



WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

E-NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

2014/2015 Winter Calendar

December

Happy Holidays!

January 2015

10 - Annual Meeting
OHS Library, 10:00am

February

7 - 3rd Annual Crab Feed
for Basketball & Football
17 - WAA Board Mtg
OHS Library, 6:00pm

March

17 - Career Day
- WAA Board Mtg
OHS Library, 6:00pm

April

21 - WAA Board Mtg
OHS Library, 6:00pm

When is YOUR next reunion?!

Potential upcoming reunions in 2015:

5 years: Class of 2010

10 years: Class of 2005

40 years: Class of 1975

20 years: Class of 1995

50 years: Class of 1965

30 years: Class of 1985

60 years: Class of 1955

"Class Summit" at WAA Annual Meeting, January 10, 2015

All Oakland High alumni are cordially invited to attend the annual Wildcats Alumni Association meeting **Saturday, January 10, 2015, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON in the Oakland High Library at 1025 MacArthur Blvd.** Enter and park at the back of the school at Home Place East.

A focus of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity for classes to meet, a kind of Class Summit, to begin a process of sharing, especially around planning and holding class reunions. We hope that any alum who has recently helped to plan a reunion or any who hope to plan a reunion will attend this "summit" and share information. Ultimately, the Association would like to prepare a guide with information about local reunion sites, including size, amenities, possible discounts, and contact information. The guide would help all classes planning future reunions. We are hoping to have as many classes as possible represented.

If you can represent your class, please contact us at waa@oaklandhighalumni.org, or contact Stephen Johnson at stjo41@comcast.net or 510-530-0784.

Other items on the agenda will include discussions on

- initiating an Oakland High Hall of Fame
- planning an all-alumni get together (perhaps a picnic?)
- other matters raised by those in attendance

OHS Trivia Question:

**What former
US Presidential advisor
won a trophy for debate
at OHS?**

Answer at the end of this
Newsletter.

Join WAA Today

The Wildcat Alumni Association is the only official alumni association affiliated with Oakland High School.

Membership fees are
\$35 for one year
\$450 for a lifetime
membership

To join, fill out an application online or send a check to Wildcat Alumni Association,
P.O. Box 11436,
Oakland, CA 94611

SAVE THE DATE: OHS Basketball and Football Crab Feed Feb 7, 2015

Come support Wildcat Athletics! Ticket sales will help fund transportation, equipment, uniforms and more. For tickets contact coaches Jayce Goree (510) 719-7629, Orlando Watkins (510) 517-2659 or Orlando Grey (510) 520-8472.

SAVE THE DATE: Career Day March 17, 2015

The Wildcat Alumni Association will again collaborate with Oakland High School in holding Career Day. We welcome alumni to return to talk to classes about the ins and outs of their careers—what training is needed, what are the duties, what are the joys and what are the challenges? Career Day runs from about 9:30 am to noon, with a catered lunch provided for those who wish to stay.

If you are interested and available Tuesday, March 17, 2015, contact Stephen Johnson stjo41@comcast.net to be added to our speakers' list and to receive more complete information as Career Day plans progress. Please include your email and phone #, the year you graduated, and what career(s) you can share with students. Your colleagues are also welcome to come to speak, so help us spread the word.

For more Student News

Check out Oakland Aegis
Oakland High's Online
Student Newspaper
<http://oaklandaegis.com/>

Class of 1959 Celebrates 55th Reunion

The class of 1959 celebrated with a 55th year reunion during the weekend of September 12. The reunion kicked off Friday night at the Oakland Museum's monthly Off the Grid event. Participants enjoyed gourmet food trucks, a beer garden, live music and a tour of this excellent museum.

Those who attended reported having an enjoyable evening. On Saturday night former classmates gathered at Scott's Seafood restaurant for a formal dinner.

