

IN GENERAL

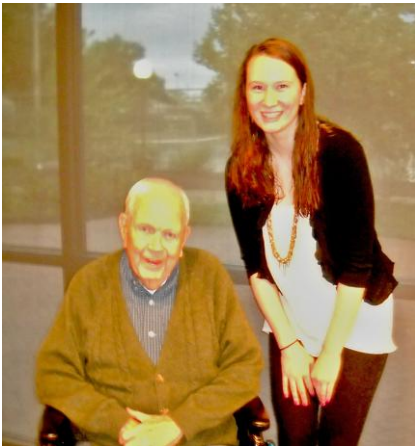
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Issue 2--Fall 2011

The Fabulous Decades of W-L

On Sept. 15th, at the Arlington Central Library, alumni and community members gathered for a panel discussion titled "W-L Through the Decades," about life in Arlington and at W-L from the 1930s to the present. The program, co-sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Arlington Historical Society, featured stories from alumni ranging from fond memories of teachers, lessons learned, fashions and trends of the day, memories of excellence in the music and sports departments to memories of skipping class to practice jazz music and of crushes on teachers and others beyond reach. Class years ranged from 1932 -- represented by Bob McAtee -- to 2012 -- represented by Madeline Hay, senior class president. The panel included: John Moore '36, Ann Ames Groves Gurman '36, Marion Grobowski '44, Nancy Smith Martino '44, William Scarrow '46, Lennie Cuje '52, Mickey Hamake '58, Woody Hair '58, Andrea Watkins '63, Johnnie Mae Graham Jones '66, George Dodge '71, Susan Sullivan Lagon '75, Doug Grove '81, Jennifer Lane '95, Tim Olson '98.. The moderator was Sara Strehle Duke '02.

The same evening, the Library's Virginia Room opened an exhibit of memorabilia of the Class of 1944 that has been lovingly kept through the years by Barbara (Borrer) and Burt Warden. A few years ago, the class donated the collection to the Alumni Association. This is the first showing of the collection as a whole. The exhibit will be open in the Virginia Room of the Arlington Central Library until the end of October. Look online or call for hours.



A mere 80 years of W-L history... 'Decades' participants Bob McAtee (Class of 1932) and Madeline Hay (Class of 2012)

Life in the County

If you live outside the Arlington area, you may not know that for 36 years, Arlington has had its very own annual county fair. Yes, it has the usual prizes for best rose and prettiest quilt and greased pig races, but it also has booths representing Arlington's organizations -- civic and charitable. Since preparing for the W-L 75th Anniversary in 1999, the W-L Alumni Association has had a booth at the fair and we have decorated it with memorabilia, stocked it with yearbooks to look through and souvenirs to buy, and staffed it with friendly alumni from across the class years. This year was no exception and in August, we greeted over 200 guests with ties to W-L, displayed a "teaser" exhibit of the Class of 1944 now on display at the Arlington Central Library, and even hosted a caricature artist--1972 grad, Marie (Hartshorn) Cheek (www.BigHeadLittleBody.com) who drew free portraits of a long line of subjects on Friday night. If you live in the DC area or are visiting the area next August, look up the Fair and then look up your Alumni Association and see what's going on in our booth in 2012!

New W-L Building Gives A Nod to the Past

At the new W-L building that now faces Stafford Street, 2 entrances to the school have been given a nostalgic glimpse of the past. The two entrances, facing Stafford Street and the I-66 parking lot are now topped by the name "Washington-Lee" in freshly restored letters taken from two of the past incarnations of W-L. Letters above the door at Entrance 5 were taken from the 1952 entrance on Quincy Street and letters above the door at Entrance 1 were taken from the front of the original 1925 building. Principal Gregg Robertson says that "Preserving the rich traditions and history of such a fine learning institution is very important" ... and your Alumni Association agrees!

