

## in this issue

- Remembering Morris Sawyer '58
- Upcoming Reunions
- Holiday Celebration & Sing Along
- HOF Save the Date



**Sunday Dec 3 2023**



Newsletter of the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Educational Foundation

# Cardinal Chatter

WHSAAEF  
PO BOX 65  
WHITTIER  
90608-0065

## current topics >>

- Inspired by Leadership, a message from our president
- Whittier Community Holiday Celebration – December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Free Admission
- Remembering Morris Sawyer '58
- The gift of a Reoccurring Donation
- Ways to give

## President's Message On Leadership

**Winter  
2023**

“Leadership is not about executive position or title. It is about connection and influence. At its highest, leadership is all about adding value to the world and blessing lives through the work you do.” (Robin S. Sharma)

It's such an honor to be part of an organization that has leaders. Leaders that inspire me and that push me to be better. And it's not just the efforts of a few, it's the time and the talents of many that make the Alumni Association so effective in bringing value to students, WHS and the community.

Our next event addresses all of these ... it is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Whittier Community Holiday Celebration. This event features our magnificent pipe organ, Santa and Mrs. Clause and a fun, **free** opportunity to visit WHS's own Vic Lopez Auditorium. I'm really looking forward to this, it brought out the child in me last year and I hope that as many of you as possible attend as well and let the child in you welcome in the holiday season.

This year has flown by and like it or not we continue to get older, but that means WHSAAEF is also getting older ... we're growing up and the Board is making efforts to continue to evolve and have a more mature course of action for our organization. Along these lines we want to ensure that we're being good stewards of the money that has been so generously donated.

The Board reviewed presentations on investment opportunities and we have taken a large portion of our money and put it into a 12 month no risk CD and a smaller portion of funds into a moderate risk investment plan per the request of specific donors who have started long term scholarship accounts with the Alumni Association.

We're also growing in numbers. More helping hands, more minds and ideas and talent. More leadership – leading by example. When it comes to non-profits who have a mission to support and promote to the best of our ability, there isn't any such thing as too much help or too many volunteers. , (Continued on Page 4)

*...And Always, Always Love You Whittier High!*

# 2024 CARDINAL REUNIONS

**1954:** Pat Brown Engelage 714-256-8182 or Pat Rogers Hall 951-260-5973

**1964:** Contact Nancy Weeks Lewis – [nancylewis7674@aol.com](mailto:nancylewis7674@aol.com) 847-372-0417 or Melodee Williams Zamudio [mczeduc@gmail.com](mailto:mczeduc@gmail.com) 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion being planned.

**1974:** [whscards1974@gmail.com](mailto:whscards1974@gmail.com) 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion being planned.

**1984:** Patty Sanchez Thomas, 702-255-6955 [pattythomas@cox.net](mailto:pattythomas@cox.net) – 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion being planned

**1994:** [whs1994reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:whs1994reunion@hotmail.com) Contact Francine Lopez Garcia [francinee1@yahoo.com](mailto:francinee1@yahoo.com) / Laura Camacho 562-656-9608

**2004:** Contact Nadine Henley: [nadinehenley@gmail.com](mailto:nadinehenley@gmail.com) or Jennifer Alvarez Dickerson [jenniferalvar@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferalvar@gmail.com) or on Facebook

“WHS class of 2004” <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139081586196954>

**2014:** Senior Class President Matthew G. Oliver. 562-556-2406

If you are planning a reunion reach out to the WHS Alumni Association to give you some ideas and to post your event on our website. If any of the contacts above are incorrect, please let us know. Email [whittierhighalumni@gmail.com](mailto:whittierhighalumni@gmail.com) or call Janice 562-556-4000.

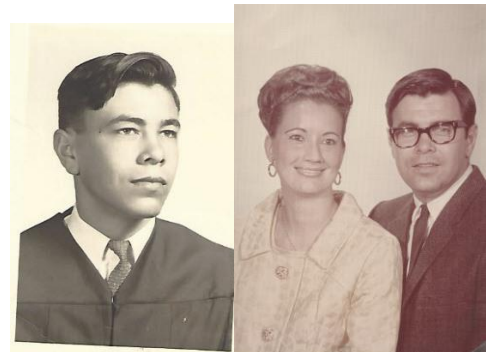
**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AT [WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.ORG](http://WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.ORG)**

## Remembering Morris Sawyer, Class of 1958

Whittier High School mourns the loss of Morris Sawyer, Class of 1958. Morris was a longtime Board Member of the Whittier High School Alumni Association, serving in various capacities, including Alumni Historian; He would frequently come to meetings to showcase artifacts from the Alumni Association archives, and periodically authored long-form research inquiries. Morris and his wife Lorraine, a Whittier High business and computing teacher who predeceased him, were 2008 inductees into the Whittier High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame. Morris was instrumental in establishing the alumni office, which now bears his name, and the Alumni Association archives located in the library basement.

Joe Vinatieri, now Mayor of Whittier, recalls that he worked alongside the Sawyers to institute the foundational procedures of the Alumni Association. “Morris had a love for Whittier High that transcended generations. Lorraine and Morris worked as a team to see that the newly minted Alumni Association captured and celebrated the past students, teachers and administrators, and, importantly, helped lay the foundation for an Association that benefited Cardinals to come” said Vinatieri.

