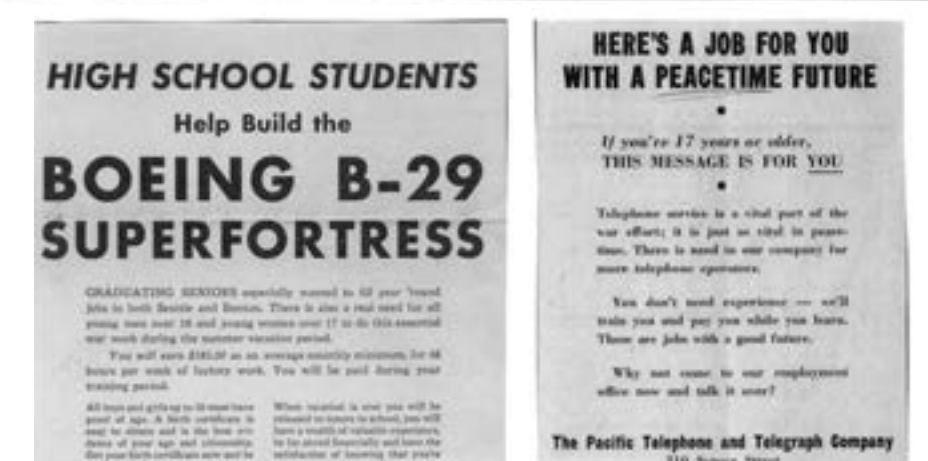
High School Memories During Wartime

By Karen Seamens Dobbs, Class of 1971

Bonnie (Rochester) Beerman, the representative for the class of 1946 for many years, who passed away last August, left the WSHS Alumni Association an incredible legacy. Among the myriad memorabilia given to us by Bonnie's family were copies of all of the Chinook newspapers from her high school years: 1942-1946, encompassing all of World War II.

In looking at them today, it is difficult to imagine what it must have been like to try to have a "normal" high school experience during a global war. The war affected all aspects of everyone's daily life.

Here is a montage of headlines and pictures from these newspapers: news of football games, dances, student clubs and activities, which were interspersed with notices of former students and faculty missing or killed in action.



The Chinooks of World War 2

Continued from Page 39



Do NOT Take Away Lucy's Industrial Knitting Machine

By Ada Rutman, WSHS 2027

Her hands shake as they yearn for knitting needles. The longer she doesn't knit, the stronger the withdrawal pains become. She fights through the school day, whimpering in the absence of knitting materials. The moment the bell rings, she springs out of her seat, ready to run home and knit.

The name is Lucy and the drug is yarn. Lucy Oprinski, 17, wakes up in the dead of night with color work ideas swirling around in her brain. "I have to draw this out!" She cries manically into the dark. Once she sketches the design, she can finally go back to sleep.

As West Seattle High School's fashionable Fiber Arts Club president, Lucy turns heads everywhere she goes with her unique, self-knitted items in all shapes and colors. You may spot her walking down the street in a knitted tank top with elaborate, hand-embroidered designs inspired by her favorite books and movies.

At a time in fashion when everything seems to be getting increasingly homogenous, Lucy says that it's important to try and wear interesting pieces to express your personal style. "It's kind of fun to wear something that no one else has."

Despite the ongoing epidemic of seemingly "basic" and standardized fashion, Lucy can see the light at the end of the tunnel. She conveyed her enthusiasm for growing internet subcultures in which the fiber arts are becoming more popular, adding that she always notices when people come to school in items they've made themselves: it's refreshing.

According to her, the sense of accomplishment one can get from wearing a homemade item is unmatched. "It's nice to be like, 'I'm going to do something this weekend.' And then by the end of the weekend, you pop out with a new piece of clothing: a new artwork."

Lucy has been knitting for a while and even teaches it to striving fiber artists during club meetings. Already a pro, Lucy's peers didn't think she could possibly further her knitting mastery. Yet, her love and skill for needlework ramped up when she was gifted an industrial knitting machine by her father's ex-girlfriend.

"She used to own a sweater company for rich people," Lucy explained when asked about the mysterious machine-gifter. Apparently, Lucy had inherited 5 knitting machines at first but decided that seemed "excessive". Besides, "it's the size of a piano".