The Class of 1941 Steps Out

The Washington-Lee Class of 1941 has always had a strong belief in keeping old friendships alive. From their first to their 50th reunion in 1991 they had reunions every 10 years. From 1991 to 2009, Lew Burke and Jack Follin put together annual lunchtime reunions at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Arlington for their class and for interested alumni for classes from 1942 to 1945, eventually opening the event to classes from 1926 to 1945. One of these multi-year reunions included Bailey Byers, the one and only graduate of the Class of 1926. This year, with its leadership feeling like it might not have the energy to execute a large reunion for its 70th anniversary, a stalwart group of 10 1941 classmates (and 6 guests) met to spend time together, albeit at a more intimate gathering.

On June 18, 2011, June (Pavidal) Ball, Hope (Hamilton) Bowdey, Martha (Wetmore) Clark, June (Millet) Gillmore, Benjamin Goodrick, Rosemary (Trone) Lewis, Barbara (Field) Rose, Charles Shipe, Joseph White, and Lew Burke spent several hours catching up and reminiscing at the Metro 21 Dinner in Arlington. Lew Burke, who organized this reunion, has no plans for another one, but has enjoyed the past ones so much ... who knows??



A 70th Reunion – Members and guests of the Class of 1941 gather for a luncheon on the 70th anniversary of their graduation. Organizer Lew Burke is in center of top photo.

A Homecoming for Alumni Association Members

A small but enthusiastic group of Alumni Association members gathered in W-L's beautiful library on October 14th for the 4th Annual Homecoming Reception. In attendance were board and other active members, new members, and even members in town from California. Mary (Ullman) Matsuda, Class of 1960, and her husband, Ron, from Apple Valley, CA took time during their east coast travels to pay a visit to the school for this event where they and other guests were treated to food and fellowship and a bird's eye view of the green War Memorial Stadium beautifully lit for W-L's game with Herndon. When the marching band with its flashing brass took the field, the nostalgia of the evening was complete. Next year, whether you live in the area, are here for your class reunion, or can make a trip to Arlington at the time of W-L Homecoming, please join us for this event. You'll see notice of it in this newsletter when the date is announced.



Association members enjoy pre-game snacks at the Alumni Association Homecoming Reception. Pictured (l-r) are guest Ron Matsuda, Mary [Ullman] Matsuda '60, Sara [Strehle] Duke '02, Charles Batten '69.



Can't beat the view from the library balcony, except for goal-line stands on the Washington Blvd. end of the field.

Alumni Memories -- Murray Lee, Class of 1945

Murray Lee, Class of 1945, has been a college student, a government employee, a retiree, and a world traveler, but in the early 1940's he was a member of the W-L track team under the well-remembered "Pop" Deming. "Pop" coached both football and track. Murray loved football, but he believed he wasn't big enough to play varsity. "Pop" told him that he wouldn't let him play football anyway because it might damage him for running track. Murray participated in the broad jump and the half-mile run, and also did what he liked when he was in junior high school -- the pole vault. They used bamboo poles taped to prevent splintering and possibly piercing the body. The lengths of bamboo available were limited. Aluminum poles were heavy and not as springy. The world record at that time was about 15 feet, but the high school boys could only jump about 11 or 12 feet. Murray says that when he watches professional track meets today he often thinks about the facilities and equipment that they used when he was at W-L:

"We were given these used shoes and uniforms from previous years and you were lucky if they fit. The jumping pits were just that-- "pits." Filled with sand, sometimes sawdust, but nothing like the air filled cushions that you see today. One day the school thought that they would save money on broken cross bars by hanging a rope between the poles. On one of my vaults I didn't quite make it over and fell on the rope. A regular cross bar would bounce and fall off or snap. The rope wouldn't. It held and pulled down the two steel poles, which were anchored in concrete-filled tires. One of them struck me in the head. Fortunately, it was a glancing-type blow and didn't knock me out but drew considerable blood and left a considerable lump. As the blood was streaming down my body, the school bus drove by with one of my girlfriends, Betty Black, on board. She let out a scream that could be heard throughout the whole area. Needless to say, that was the end of the coach's experiment to save money. "



Murray Lee (Class of 45) celebrates a birthday with wife Gladys.