Sawyer’s niece Brandee recalls that he was a Cardinal faithful until the very end. The Thursday before his passing, Morris was visited by his home health nurse. When she was there, he was sleeping and would not wake up. She noticed he was wearing a Whittier High School spirit t-shirt so she asked him, “So, you went to Whittier High School, huh?” And he woke up! She said she could see him struggling to come out of his sleep and open his eyes and look at her and then he said, “Yes I did”. She asked him if he played sports and he said, yes he played football there and he loved Whittier High School.



How Many Ways Can  
You Support Your Alumni  
Association?

Go to our website to find  
out – [whittierhighalumni.org](http://whittierhighalumni.org)

Donations can be mailed to:  
PO Box 65  
Whittier CA  
90608-0065





# Support Your Alma Mater This Holiday Season!

*“Once a Cardinal, Always a Cardinal”*

## A new and easy way of gifting this Holiday season.

Go to the WHSAAEF website – [www.whittierhighalumni.org](http://www.whittierhighalumni.org)

- Scroll down & click on “Join Us” - a page will drop down - on the top of that page you will see a blue button - click on a “Monthly Recurring Donation” & complete the form to support **Whittier High School** for \$20 a month = \$240 a year.

That is less than a couple of Starbucks coffees a month; less than a day of golf; cheaper than going to the movies once a month; less than a glass of wine a week; & less than the average Amazon order.

**You can make this gift in Honor of a WHS friend, family member, or favorite faculty member. And in just 4 years you will have given the equivalent of a Life Membership!**

And the best part? Your giving will happen without you having to remember to send in an envelope with your membership each year.

**GIVE TODAY and give back to WHS♥**

Tax I.D. #95-4753005

**WHITTIER COMMUNITY  
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

**2 PM**  
**SUNDAY, DEC 3**

**LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE  
& COMMUNITY SINGALONG**

**FREE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS  
SANTA CLAUS & MRS. CLAUS!!!**  
AVAILABLE BEFORE & AFTER CONCERT

**VIC LOPEZ AUDITORIUM  
WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL**  
12417 E. PHILADELPHIA ST, WHITTIER, CA 90601  
AUDITORIUM LOCATED ON BAILEY ST & WHITTIER AVE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!  
TO BECOME AN EVENT SPONSOR, EMAIL WHITTIERHOLIDAYCELEBRATION@GMAIL.COM

DONATE HERE!  
venmo

## SAVE THE DATE

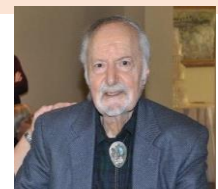
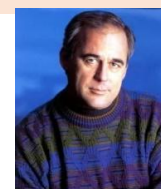
Hall of Fame 2024  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Hall of Fame inductees

Linda Winzenread

John Saul

& Ray Girvigian





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

PO Box 65  
 Whittier, CA  
 90608-0065

## President’s Message (continued from front)

I encourage each of you to take WHSAAEF into consideration when sitting down with your new 2024 calendars and penciling in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month – join a call and see what we’re all about. Pick an event that you’d like to attend ... maybe for the first time. The Hall of Fame Luncheon – Sunday, April 14th or maybe the All Class BBQ (date tbd in October).

There is also a new Committee starting to support WHS’s own Action Plan to publicize and shine a light on WHS’s history of excellence and its ongoing efforts to provide the best education and experience possible for its students.

Whatever speaks to you, we welcome you and hope that you’ll make 2024 the year that you bring your leadership to the Alumni Board. Each New Year means a new chapter and the Alumni Association is eager to write ours and we hope that 2024 is an incredible part of your story! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

[Join our next Zoom](#) Dec 21 5:00 pm

– Ellen Durman (’81)

## Principal Liggett’s Update

Greetings, Cardinal Alumni. As of this writing, we have finished approximately 75% of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year and I am pleased to say that this has been the most “normal” Fall semester we have had since 2019. The students came into the year with a great attitude as we encourage them to all be “Cardinal Achievers” with nothing but Cs or higher in all of their classes. Likewise, our staff has been energized by that sense of normalcy as we can once again put outstanding classroom instruction on the forefront of what we do.

We had an excellent slate of Fall activities that helped to get the school year off to a great start. Our ASB students executed a phenomenal Welcome Back Assembly in the Perry Gymnasium that was highly entertaining and engaging. Our football team was victorious on Homecoming, defeating El Rancho by a score of 10-6. Over 700 students attended the Homecoming Dance the following night on the front lawn. Our Boys Cross Country and Water Polo teams qualified for CIF and represented WHS exceptionally well in the playoffs. The Cardinal Brigade was (in my biased opinion) the highlight of Jamboree. And the Theater Company executed a magnificent production of *The Miracle Worker* in the Vic Lopez Auditorium.

As we prepare to head into our Thanksgiving Break, it is only appropriate for me to once again express my sincere appreciation for the incredible support we receive from our Alumni. Our Alumni engagement and support is truly one of the pillars that makes Whittier High School such an exceptional school. Thank you for everything you do for us as we endeavor to build upon the Legacy of Excellence that each of you has played a role in establishing.

“Thank you so much for everything you do for our students.”

WHS Principal – Timothy Liggett