

# CARDINAL CHATTER



NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

WHSAAEF - PO BOX 65 - WHITTIER - 90608-0065

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- \* **4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert**  
**June 27, 2026 2pm**  
Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup>  
Feat. Jose Luis "Baritone Joe"  
Maldonado & organist Robert  
York
- \* **All-Class BBQ and Concert**  
**October 18, 2026 12pm**  
Annual All-class BBQ, campus  
tour, and organ concert
- \* **Holiday Concert & Singalong**  
**December 6, 2026 2pm**  
FREE community concert and  
singalong to celebrate the  
holidays

## WHSAAEF OFFICERS

**President** - Rob West ('78)

**Vice President** - Nadia Moya ('99)

**Recording Secretary** -  
Susan (Garrett) Astarita ('72)


**Membership/Corresponding Secretary** -  
Janice (Lanham) Zolnekoff ('70)


**Treasurer/C.F.O.** - Stephanie Gotts ('17)


**Director of Banking** -  
Karen Boulter ('71)  
Ben Meza ('67)

**Director of Marketing & Publicity** -  
Charles Bennett ('07)  
Sarah Peel ('06)

## CONNECT WITH US

 Follow us on Instagram at:  
[WhittierHighAlumniAssociation](https://www.instagram.com/WhittierHighAlumniAssociation)

 Visit our website at:  
[www.whittierhighalumni.org/](http://www.whittierhighalumni.org/)

 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFO:  
[www.whittierhighalumni.org/join/](http://www.whittierhighalumni.org/join/)  
EIN: 95-4753005

## A word from our WHSAAEF President, Robert West '78

This year's Cardinal Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony was in full swing before an unexpected emergency sent me running for the door only moments before I was scheduled to introduce Dean Larkin, the first member of my class of 1978 to be inducted. Every encounter I had earlier that day brought a sense of significance to the work being done by our alumni association. The photos of inductees that adorn the library foyer walls reminded me of Cardinal generations past whose contributions to community and society might have gone unheralded if not for their classmates' efforts to honor them. The student scholarship winners and their families, and our 2026 class of HOF inductees, beamed with pride and shared with me their appreciation of our event with enthusiasm. Each represented a unifying theme of devotion to service, education, and family that lifted my spirits in anticipation of honoring them.

I felt great disappointment to miss the remainder of the event, but felt no qualms about how things would go without me. Our board of directors is replete with can-do individuals, like HOF Committee chair and the event emcee, Sarah Peel, and honoree Janice Lanham Zolnekoff, who works tirelessly and is devoted to ensuring our success. Soon I will pass the baton of leadership to another member of our board of directors and assume the role of Past President with confidence in the team we have built on our board and with the larger WHS community.

If you feel the call to service, there are many ways you can get involved. Please consider joining our board; nominating a fellow Cardinal worthy of induction to the HOF; honoring Cardinal friends and family by sponsoring an auditorium seat or senior scholarship in their name. Invite your classmates to join you at our upcoming Patriotic Singalong Wurlitzer concert on Saturday, June 27th, or plan your next class reunion to coincide with our annual All-Class Reunion BBQ Fundraiser on Sunday, October 18th.

Thank you for your loyal support and love for Whittier High, and for all you make possible for current and future Cardinals.

Yours with pride and gratitude,  
Rob West '78

# 2026 HALL OF FAME HIGHLIGHTS



Photos by: Paul Mora



We inducted six amazing alumni into the Hall of Fame:

- Dave Harris - 1960
- Lorne Peterson - 1962
- Susan Friedhof Settlege - 1962
- Don Carty - 1964
- Janice Lanham Zolnekoff - 1970
- Dean Larkin - 1978

A wonderful afternoon celebrating Whittier High School Cardinals past and present. Thank you to all who contributed to the Hall of Fame and Scholarship Ceremony.

We awarded \$50,000 in alumni donated Scholarships to 25 Outstanding Cardinal Seniors.



# 2027 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Dr. Tyree Warren Wieder  
1964



Judith Jansen  
1964




Donna Higgins Bill  
1964



Tim Schneider  
1964



Douglas M. Anderson  
1966

 MARK YOUR CALENDARS - APRIL 18, 2027 - HOF EVENT AND CEREMONY AT WHS LIBRARY

DO YOU KNOW A WHS CLASSMATE WHO YOU THINK SHOULD BE IN THE HALL OF FAME?