Murray's brother Gilbert (Class of 1946) later joined Murray on the track team and they both ran the half mile. Murray and Gilbert were the only Asian-Americans in their classes in Arlington all the way through school. In the early years, they felt they needed to prove themselves to their schoolmates, but by the time they reached W-L, they felt generally accepted. After lettering for 3 years in track, Murray qualified for the W-L Club. Murray also did well academically and was in the National Honor Society, the Literary Society, the Hi-Y and was treasurer of the Senior Class. But W-L was not all about work for Murray. As he tells it:

"Every Friday night they used to hold dances at the Junior Rec Club in Clarendon, which was not too far from the school. This was a great place to meet girls and learn all the dances. Every area had a slightly different version of the jitterbug. We used to do a version that was called the "shag." The best record for that was *Summit Ridge Drive*, which I believe was by Les Brown. It was the era of "swing" and one of our favorite bands was Glenn Miller. They used to experiment with dances to create a greater involvement of the boys. Beside the Sadie Hawkins Day dance they tried an auction. They would hold an auction for the girls and put the guys up for bid. The winner would get the guy for a date the next week."

Murray now lives in San Diego, California with his wife, Gladys. He moved there after retiring from his career as a cartographer with the CIA in the Washington, DC area. After W-L, Murray served in the Merchant Marines for 2 years and then majored in geography at George Washington University. During his government career he and his team prepared an atlas of China for President Nixon to take with him to that country in 1972, and prepared intelligence reports and daily briefings for presidents that followed. Murray is now the volunteer curator of Chinese American History at the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and has recently published a book titled "In Search of Gold Mountain, A History of the Chinese in San Diego, California."

Keeping It Together -- The Class of 1960

After co-chairing their 50th reunion last fall, classmates Mary Ann Winter and Lynne (Schmidt) Lilly weren't about to let those good reunion feelings go dormant for 5 or 10 years. On Friday, October 7, they sponsored a well-attended get together at the home of Betsy (Zimmerman) Lockwood in Annandale. The gathering took place on the eve of the W-L Crew Boosters' annual event at the Potomac Boat Club. At this year's event, the "Jan Nieuwdorp Class of 1960" shell was christened by Ela (Nieuwdorp) Work, Jan's sister and a former W-L woman rower, and her son. This dedication was very meaningful for the Class of 1960 because their classmate, Jan, is currently in hospice care in Arlington and was the reason that his class was active in donating funds for the shell, which were matched by the Crew Boosters.

Thanks to generous donations by Rodney Russel and Chuck Veatch, the Class of 1960 website will continue to operate

through January 2013. Log on to www.wl1960.com for news of further gatherings and other class information.



Members of the Class of 1960 help dedicate the ‘Jan Nieuwdorp Class of 1960’ shell on the waterfront in Georgetown.

Wanted: A Few Good Class Contacts

Although we have a dedicated cadre of representatives from most of the classes, there are a few classes that currently have no one actively collecting and updating their contact information. The Alumni Association will update these classes as information comes in, that is just reactive. From experience we know that a class that has an active and alert Class Contact is more cohesive. If you see your class listed below and are interested in filling the void, please contact us at wlhsalums@yahoo.com. Prereqs are fairly simple: you will need to use an email account, and will need to be able to use Excel for some rather simplistic navigation and data entry capabilities. Actually, the most valuable asset for a Class Contact is a curiosity about classmates and good communication skills. The technical skills are learnable.

We are looking for Class Contacts for the following classes:

- 1940s: 1944, 1945
- 1950s: 1952
- 1970s: 1979
- 1990s: 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997
- 2000s: 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009
- 2010s: 2010, 2011

Something New With the W-L Education Foundation

As you may already know, the W-L Education Foundation has taken a technological step forward and established a website-- www.wlhsfoundation.org or www.w-lhsfoundation.org. Not only will information and an avenue to contact the Foundation be present at all times, but the Foundation will also be saving paper and money by making its yearly brochure available on-line.