Since receiving her industrial knitter and its corresponding Olympic size swimming pool-like tub of yarn, Lucy has increased her output by tenfold. Yet, when she first got it, she was forced to navigate numerous learning hurdles.

For example, Lucy found it challenging to decipher the Russian YouTube videos demonstrating how to use it. Any manuals that initially came with it were long gone since it's from the 90's. However, once she learned the ropes, it was smooth sailing from there.

Although Lucy loves creating knitted clothes, she admitted that the process can be frustrating at times. She said the worst thing about knitting is spending so long on a project, then "looking at it and realizing you don't like it".

"Sometimes the colors don't work, sometimes the fit is weird," Lucy remarked. As a knitter, she finds sizing to be the most difficult part of the craft.

Since she's sewed for so long, she explained she usually has a pretty accurate understanding of how big or small things are supposed to be. However, yarn is different from other mediums because it shrinks and stretches so much. "It might make sense all flat, and then you knit it, and it becomes 10 times smaller or 10 times bigger."

Nevertheless, she tries not to get too defeated. She believes in not forcing a project to work out. Instead, she emphasized the importance of balancing perseverance with self-honesty. "It's okay to just give up and start over sometimes".

Through her knitting, Lucy has truly proven herself as an inspiration to her peers. She encourages others to embrace unconventional hobbies and individual expression, as well as take on new forms of art whether you're wearing it, creating it, or both.



Sights from the 2025 All School Reunion



Alums of all classes gather in The Commons

Both our Scholarship Winners and our Hall of Fame recipients were displayed in The Commons



Inter-Class gatherings were popular



Linda Wells and Aly Hallberg check in as ASR attendees



The Class of '85 visits at their table



The Class of '76

DECEASED LIST continued from page 33

- Class of 1967**
- McCabe, Pamela Craigehead
Pam passed away February 23, 2026
- Wood, Steven C
Steven passed away July 15, 2025
- Class of 1968**
- Goodman, Ann Hovland
Ann passed away February 18, 2026
- Herron, John
John passed away August 30, 2025
- Maguire, Randy Dennis
Randy passed away April 14, 2025
- Procter, Susan Cady
Susan passed away in September 2024
- Roberts, Ron
Ron passed away in October 2025
- Thornquist, James "Jim"
Jim passed away November 27, 2023
- Class of 1969**
- Kolb, Jeffrey
Jeffrey passed away February 27, 2022
- Class of 1970**
- DeLoach, Virginia Stauch
Virginia passed away in September 2023
- Knodel, Dwight
Dwight passed away in February 2026
- Class of 1971**
- Grieve, Robert James "Bob"
Bob passed away January 16, 2026
- Class of 1972**
- Appleton, Tom
Tom passed away January 7, 2026
- Larsen, Jeri Graham
Jeri passed away September 2, 2025
- Smalls, Jill
Jill passed away February 3, 2025
- Class of 1973**
- Dubek, Georgiann Marie Finn
Georgiann passed away in August 2025
- Class of 1974**
- Linstead, Michael
Michael passed away in March 2024
- Lloyd, Virginia Tkaczyk
Virginia passed away in July 2024

- Petek, Chuck
Chuck passed away in April 2024
- Class of 1975**
- Schnorf, Christine M Devine
Christine passed away January 2, 2026
- Class of 1976**
- Charbonneau, Eric
Eric passed away March 29, 2025
- Hoppe, Brian
Brian passed away September 19, 2025
- Moran, Marva Sheppard
Marva passed away November 29, 2025
- York, Michael
Michael passed away in December 2025
- Class of 1977**
- Spicer, Verna Lee Donohue
Verna passed away June 15, 2024
- Class of 1978**
- Crandall, Greg
Greg passed away December 4, 2024
- Hodson, Tamera
Tamera passed away September 15, 2025
- Class of 1979**
- Modin, Molly
Molly passed away April 13, 2025
- Toner, Michael
Michael passed away January 14, 2025
- Class of 1982**
- Campbell, Mike T
Mike passed away December 15, 2025
- Class of 1999**
- Bowers, Stephen D
Stephen passed away in July 19, 2025
- Class of 2013**
- Newquist, Brennan Jay
Brennan passed away April 30, 2025

"You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing."
- E.B. White, Charlotte's Web

The Annual Classic Car Show

John Zitkovich, Class of 1960

Many of our Classmates have invested a good deal of time, energy and effort into revitalizing some of the Classic Rides from their glory days at Westside. We are looking forward to gathering together again to reminisce about "The Good Old Days".

