

THE CHATTER

February 2018

whittierhighalumni.org

WHSAA&EF:
CARDINALS FOREVER
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The Wurlitzer Organ Unveiled and Five Alumni to be Hailed

**SATURDAY APRIL 7 AND
SUNDAY APRIL 15 TO BE EPIC**

WURLITZER UNVEILING EVENT 2:30 APRIL 7 IS FREE

Yes, major donors will have a special opportunity to meet the organist, see this spectacular instrument up close and have their names on the wall forever, but attendance, while priceless, is free. The Alumni Association wants every seat filled, every student delighted.

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HALL OF FAME APRIL 15 DIRECTOR AND STUDENTS

Band Director Allan Trefry ('55-'75) brought hope and balance to more than a thousand students during his 20 years at WHS. Many students excelled in cerebral pursuits of all types. Jay Daversa '62, Donald Green '67, Cathrine Freitag Clark, PhD '75 and Nancy E. Freitag, PhD '80 will light Cardinal Pride.

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RECENT GRADS PROVE SCHOLARSHIP PICKS

When past recipients were polled, the support of scholarships reduced loans and lifted spirits.

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The WHS musical mysteries to be shared during a Pep Rally in the Auditorium and Hall of Fame Dinner in the Library



The grand console is ready for the Saturday afternoon gala on April 7.



The same auditorium view for 76 years, until now!

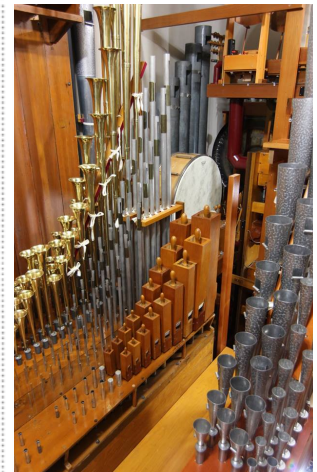


Some things change, others, never.

"If there is a song in
your head, rhythm in
your soul, and a love
in your heart, you
will dance at peace."



It almost looked this good in 1942, but there was never a Wurlitzer until now.



Installation of the "works" in the walls.

NO OTHER HIGH SCHOOL IS LIKE THIS SCHOOL

Maybe, when the first child born in Whittier was ready to attend 9th grade their parents said, "It is time for Whittier to have a high school." The timing would be about right, and when the evidence is missing the imagination gains control. Starting in 1900, the city of Whittier had a high school. There are still direct descendants living within the city borders from one teenager who started there (here) in 1904 and graduated in 1908. Her great-granddaughters graduated in 2006 and 2010. Sarah Peel and Melanie Peel.

'32 EARTH QUAKE SET THE AUDITORIUM STAGE

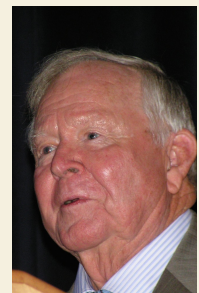
The current Whittier High School Library, the WILLIAM C. GORDON LIBRARY was once the auditorium. The '32 Quake centered in Long Beach damaged the old auditorium, requiring a complete renovation and transformation. The sloping floor still exists in the WC Gordon Library basement. WPA funds were used to get the work force back to work and the VIC LOPEZ AUDITORIUM was completed by 1941. The original plans included the air ducting and pipe chambers

for a Wurlitzer Organ, but the WPA funds ran out. When the WHS Alumni Association started refurbishing the auditorium, a 1926 Wurlitzer was made available. The engineering and funding commitment of Bill Wood '41, the craftsmanship and organ savvy of Dave Harris '63, the legal advisement of Joe Vinatieri '70, and the courageous efforts of Crome Organ Company combined to finally finish the original plan and the Foundation Board's dreams.

THE TIME OF UNVEILING HAS COME

On Saturday, April 7, there will be a Pep Rally at Whittier High like no other. The goal is a derrière in every one of the 2,400+- seats and a chance to open a new world for young students in the area to dream of playing the grandest theater organ of them all. Much of the funding and a large part of the promise is for students to benefit from Whittier High having access to this great instrument. The doors will open at 2:30 and the fun will continue until 4:00. You will hear the birds chirp and the horses run, and you will feel the rumble like never before.

The Smithsonian has 5,200 instruments that range in size from several that will fit in your hand, to the Wurlitzer that fills three rooms. The Wurlitzer company made about 2,000 organs between 1911 and 1946.



Bill Wood '41 made this project possible, and will always be the "Organ Donor."

HALL OF FAME – April 15, 2018 - 5:00 PM - WHS Library - Registration Form

Name _____ Grad Year _____

Name _____ Grad Year _____

Include names of all invited and paying guests.

Total Number of attendees _____ x \$75 = \$ _____

Make check payable to WHSAAEF or sign up online

www.whittierhighalumni.org

Mail to WHSAAEF - P.O. Box 65, Whittier, CA 90608-0065



TIM LIGGETT - WHS PRINCIPAL

The legacy of Whittier High School continues to grow each year. The staff and students are very thankful for the generous support of the Alumni Association. The funding of special events, advanced placement tests, music and theater programs, and athletic opportunities, in addition to the annual scholarships for graduating seniors, far exceeds any other school in the district. While new success stories are shared every week from recent alumni and those of previous generations, it is the continuity of the support that allows us to proudly answer most questions with, "Whatever it takes!"

The auditorium has a seat with your name on it, or it could.

Monte Wicker had a chance to sit in his seat during his final visit to the Auditorium. He graduated before it was built, but his name will be there always. Prices range from \$150 - \$1000. Now that the Wurlitzer has been installed, shouldn't your name plate be there, too? The right time to do the right thing is right now!



Life Membership & Principals Academic Leadership (\$1,000 undesignated)

Clinton & Helen Vanderwall
Tom August '45
Patricia Behnke Beck '61
Cathie Moon Brown '49
Stephanie Cuevas '09
Richard & Billie Deihl
Joan Dezember
Pat & George Engelage
Billy Eordekian '75
Johana Moon Garrison '48

Roderick Hills '48
Don L. Jenkins '49
Peter & Louise Kempf '54
Jack & Erlene Mele
Louise Johnson Pascale '60
John Peel '74
Laurie Welsh Peel '80
Carlos Rodriguez '55
Joyce Wall Shilling '56
Elizabeth Ann Carroll Snyder

Sandy S. Thorstenson '73
Bill Welsh '70
Richard Welsh '74

Wurlitzer Organ Project

Bill & Jan Wood
Breene Murphy
Rose Hills Foundation
Memory of Beth McEachen

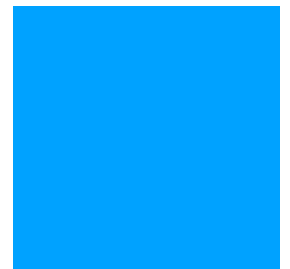
Join this legacy group today - www.whittierhighalumni.org/store

DATES and ASSISTANCE

3rd Thursday - 4:30 Board Meetings
3rd Sunday in April - Hall of Fame
3rd Sunday in October - All Class BBQ
Tours on request for Reunions

Class Reps for each year or decade
Volunteer assistance with tax filing
One-page writer for CHATTER
Event volunteers and helping hands

WHSAAEF
P.O. Box 65
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