Classes from the 1960's forward will receive notice by mail that the brochure is available each year, and classes from the 1930's through the 1950's will continue to receive the hard copies of the brochure.

Each year the Foundation gives the Alumni Association a page in its brochure to bring the AA to the attention of its mailing list. This page, accompanied by a membership form, is still there in the electronic version. Each year, there is some lingering confusion over the difference between the two organizations. Now, on a page called "W-L Education Foundation vs. W-L Alumni Association" this question of difference is definitively answered. (see [W-L Foundation vs. W-L Alumni Association](#) on our Alumni website). We'll take this opportunity to remind you that this newsletter is one of those differences – you receive this because of your membership in the W-L Alumni Association.

Check out the new Foundation website and brochure and consider giving to the Foundation and telling others about membership in the Alumni Association.

Helping Each Other

Before his 50th reunion in 2009, Walt Pilcher, Class of 1959, assembled his large collection of high school memorabilia and brought it with him to his reunion to donate to the Alumni Association. It was a collection full of treasures to be enjoyed by alumni for years to come and to make a more complete picture of W-L through the years. At the reunion, a classmate brought an audio tape made at 1959's Senior Class Night, and Walt offered to digitize the tape and make copies of the cd available to his classmates. When he returned home, he realized that he was going to need a copy of the program from Senior Class Night and he had just donated that program as part of the package he gave the Alumni Association. What was the former Student Council president to do but to write to the Alumni Association and ask for a copy of the very program he needed? Helping alumni find facts, figures and pieces of pertinent memorabilia is just one of the things the Alumni Association can do for you. This is but one of the many reasons to keep an archive of memorabilia from W-L classes and but one of the services that your Alumni Association provides.

That's why you support us with your membership. Please remember this story when you need information about W-L or don't know what to do with memorabilia that you've hung onto for years because you don't know what else to do with it!

If you are interested in joining the W-L Alumni Association, please see the membership page on the Alumni website ([Alumni Membership](#)), print off the membership form, and mail it in.

Wanted: A Home for our Yearbooks

As some of you know, the Alumni Association has a storage closet to house its collection of memorabilia in the new W-L building. Its existence is a wonderful thing, but the fact is, the closet is small and we must make good use of our space. Our yearbook collection, now housed in a bookshelf bought at the Fort Myer Thrift Shop, is overflowing. This doesn't mean we have all the yearbooks we need, so keep the donations coming, but we need more space to shelve our collection properly. We have the lumber but not the skill to construct a bookcase that would make the most of the space we have and hold our entire collection with room to grow. If any of you has the skill and the time, or knows someone who does, please contact the editor of this newsletter and we can put you to work whenever it is convenient for you.

Upcoming Events

W-L's annual Winter Bazaar on Saturday, December 3, 2011 will be a place to meet and greet members of your Alumni Association, browse merchandise in our Alumni Gift Shop, and get a look at the W-L of today. The Bazaar, which is traditionally a wonderful place to shop for handmade goods for Christmas, is also a place where the Alumni Association joins the current W-L community to support the school and to show Generals

spirit. The Bazaar will be held in the W-L cafeteria from 10 am to 4 pm.

Next Meeting of Alumni Association: Wed. November 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Conference Room in W-L. On the agenda for this meeting will be the election of officers for the Alumni Association for the upcoming year. There will be a slate of nominations but nominations from the floor are invited and encouraged.

Alumni Association Officers

Officers of the Alumni Association:

President: Mary (Dodge) Strehle [Class of 75]

wlaa.president@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Paul High [Class of 53]

wlaa.veep@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ed Peetz [Class of 70] wlaa.treasurer@yahoo.com

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

wlaa.secretary@yahoo.com

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 2012

Class of 1962

Oct. 2012

Ward Masden

wjmasden@aol.com

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