



The Cardinal Chatter

Published aperiodically to honor the Whittier High School legacy of citizenship, scholarship, companionship, and service.

**Hall of Fame &
Scholarship Dinner
May 5, 2019 at 5:00
William C. Gordon
Library @ WHS**

The Alumni Association of Whittier High School was founded in 1999 to prepare for the centennial celebration of the institution. Earlier renditions were attempted for a year or two, primarily based on fundraising for specific projects, while our focus was solely aimed at nurturing legacy with the cultivation of future generations. We now support student scholarships, advanced placement testing, training, applications, and special school projects with more than \$40,000 annually.

The Hall of Fame & Scholarship Dinner inaugural event was celebrated at the Nixon Presidential Library in 2000, and President and Mrs. Nixon were the first to be inducted. This year, our 20th event, we will induct Steven Lee Anderson (1970), George Buehler (1965), Jeffrey Hathaway (1970), Vernon Kifer (1972), Leanne Rouch Ely (1976), and the 1960 CIF Championship Baseball Team.

Tickets are \$75 per person and the event includes a social time at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. Current WHS students participate, with 12 receiving scholarships.

Where were you in '62?

Every year there are several WHS reunions that request the opportunity to tour the campus and explore what has happened since the last visit, the last earthquake, the last election, or the last hip/knee replacement.

The next three tours are already scheduled for September 21 (Class of '69), October 5 (Class of '59), and October 20 (All Class Reunion BBQ). Each tour is at a different time, so go online and contact us via CONTACT US on the site www.whittierhighalumni.org

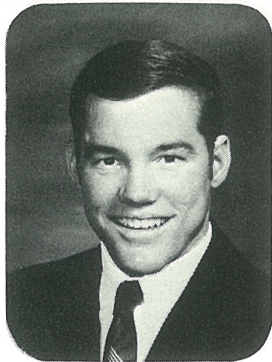


The Fountain of Youth

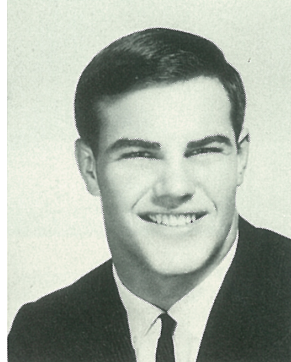
Marion Wilson Hodge is one of a dozen of our Hall of Fame members who is not an alumnus. She, like the other 11, were staff members who touched our lives so profoundly or impacted the world around us with such fervor that we opted to claim them as one of our own. Our memorial to Marion started as a statement of honoring her. The fountain in the middle of the campus was dedicated to her during a time when society, and more specifically the Board of Education, viewed women as less than equal. She was told that her tenure as Principal and Superintendent of the Whittier Union High School District was concluded because “the men had returned from the war.” She was welcome to remain in employment, just with a subordinate position. The student and city-wide outrage that followed was only calmed when the promise of the dedication was fulfilled.

Today, 70 years after the dedication, and 49 years since the last addition of graduating class tiles, work is being planned and donations banked to bring the iconic memorial up to date. Current students and artistic alumni are being hand picked to provide each class, from 1971 to 2019, several choices of a representative rendering. Thanks to Board member Randy Clark '78 (1978 kicked in \$2k+) and Michael Tyler '73 for saying, “yes,” to helping with the tile production. Let us know your ideas, online.