Contact: John Zitkovich
by phone at 206 305-9209
for Reservations and Detailed Information.



The Student's Car Show Awards, given out earlier in the day at the close of their show, held the same day as the ASR



Reunion Reminders

1954—Looking forward to seeing 1954 classmates at the 72nd Reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2026!

1955—Class of 1955 Reunion August 26, 2026
West Seattle Golf Course
4470 35th Ave SW, Seattle WA 98126
Starting at 10:00 am

The lunch menu is as follows: Cheese burger, French fries, tossed salad, "surprise", beverages are extra. \$35.00 is the total (tax and gratuity are included in the price.) The attire for the event will be casual. You must RSVP before August 12th if you will attend this activity!!

Please contact me at tedfoss@msn.com, or home phone number - 206 932-5349, if your last name begins with A to I. If your last name begins with J-R, contact classmate Russ Dow at 206-972-9696 or by e-mail russ.patricia@juno.com, or if your last name begins with S-Z contact classmate, Chris King at 206-938-1937 or email seeking55@aol.com

Let us all do what we can to stay healthy and enjoy our family and friends!

1956—70 Years for 1956!

Look for information on our upcoming 70th Reunion. Plan to reunite with Classmates this summer!

If your address has changed recently, Please call: Greta Pelham at (206) 246-5271

Reunion details will be mailed.

1957—We plan on gathering again this holiday season. Please let us know if you would like to join us. Contact:

Gwen (Tatman) Fraser
gfraser49@msn.com

Beverly McMillin
chocosan29@hotmail.com

1958— Contact Bob Kirchner for further information for the next Golf Tournament. He can be reached at: bobandcedee@comcast.net or 206 229-6999.

A monthly breakfast is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00AM. They meet at Endolyne Joe's restaurant at 9261 45th SW (just east of the WS Ferry dock). This breakfast was started by Gary Tisdale several years ago and with his passing last year, Bob Kirchner has kept the gathering going in Gary's honor.

Contact Bob for possible new locations to meet at 206 229 6999.

1961—I am hosting our Class of '61 Reunion when it is sunny, on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at our home on Angle Lake in SeaTac, close to the airport. The information is shared in the class newsletter I mailed in late January/early February.

My e-mail is Gail.D.Evans@hotmail.com and my cellphone number is 206-935-3294. Just show up.

I will serve light refreshments and a variety of drinks, but you may bring anything you would like to share. It will be from noon on! This is a casual affair. Just show up!

1964—Happy 80th birthday to each of us who has made it in the last number of months or will be making that great achievement sometime in the next number of months to come!

We are celebrating our collective birthday this coming summer on the actual birthday of Maureen Meyers Vanderpas, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at Lincoln Park in West Seattle.

We have made requests of the Parks Department to book Shelter 5, and are waiting for confirmation. We hope to get a confirmed time of 11:00am to 2:00pm.

We intend to order Husky Deli sandwich trays with salads, so we will need to know how many people might be in attendance. Once we receive confirmation from the Parks Department of the date/time, we will send out postcards so that you can RSVP.

1965—Please join our class Facebook page: West Seattle High Class of 65-50 year reunion, where there is always info about upcoming events and news from fellow classmates. Let's keep in touch. Take good care and let's meet at the beach this summer!

Please attend the All School Reunion Saturday, June 5th 2026, 4-7 pm.