Nominations are now open for the HOF Inductee Class of 2028!  
Submit a nomination by September 15, 2026 to be considered for the Class of 2028

For more information, go to:

<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/whs-hof-nomination-form/>

# UPCOMING CARDINAL REUNIONS

- 1971 55 yr reunion. **Sat. Oct 17, 2026.** Mission Square Restaurant, Uptown Whittier. Check out Facebook page (Whittier High School Class of 1971). Contact Carl Devore [carldevore@gmail.com](mailto:carldevore@gmail.com) or Katie Rall [katierall@gmail.com](mailto:katierall@gmail.com)
- 1976 50 yr reunion. **Sat. Oct 17, 2026** at Whittier Brewing Company, 13002 Philadelphia St., Uptown Whittier, 5-9pm. Email Timothy Keyes at [tdkeyes1@verizon.net](mailto:tdkeyes1@verizon.net) for more info. Facebook admin: Susan Tovar & Peggy Burgess Fleming. Join Facebook event: [Whittier High Class of 1976 FIFTIETH REUNION GROUP](#)
- 1977 50 yr reunion. **Sat. Oct 23, 2027.** Join Facebook group "Whittier High School Class of 1977 50th Reunion". Email: [Whittierhigh1977@gmail.com](mailto:Whittierhigh1977@gmail.com) Committee: Darren, Donnalisa, Iris, Kay, Laura, Lucy, Roxanne, Steve, Tracy & Cora.
- 1986 40 yr reunion. **Sat. Oct 17, 2026** at Rodeo72 (outdoor patio), 5-10pm, 7012 Walnut Grove Dr. Join Facebook Group: "Whittier High School Class of 1986 – 40 year Reunion" Committee Amy Robinson Burke 720-422-4255 & Melissa Lopez Chavez.
- 1996 30 yr reunion. **Sat. Sept 19, 2026.** Location TBD. Contact Joan Santiago McFarland at 562-594-5656 or [jmcfizzle@gmail.com](mailto:jmcfizzle@gmail.com) Join the Facebook or Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/whs\\_class\\_of\\_1996/](https://www.instagram.com/whs_class_of_1996/)
- 2006 20 yr reunion. Sat. Oct 3, 2026. Location TBD. Contact: Monique La Marr Instagram: [@whs.classof2006](#)
- 2016 10 yr reunion? Senior Class President Ashlynn Marricino, ASB Pres Juan Heurta.



**Keep us in the loop! To update reunion or class contact information, contact:**  
Janice Lanham Zolnekoff [whittierhighalumni@gmail.com](mailto:whittierhighalumni@gmail.com) or 562-556-4000

## SAVE THE DATE: WHS ALL-CLASS REUNION BBQ

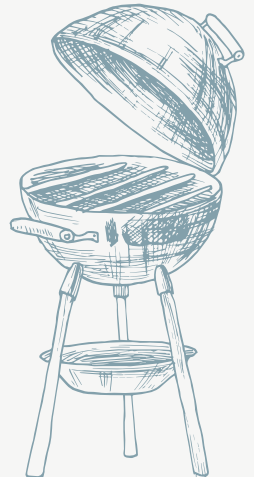
**Join us for a fun-filled afternoon connecting with WHS Alumni!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026 12PM**



*Come and Enjoy*

**BBQ Lunch, Entertainment by the WHS Band and WHS Cheer, Campus Tour with Alumni Historian Charles H. Bennett, Wurlitzer Organ performance by David Marsh**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:**

<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/whsaaef-events/>

## INTERESTED IN DEDICATING AN AUDITORIUM SEAT?



Honor a loved one by dedicating an auditorium seat in their name. Starting at just \$150.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:**