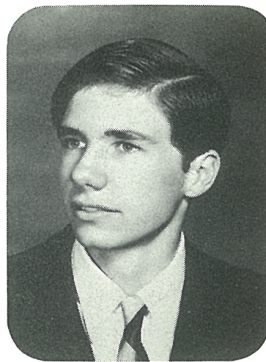
1000 Words x 20



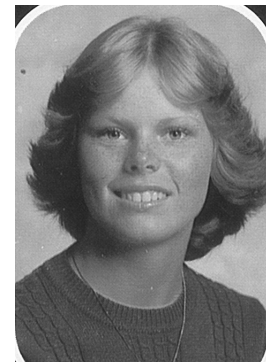
Stephen Anderson



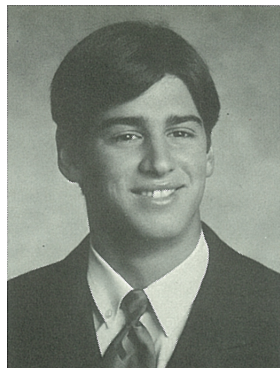
George Buehler



Jeffrey Hathaway



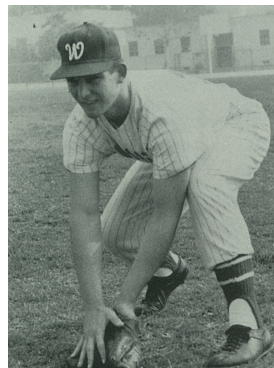
Leanne Rouch Ely



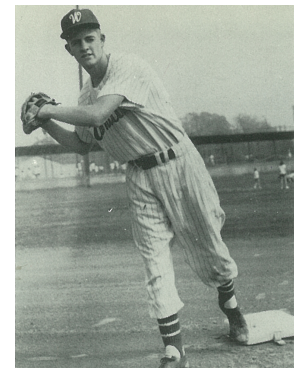
Vernon Kifer



Doug Wastell



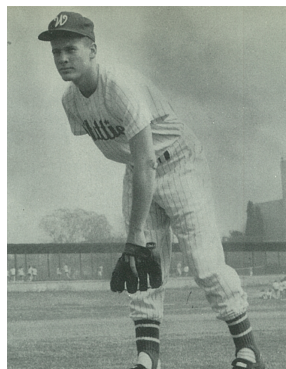
Jerry Lee



Bruce Haines



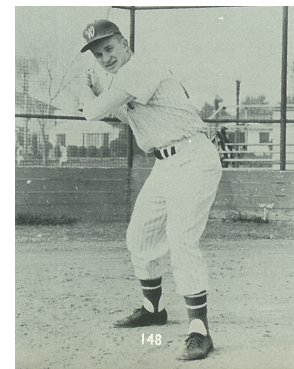
Dave Ostebo



Jim Ross



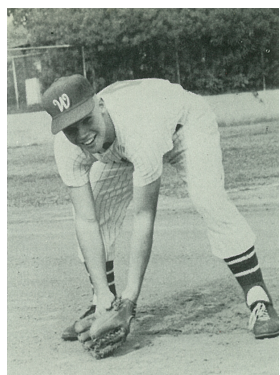
Ron Borson



Roger McNitt



Sonny Hensley



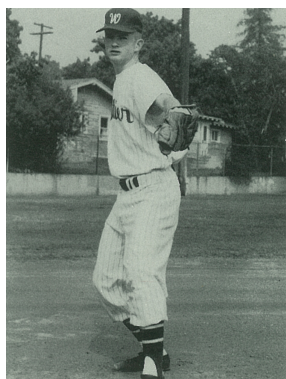
Ron Hales



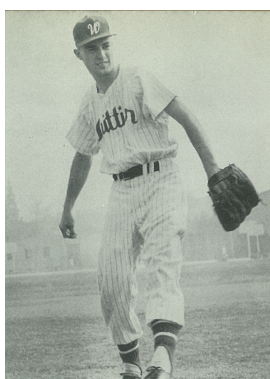
Ken Babijian



Bob Evans



Fred Dyer



Gary Magee



Bob Cox



Coach Jack Mele

The Inductees' Bios

Stephen Lee Anderson ~ Class of 1970

While a student at Whittier High School Stephen Lee Anderson was involved in Varsity Track, Varsity Basketball, Concert Choir, Ensemble, and was a member of the Senior Color Guard.

Stephen Lee Anderson is an accomplished Broadway Actor known the world over. After graduating from Whittier High School, Steven attended San Diego State University where he studied vocal performance earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. Stephen went on to study acting at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London and at the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver. Over the years Stephen also studied "German Lieder" with Paul Shilhausky at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. "German Lieder" is the art of setting poetry to classical music.

Stephen Lee Anderson has appeared in Shakespeare's *Richard III* at the Old Vic Theatre in London and at Brooklyn Academy of Music under the direction of the highly respected English director Sam Mendes. Stephen has also appeared in numerous productions on Broadway including *Bright Star* (collaborating with Steve Martin and Edie Brickell), *Spider-Man*, *Julius Caesar* (with Denzel Washington), *Fiddler On The Roof* (with Alfred Molina), *The Crucible* (with Liam Neesen), *Footloose*, *The*

Capeman (collaborating with Paul Simon), *The Kentucky Cycle* (with Stacy Keach), *Iceman Cometh*, and *Wicked*.

Stephen has also performed Off Broadway at the Atlantic Theatre Company, Vineyard Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, the Long Wharf, and the Denver Center. He has also performed regionally at the Old Globe in San Diego, the La Jolla Playhouse, and the Huntington Theatre. Stephen won the IRNE Best Supporting Actor Award for his performance in *Bus Stop*.

Stephen's film and television appearances include *The Treatment*, *Daredevil*, *Intrusion*, *Autopsy V* (HBO) *Law & Order*, *For Those Who Kill*, *Daredevil*, *Public Morals*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Elementary*, and *Madam Secretary*.

Stephen Lee Anderson currently lives in New York City with his wife Daun and their two sons, Ian and Evan.