1966—Reminder: 60th Class Reunion Saturday - June 6, 2026

West Seattle Golf Course
1:00 - 4:30 pm, \$40 pp
No host bar, Hosted appetizers, Followed by the All School Reunion at WSHS

1967—I will again host a reunion at my home on Pipe Lake in Maple Valley on Sunday, August 30th starting at 1 PM:

21312 SE 265th St.,
Maple Valley, 98038

As per usual it will be a potluck and you are welcome to bring your spouse, partner, kids, grandkids,

cousins, siblings, friends, pets or anyone else your heart desires. There's plenty of room here and all are welcome. We will most definitely discuss our upcoming 60th high school reunion to see if we want to have a "fancier" event. I enjoy hosting but am certainly willing to have something different for our 60th. Please RSVP to either Danny Lilliness (206.246.2571) or me, Helen Verbon Locatelli (360.509.3464).

1970—Be sure to e-mail me if I don't have your e-mail address so I can let everyone know details of any upcoming events - we hope to have some lunches between now and our 60th Reunion in 2030!

Patricia Kloster
pjkloster52@gmail.com.

1971—Our "Lunch Bunch" continues to meet quarterly for lunch, usually at Endolyne Joe's although we're open to expanding our horizons a bit...Cristos on Alki has been suggested, maybe others...?

If you aren't receiving invites to the '71 lunches, please email Jim Biava to get on the list: jimbiava@protonmail.com

1976—Hello, all! Make way for our 50th Reunion! Amazing to think that it's our time. Hope you are planning to come for fun, friends, food, and oh so many memories!

Saturday, August 8th, 2026
Glen Acres Golf and Country Club, just north of Burien.
1000 S. 112th St. Seattle, WA 98168

Website: www.glenacresgolf.com (if you'd like to see pics of the venue)

We have a big room reserved for music and dancing and a smaller, quieter room for conversations. Dress is casual and comfortable, and cost will be minimal (\$25 max). Be on the lookout for a US Postal mailer later in the year as a reminder.

1978—Our 50th Reunion is fast approaching (2028). Denette & I are in the early stages of planning a memorable event.

If you have any thoughts or ideas, feel free to contact one of us per our information below.

Denise Dawson Minnerly
Class Rep "78" (206) 200-3290
deniserminnerly@gmail.com

Denette Wells
Co-Class Rep "78" (206) 290-3669
denettew@comcast.net.

1980—We look forward to seeing you at the all-school reunion held on the first Saturday in June!

1986—the West Seattle High School Class of 1986 will be holding its 40th reunion this year.

Events will be held in conjunction with the WSHS All-Class Reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2026. So 86ers please mark your calendars and keep the weekend of June 5-7 open. And please spread the word to any of your fellow classmates with whom you're still in contact. Further details will follow.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Stern, the class representative, via email at jeff@sternski.com

1995, 1996, 1997—

Scan the QR code above for all the details, we're combining 30th reunion celebrations for triple the fun!



Save The Date: Saturday 7/18/26, 7:00-ish

Location: Dakota Park Place (4304 SW Dakota St, Seattle, WA 98116)

In addition to the big event, we'll have alumni-mini-gatherings each year at these annual events: West Seattle 5K (this year on 5/17/26), the All-School Reunion (this year on 6/6/26) and the Homecoming / Huling Bowl football games (schedules TBD). Find info on all gatherings within that main Eventbrite reunion invitation (QR code); we hope you find these to be great ways to meet up with some old classmates IRL.

Please make sure we have your current email address (send it to your class rep).

We're happy you found this note, and wish you all the best!

Your Class Reps,
Lynda Bui & Andrea Vega ('95),
Dana (Rambo) Hopkins,
Danielle Johnson & Christine (Ericson) Jones ('96)

and
Kyle Minaglia & Helen Johnson ('97)

Join the West Seattle High School Alumni Association and ensure your reunion organizer is able to find you through the Alumni's data base. See page 5 for Alumni membership details.