<https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/donate/>

YOUR NAME HERE



**WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Alumni Association &**  
**Educational Foundation**

PO BOX 65  
WHITTIER, CA  
90608-0065

## WHSAAEF LIFETIME MEMBERS

### BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER TODAY!

Join WHSAAEF for a lifetime for \$1,200

Visit: <https://www.whittierhighalumni.org/donate/>

Alan & Sylvia Lippincot '79, Amy Balthaser Jenkins '77, Bill Welsh '70, Bill Wood '41\*#, Billy Eordekian '75, Brian Beck '61#, Carlos Rodriguez '55#, Cathie Moon Brown '49#, Charlene (Peake) Sims '61, Collette Marcellin '77#, Cora Haussecker '77, Daniel Orr '68#, Dave Harris '60\*#, Deborah Malchow McCarty '71, Don Dalis '75, Don L. Jenkins\* '49 #, Doreen Albee Riddle Frank Riordan '46, Elizabeth Ann Carroll Snyder '48, Eloise Martinez Gonzales '70, Francine Hathaway Rippey '56, Frank Mckenna '73, Gordon Crocker '50, Heidi Frey Greenwald '78, Ivannia Soto-Hinman '94\*#, Jack & Erlene Mele\*#, Jan Slater Lopez Wood '47#, Jerome Montgomery '52, Joan Meister Everett, MD '60#, Joan Mcneilly Nay '47\*, John & Robin Dewitt '53, John Law DDS '70, John L Richardson '52, John Peel '74, Joyce Wall Shilling '56, Julie Swisher Shields '65, Laurie Welsh Peel '80, Lee Willard '53, Louise Johnson Pascale '60, Maggie Williams Valdespino '60, Marjorie Johana Moon Garrison '48#, Julie Swisher Shields '60, Nadia Moya '99 , Patricia & George Engelage '54, Patricia Behnke Beck '61, Patti Oeh LaGrelus '75, Peter & Louise Kempf '54\*, Ray & Joan Dezember '52\*, Richard '45\*# & Billie Deihl '46, Richard Lantz '48, Richard Welsh '74, Robert Brown West, PhD '78, Roderick Hills '48\*#, Sandy Sanchez Thorstenson '73#, Stephanie Cuevas '08, Stephen Koelle '70\*, Stuart Gothold '52#, Susan Garrett Astarita '72, Sylvia Guerra '83, Tom August '45\*#, Tom Seminoff '51, Walter Garrett '51, William (Bill) Prentiss '72, William E. "Bill" Cole '66#, Yosh Nakamura (Faculty)\*#.

\* Deceased # Hall Of Fame Members

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear WHS Alumni Community,

As we wrap up the 2025-26 school year, I want to share that our Cardinal community continues to thrive and soar to success and it is in part thanks to the unwavering support from the Alumni Association. As we gear up to send our graduating seniors off into post-secondary ventures, we are proud to share that Whittier High graduates continue to achieve more than previous classes. And, honestly, we sincerely hope we continue to raise the bar year after year. Our current students continue to make Whittier better. I am honored and feel immense privilege to be the face of Whittier High School, but please know that we are successful because of the collective work of everyone who has a vested interest in Whittier High.

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news and heartfelt gratitude with you all. First, join us in celebrating the incredible Willie Pittman, who was recently honored as the WHSAAEF Teacher of the Year. It was truly awesome to see such a dedicated educator recognized for his passion and commitment to our students. He continues to be a shining example of the excellence that defines WHS. While we'll miss him as a constant on the campus, we are thrilled to send him off into retirement.

Additionally, on behalf of the entire student body, we want to express our deepest thanks for your unwavering generosity. We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous support provided through alumni scholarships, which open doors of opportunity and empower our students to pursue their dreams. Our students continue to benefit from generous alumni donations when they request special funding. Our ASB and theater department have been incredibly blessed with alumni support. Thank you for continuing to invest in the next generation of Cardinals!

Andres Favela  
WHS Principal



**Whittier High School  
Alumni Association Presents**

**1776**

**Sponsored by**  
George Adams  
Supervisor  
Janice Hahn  
PIH Health  
No Bull Rehab  
Whittier  
City Council  
Whittier DAR



**2026**



## **A Concert and Sing-A-Long Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup>**

**with Robert York on the Wurlitzer Organ  
& Dr. Jose Luis Maldonado '07, Baritone**

**Saturday, June 27 2026 at 2 PM**

**Whittier High School Vic Lopez Auditorium**

**Tickets \$10 adult, \$5 child/student**

**[whittierhighalumni.org/americas-250th-patriotic-concert/](http://whittierhighalumni.org/americas-250th-patriotic-concert/)**