George Buehler - Class of 1965

Only a handful of Whittier High School athletes have gone on to play professional football; George Buehler is one of them!

George Buehler was an all-star athlete at WHS between 1961-65; competing in football, wrestling and track. George was the CIF heavy weight wrestling champion his junior and senior years at WHS. He also played football all four years, playing a key role as a member of the 1964 CIF Champion Football Team. George helped lead the Cardinals to a 21 to 14 victory over Loyola in the final CIF game, breaking Loyola's 35 game winning streak, in front of 17,590 fans in the Los Angeles Coliseum. George was awarded WHS's Senior Athlete of the Year, and the CIF Southern Section Player of the Year.

After graduating from Whittier High School George went on to be a star offensive and defensive lineman and tight-end for Stanford University. "*Once a Cardinal, always a Cardinal.*" George had an illustrious football career at Stanford and was inducted into the their Hall of Fame in 1997. After playing for Stanford, George was drafted in the second round in 1969 by the Oakland Raiders.

As an offensive lineman for the Oakland Raiders George played in 101 straight games before playing in the Raiders first winning Super Bowl game on January 9, 1977. The Raiders were Super Bowl Champions that year, beating the Vikings 32-14 and setting a new Super Bowl record for running yardage. While George reported that playing in the Super Bowl was a thrill, he said it "wouldn't match the 1964 CIF football Championship game with Whittier High School." In 1994 the 1976 Oakland Raider Offensive Line was selected by NFL Films as "The Best Offensive Line" in the first 75 years of the NFL.

George played for the Oakland Raiders from 1969-1978 and then the Cleveland Browns from 1978-1979 before retiring. After retirement George served a number of years as the celebrity coach for Montana's Special Olympics. He currently lives in Tracy, California.

Jeffrey J. Hathaway - Class of 1970

As a student of WHS Jeff was involved in Ensemble and a member of the California Scholarship Federation. Upon graduating from Whittier High in 1970, Jeff received an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. where he graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Maritime Economics and received a commission as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. What followed was an exceptional 33 year career in service to the nation, as Jeff quickly rose to the top leadership ranks in the Coast Guard, retiring from active duty in 2007 as a rear admiral.

During his Coast Guard career, Admiral Hathaway had extensive seagoing experience, commanding three major Coast Guard cutters performing search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and

homeland security operations from the Bering Sea in Alaska to the southern Caribbean Sea. His accomplishments included serving as maritime task force commander in Haiti, where Coast Guard and Navy ships under his direction rescued tens of thousands of Haitians from certain death at sea as they attempted to flee their country in makeshift boats. Jeff also performed one of the most daring rescues at sea in Coast Guard history when a Coast Guard cutter, under his command, trekked through sixty foot waves for three days during a tremendous storm in the frigid North Pacific to rescue 27 crew members aboard a merchant ship that had become disabled.

Also during his military career, Jeff led the Nation's premier international counter-narcotics effort, Joint Interagency Task Force South. He received national awards for coordinating the efforts of the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Justice, along with a dozen international partner nations that seized over 200 tons of cocaine bound for U.S. and international markets each year. Admiral Hathaway also served as the director of anti-terrorism and force protection for the U.S. Navy as well as the Deputy Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). He narrowly escaped death during the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon that killed 42 of his staff. His personal story about this tragic period is told in the book, Rogue Wave: The U.S. Coast Guard on and after 9/11.

Beyond his Coast Guard career, Jeff now serves as the president of Security Shield Associates, a national and homeland security consulting firm in the Washington, DC area. In addition, Admiral Hathaway speaks frequently on the topic of crisis leadership. He also serves on the Boards of a variety of non-profit organizations, including serving as the vice chairman of the board of the Safe Harbor Foundation, providing a myriad of lifetime support to wounded and seriously injured or ill Navy and Coast Guard sailors and their families.

In addition to his degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Jeff also earned an MBA from the University of California at Irvine's Paul Merge School of Business, as well as a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the U.S. National Defense University in Washington, DC. Admiral Hathaway resides in Centreville, VA with his spouse, Rebecca. They have four grown children.

Leanne Rouch Ely ~ Class of 1976

While attending Whittier High School, Leanne Rouch was involved as a flagster and songleader. She went on to attend the American College of Nutrition, ultimately becoming a certified nutritionist.

Leanne dedicated her life work to bring families back to the dinner table "one healthy meal at a time." She is owner of SavingDinner.com which has been featured in Forbes magazine, who reported that Leanne Rouch Ely was a "single mom who launched a million dollar company while home schooling her children."

Leanne has appeared on QVC, HGTV's *Simple Solutions*, ABC Family's *Living the Life*, Ivanhoe's *Smart Woman*, *Small Talk for Parents*, and *the Talk of the Town*. She also hosted her own radio show in the San Diego and Los Angeles markets.

