

IN GENERAL

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No, your eyes do not deceive you! You are looking at the first issue of a series of occasional newsletters which come as a benefit of your membership in the Washington-Lee Alumni Association.

So, add "occasional newsletter with alumni and school news" to your list of membership benefits, which already include an open-house reception the evening of W-L Homecoming (this year's is October 14th), and the support of Alumni Association activities in the community.

Also, please feel welcome to send suggestions for articles or your own write-ups which you would like to see in this newsletter. Send to wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com.

Profile: Artist Jon Friedman (Class of '65)



Artist Jon Friedman with his JFK mural

In November, 1963, soon after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, art teacher Roy Anderson addressed his class saying that he thought a mural honoring the fallen president would be in order and junior Jon Friedman agreed to take on the project. In November, 1965, the 30-by-5 foot mural, was unveiled at W-L, with coverage in local papers and praise for the artist. The mural hung in the original W-L building, and in 1976, when the new building opened, the mural was rehung in its halls. Jon Friedman went on the study at Princeton University and Cranbrook Academy of Art and to become a well-known and respected fine artist.

In 2006, when W-L was about to undergo its current reincarnation, the school administration contacted the Alumni Association to ask if it could help find a home for the mural. Ann (Lefferts) Guthridge [Class of 1964], who received that

call, decided to contact the artist himself to ask his advice. Months later, after talking to local arts organizations and receiving a restoration report sponsored by the PTA, Ann met with Mrs. Friedman, Jon's mother, to enlist her help on the project that was long on enthusiasm and short on funds. With the invaluable help of Mrs. Friedman, the mural was cleaned, framed and hung in the Alumni Conference Room on the Main Street of the new school, with the donation of time and materials by a local conservator and a local framer.

In 2010, the Alumni Association sponsored a rededication of the mural, with Jon and his mother in attendance. Jon gave an illustrated talk about this and his other work and also took his time to talk to and inspire current W-L art students during the school day.



Friedman with retired Art teacher Roy Anderson

Since that time, Jon's talent has been recognized by the National Portrait Gallery, which owns several of his works. Most recently, a commission by the Gallery of a portrait of Bill and Melinda Gates was presented in a special ceremony on May 11, 2011 (<http://www.npg.si.edu/gates.html>). Many guests were in attendance and Jon gave a talk about the portrait and the process he used to create this work.

Class Contacts Honored by Alumni Association

On May 11th, in the Teachers' Lounge of the new W-L building, the Alumni Association showed their appreciation and support to a group of 40 guests, 20 of whom were representing their graduating classes as official Class Contacts and Locators from W-L's 85 graduating classes. Many of these contacts have been working to keep their class information current on the Alumni Database since it went online in 2000 but had never met webmaster, Ed Peetz. The locators, many of whom had not before been in the new W-L building, met each other and

members of the Alumni Association and talked with Ed about experiences they've shared in getting their jobs done. Dinner before the meeting was catered by AllSpice Catering, an Arlington company. Ed's portion of the meeting gave a general overview of the history and workings of the Database and Ed's ideas for making the Database even more user-friendly in the future. There were many questions for Ed, but one of the most frequently asked was "When can we do this again?"

Generals Shine at Old Dominion Basketball Heritage Day

On April 16, 2011, players, coaches and fans of Northern Virginia basketball of the 50's, 60's and early 70's gathered at George Washington Middle School (formerly GW High School) in Alexandria to celebrate the Glory Days of basketball in that era. The event was organized by Harley "Skeeter" Swift, an alumnus and outstanding GW basketball player and its most colorful athlete of that time. Skeeter went on to play for East Tennessee State University where he was a three time All-Ohio Valley Conference player. He also played professional basketball for the New Orleans Bucks.

W-L was among the several Northern Virginia high schools represented at the event. Players from the era were met by Coach Morris Levin who taught at W-L from 1957 to 1988 and coached from 1957 until 1973. W-L won three Virginia State Basketball Championships in the 1960's under Coach Levin. The first championship was won after the 1961-62 season with Ed Hummer leading the way. In March of 1963 the Generals won their second state championship capping a season with 24 wins and no losses. Ed graduated in 1963 and was followed by his brother John. W-L continued its winning ways and captured their third state championship in 1966 behind John Hummer.



Coach Levin (2nd from left) with recruits

At the all-day event, attendees gathered to hear talks by Virginia State Senator Dave Marsden (W. T. Woodson),

Skeeter, Coach Levin and several players and supporters including Raymond Hodgdon and Ed and John Hummer. After the talks, attendees reconvened in the cafeteria to meet and greet each other. The W-L Alumni Association hosted a table with displays of pictures of and trophies earned by teams represented. In addition to displaying, members of the Alumni Association received memorabilia as well. Russ Bolling '65 donated a net from the 1966 State Championship game. Harold Rose '63 donated basketball programs from the 1962 and 1963 championship games. Jane Richards Montgomery donated a 1942 yearbook once owned by his sister, Adela..

Stopping by the W-L table were former players Bill Adams, Russ Bolling, Stan Brock, Weldon Eddins, Jim Ellis, John Fenili, Tom Gill, Jim Hawley, Ray Hodgdon, Dennis Howard, Ed Hummer, John Hummer, Bob Jones, John Kane, Rick Lowry, Don Matthews, Hugh Miller, Lynn Moore, George Owens, Harold Rose, Ken Sanders, Durwood Settles, Rich Sharff, James Spriggs.

It was a great day for basketball lovers!



W-L bball alums (l-r): Jim Spriggs (65); John Fenelli (65); Russ Bolling (67); Tim Mengering (64); John Hummer (66); John Carroll (66).