Class Representatives continued from Page 11

2007 Continued

Michelle Hessel
206 937-4033
8846 39th Ave SW, Seattle 98116
gsmhessel@comcast.net

2008

Courtney Gordon Habakangas
206 938-1461
6810 Sonia St, Tacoma, 98404
cgilman93.cg@gmail.com

***2009 Rep Needed 2010**

Kailey Pearce Ketter
206 719-6952
27410 Sandy Shores Dr SW, Vashon, 98070
kpketter@gmail.com

***2011 Rep Needed**

***2012 Rep Needed 2013**

Samantha Dunkin
206 387-9735
PO Box 52, Nordland, Wa. 98358
djadunkin@gmail.com

***2014 Rep Needed**

***2015 Rep Needed**

***2016 Rep Needed**

***2017 Rep Needed**

***2018 Rep Needed**

***2019 Rep Needed**

***2020 Rep Needed**

***2021 Rep Needed**

***2022 Rep Needed**

***2023 Rep Needed**

2024

Ava Perez
206 561-2383
3226 63rd Ave SW, Seattle 98116
avaiperez@hotmail.com

***2025 Rep Needed**

Any corrections to this list, please contact Chris King at seeking55@aol.com

Please consider volunteering to be your Class Representative if your class is in need of a representative. Thank you.

CHINOOK

West Seattle

THE WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI CHINOOK, 2026 • THE ALL-SCHOOL REUNION IS SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

All School Reunion Schedule of Events

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Check in, sign in, pick up name tag, roam the halls and pay dues

5:00 - 5:30 pm

Gather in the Commons, Recognition of the 50th Class, Hall of Fame, this year's Scholarship winners

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Enjoy the Vintage Car Show out front on Stevens Street

Volunteer Opportunities:

Scan the QR code with your cell phone to sign up as a volunteer!



WSHS Alumni Association All School Reunion

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

4742 42nd Avenue Southwest #215, Seattle, WA 98116

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The Monster In The Classroom

How a Monster Can Collection Became a Community Art Piece

By Ada Rutman, WSHS 2027



A rainbow of Monster Energy cans sit cluttered on the counter-tops, empty and ready to be placed against the wall. A student carefully climbs from chair to counter to precariously stack each colored building block atop the next. Hundreds of the cans perch atop the kitchenette in Ms. Perletti's room 230, assembled in a teetering array. Eventually, this collection will surpass 460 cans—but not quite yet.

What began as a directionless passion project matured into a towering fortress representative of re-purpose, overconsumption, and the surmounting pressure high schoolers face.

According to junior Natalie "Natty" Jednaszewski, there wasn't a concrete vision for the project at its debut. She created the wall with 9th grader Lyon Fryer simply because they noticed how many Monsters students drank at school; they thought the designs on the cans were cool. Moreover, Natty was eager to "embrace capitalism" in an artistic fashion.

Ms. Perletti, the photography teacher and host of WSHS's "Monster Wall", laughingly disclosed in an interview that she never officially authorized the wall's development. "I said no multiple times, and then they

just started it."

She said, "honestly, I didn't think it was going to be anything when they asked me." Yet, Natty and Lyon surprised her when the wall began gaining traction. In fact, shortly after their project launched, kids began to bring cans in every day, adding to the growing "Monster Wall". What started in a much smaller portion of the classroom had to be relocated nearby for more wall space.

When the collection counted 250 cans, students realized the cans were stacked too high given the lack of a system to keep them in place. Natty and Lyon were forced to maintain their creation by taping the cans to the wall in columns, essentially reworking the entire bulwark to ensure its structural integrity.

Eventually, Ms. Perletti was forced to place a basket outside her door for contributors to dispose of their Monster cans. In this way, Ms. Perletti's photography students could observe passers-by donating cans through the glass on the door. Despite all the commotion it's caused, Ms. Perletti has admitted that once the project took off, she gained an appreciation for it.

"I think it has generated something that is visually entertaining, sparks conversation, and it has created a little bit of a niche community," she said. She added that she's grateful her classroom has become the host of such an unconventional project. Perletti explained that she prides her room as a "communal space", and believes in the importance of having a platform to express oneself through art. She said, "That's the sort of space I want to create".

Many people who frequent Room 230 seem to approve of the "Monster Wall". Senior Paloma Julian said, "I love it. I love all the different colors."

Other students, like Amy Nuygen, similarly praised the wall for its vibrancy. Expanding on that observation, Amy commented on the variety of monsters, explaining how in a way, "it which shows the variety of students that contribute to it."

Since its creation, new energy drink walls have opened up in Ms. Perletti's room, expanding the range of energy-drinking students that contribute to these walls.

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