Leanne also writes a weekly syndicated column that appears in over 250 newspapers nationwide and in Canada. She writes the popular "Food for Thought" column on the flylady.net website which reaches over 1,000,000 people weekly. Leanne has also written ten books including *Saving Dinner*, *Saving Dinner Basics*, *Saving Dinner the Vegetarian Way*, *Saving Dinner for the Holiday*, *Saving Dinner the Low-Carb Way*, *Part Time Paleo*, and *Body Clutter*, which became a *New York Times* bestseller.

The popular magazine *Woman's Day* referred to Leanne Ely as "the mother of menu planning," considering her an expert on family cooking and healthy eating. Her social media followers top 100,000 and she has 200,000 email subscribers on her *Saving Dinner* website, with numbers climbing daily.

As a national spokesperson for Meals on Wheels, Leanne's heart is to see that all people, especially the disenfranchised, have the opportunity for a decent meal and community. Leanne has spoken on stages across the country, most notably the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Her newest venture, The NutriCoach School, is helping students (mostly women in their second chapters) to become proficient to teach others the joy of cooking and nutrition and to spread the mission of Saving Dinner of bringing families back to their dinner tables.

Leanne became a famous local personality in North Carolina, where she lived for many years with her two children, now grown and living in the Portland, Oregon area.

Leanne currently lives in Boulder, Colorado where she continues to bring families back to the dinner table through her books, speaking and website.

Vernon Kifer ~ Class of 1972

Vernon Kifer was a native of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, moving to Whittier with his family in 1960. Vernon became an active Boy Scout fueling his love for camping and the outdoors. The Whittier Theater was a short walk from his home; it was there he developed a lifelong love of movies, television, trains, and astronomy. Vernon had a natural artistic ability, a power of observation, and was masterful in his economy of words. While at Whittier High School he was involved in football and art for all four years.

Vernon attended San Diego State University majoring in Film & Television, finding work as a cinematographer and director at KPBS-TV station in San Diego. He worked there from 1982-1989, winning a local Emmy Award for producing, directing and photographing "The Art and Vision of James Hubble" documentary.

In 1989 Vernon joined the International Cinematographers Guild as a camera operator. His first series was "Uncle Buck". Vernon became a "sitcom specialist," working on the NBC series *Friends* for its 10-season run (1994-2004), shooting 187 of the series 236 episodes, including the first one and the last one. Vernon also filmed 46 episodes of *Joey* (2004-2006), the spinoff starring Matt LeBlanc.













As a sitcom and TV series cinematographer Vernon worked on many other shows: *Delta* (1992-1993), *Seinfeld* (1993), *The Larry Sanders Show* (1993-1997), *For Better or Worse* (1995), the 1996 pilot for *Spin City*, *Cybill* (1995-1998), *Men Behaving Badly* (1996-97), *Veronica's Closet* (1997-2000), *Will & Grace* (2004), *Three Sisters* (2001-2002), *The Winner* (2007), *Rodney* (2004-2008), *Private Practice* (2008), *Little Britain* (2008), *True Jackson* (2008-2011), *Pair of Kings* (2012-2013), *Mike & Molly* (2012 - 2015), *Young & Hungry* (2014-2015), and *Girl Meets World* (2016). Vernon was also a camera operator for movies such as *Friends: the One Before the Last One - Ten Years of Friends* (2004), *American Family* (2007), *Super Capers: The Origins of Ed and the Missing Bullion* (2009), *Avatar* (2009), and *Sebastian Says* (2016).

As an avid astronomy buff Vernon loved viewing the stars from his high powered telescopes in the desert near his home in Palm Desert. He made frequent hikes to nearby Joshua Tree.

Unfortunately, Vernon Kifer died at the very young age of 63. Vernon's classmates from the class of 1972 were fortunate to spend the evening with him at their 40th WHS Reunion in 2012. Vernon is dearly missed by his sister Carole, his brother Bill, and many friends and fellow crew members!

1960 CIF Championship Baseball Team

Fourteen young student athletes found the courage to believe in their abilities and calmly perform flawlessly for 10 straight games at the end of the season. Their success united a school and a city. They moved forward with educational and professional achievements, and stood as examples that motivated others. The impact of coaching is discussed often at all levels. For the 1960 WHS baseball team, Coach Jack Mele made a difference. There are many sustaining reasons why it was named Jack Mele Field.

							
	Hall of Fame & Scholarship Dinner, May 5, 2019, 5:00 PM, Library 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 checks to WHSAAEF - P.O. Box 65, Whittier, CA 90608-0065						
							

One day, this one day, will be remembered by twelve students and the 200 people who watched them smile.

WHSAAEF
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