Tours of the New W-L Building

Have you wondered what the new W-L looks like? Do you have an upcoming reunion? In past years, reunion groups have called the W-L administration asking for a tour of the beautiful new W-L building. Although most groups have been accommodated by the members of W-L staff, the road to that tour has not always been smooth. W-L administrators have their hands full with work related to the school and the students, they recently reached out to the Alumni Association for help. The result is that the Alumni Association has signed up some of its members as official tour guides, trained those

guides, and written a manual to help them with their new duties. Pete High ('53), now the Alumni Association's vice-president, was the leader on this job -- meeting with the school officials, studying the school building to build a tour, and writing the manual.

Now, when groups including reunions ask for a tour of the new W-L, the Alumni Association will provide a well-prepared tour guide to make it happen. Please contact Pete at wlaa.veep@yahoo.com for more information, or to schedule a group tour.

Vintage Prom Dresses Grace the Halls of W-L

In early May, just in time for prom season, members of the Alumni Association teamed up with the current yearbook sponsor and some of her students to mount a display of prom memorabilia from the collection of the Association and private collections. The display is front and center in the main hall, or what the school calls its Main Street, in a glass case for all to see. The dresses span the decades from the 30's to the 2000's. Three dresses on loan were worn by one family: Virginia (Snarr) Dodge [Class of 45], daughter Mary (Dodge) Strehle [Class of 75], and granddaughter Laura Strehle [Class of 2005]. Two of the dresses that were donated to the Alumni Association were worn by Doris (Miller) Cocker [Class of 33], Joan (Odland) Cocker [Doris's daughter-in-law, Class of 1963], and the third was worn by Gail Johnson [Class of 60]. Also on display are shoes worn with the dresses, Gail Johnson's corsage from the event, and various programs and invitations to the prom from as early as the '30's. Those programs and invitations are a charming reminder of past customs.



Prom dresses through the decades

This is the first Alumni Association display to appear in the new building. Since the school budget did not allow for us to be given permanent display space, we have waited our turn for

available space. We hope we won't have to wait so long for our next turn. If you live in or are visiting the Arlington area, stop by and see the display. And while you are there, be sure to let the administration know how much you appreciate seeing a bit of history in this brand new building!

Membership in the Alumni Association

Don't forget: Membership in the Alumni Association is annual unless you have signed on as a Lifetime Member. You can check with our membership chair, Sara (Strehle) Duke [2002] wlalumni@gmail.com anytime if you have lost track of when your membership expires. You'll want to keep it up-to-date so you keep our new newsletter coming and so you will be eligible to attend the members-only Alumni Homecoming Reception on the night of the W-L Homecoming Game, which this year is October 14th. You'll also be continuing to fund the work the Alumni Association has done in the past and has in mind for the future.

Upcoming Events

If you live in or plan to visit the Arlington area during the period from August 11th to 14th, be sure to visit the W-L Alumni Association booth at the annual Arlington County Fair. The Fair is both inside and outside at the Thomas Jefferson Center at Route 50 between Glebe Road and Irving Street and runs from 7pm -10pm on the 11th, 10am-9pm on the 12th and 13th, and 11am -5pm on the 14th. The Alumni Association has hosted a booth since 1999, and alumni, future students, and their families love stopping by to look at the old yearbooks we bring and the special exhibit we mount for the occasion. Among those having the most fun are the 3 or 4 alumni staffing the table in 2-hour shifts. If you are interested in taking a turn at the table, contact secretary Lynne (Schmidt) Lilly at wlaa.secretary@yahoo.com. You don't have to be a member to help with the table, but those who aren't before they work will probably want to join while they are there!

On September 15, 2011, the Alumni Association and the Arlington Historical Society jointly will host the second joint program featuring the history of W-L. Following the format of the very successful first program in November, 2009, a panel of W-L graduates -- at least one graduate representing each decade -- will discuss life at W-L and Arlington when they were students. General discussion and questions from the audience will follow. Meeting will be held in the auditorium at the Arlington Central Library on Quincy St., and you can check details on the Alumni Association or Arlington Historical Society website.

In addition, there will be an exhibit mounted in the Virginia Room at Central Library of the extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the W-L Class of 1944. This extensive class archive, formerly tended by Burt and Barbara (Borror) Warden, was donated to the Alumni Association for our archive and this will be the first time it is on display.

Next Meeting of Alumni Association: Wed. July 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Conference Room in W-L.

Alumni Association Officers

Officers of the Alumni Association:

President: Mary (Dodge) Strehle [Class of 75]
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Vice-President: Paul High [Class of 53]

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Treasurer: Ed Peetz [Class of 70]

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Secretary: Lynne (Schmidt) Lilly [Class of 60]

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This newsletter is being written by Ann (Lefferts) Guthridge [class of 64]. Questions, comments, ideas and newsworthy information may be sent to her at wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com.

The W-L Alumni Association website, including the Alumni Database is available at <http://www.apsva.us/washington-lee> then click on the [Alumni](#) link at the top.

Upcoming Reunions (2011)

Class of 1951	Sept. 24	Diane Henderson Palmer	ddhpalmer@verizon.net
Class of 1956	Oct. 1	George Hersey	hersey24@cox.net
Class of 1961	Oct. 22	Martha Ludwig Roberts	wlhs1961@hotmail.com
Class of 1971	Oct. 7-8	Ginny Whalen Price	w171reunion@gmail.com
Class of 2001	October 14-15	Socrates Tiglao	stiglao@gmail.com

Current reunion information is always available on the [Reunion Scorecard](#).