Many traveled long distances for this event, with one coming all the way from China. The evening featured a 50's trivia quiz, lots of 50's music, and classmates reliving memories of high school days. Sunday found us at Robert's park in the Oakland hills for a catered picnic. The setting was beautiful with the surrounding redwoods providing shade. Some members of the class of 1958 and 1960 joined us for this event. One of the highlights was class member Charles Allen bringing most of his family including his 93 year old mother. Many of us who grew up in the lower Dimond district remembered being at her house frequently when growing up in Oakland.

This eventful weekend came to a close with everyone vowing to meet again in 5 years for the 60th reunion!

Keith Olson, '59

Curious? Nosy?

Oakland High Memorial Website Needs Workers

Do you enjoy observing the passage of time and discovering how people spend their lives, what they do and accomplish in life? Well, have I got a gig for you! If you have some basic computer skills, enjoy history--from our school's to world events, you should check out what an OHS alumna is doing with her spare time (see "Alumna In Focus" in our Spring/Summer 2014 edition at www.oaklandhighalumni.org).

Wildcats Alumni Association is forming a committee to support, enhance and preserve the current school memorial website. We will be working in conjunction with the creator of this informative website to ensure its continuance and to add to our research into Oakland High's history and related events.

Please volunteer by contacting Wildcats Alumni Association President Stephen Johnson '58 or board member Frank Kao '66 at:
Stephen Johnson, stjo41@comcast.net;
Frank Kao, frank.kao@gmail.com

*We wish all
a very happy holiday!*

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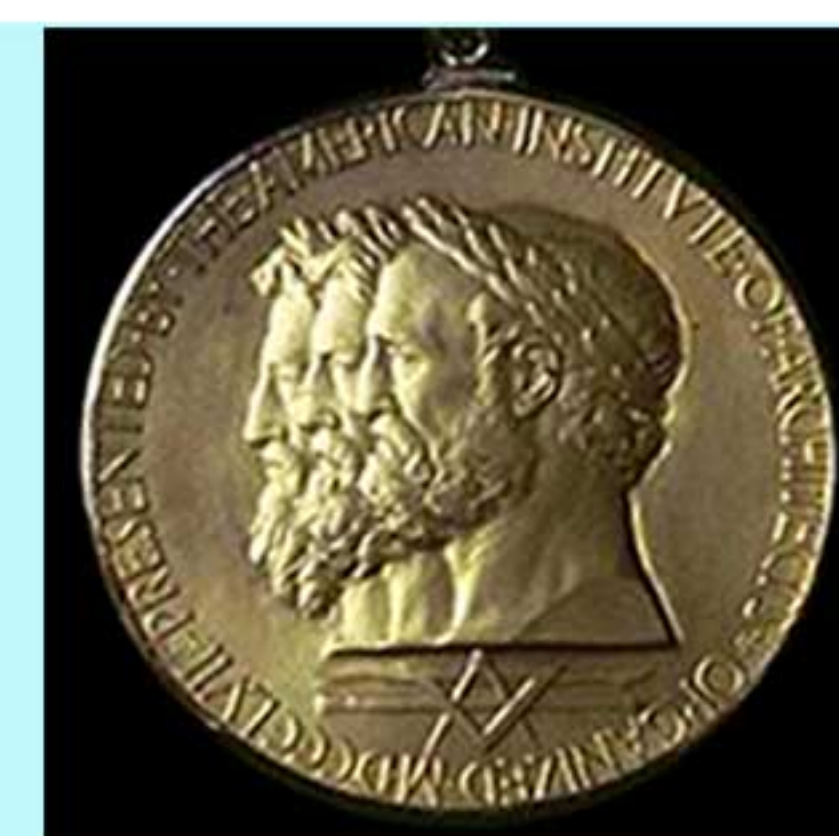
OHS Wrestling Welcomes Coach Barrientos Back

Coach Ben Barrientos has returned to Oakland High to rebuild the wrestling program. When Ben Barrientos was the wrestling coach in the 1990s, Oakland High was a dominant team in the OAL, winning many team championships; one year Wildcat wrestlers won 10 of the 13 Gold Medals at the OAL section championship. Several OHS wrestlers won their weight four straight years, Jeremiah Captain and Earl Harris being two who accomplished that feat. Oakland High was also the first (and last) team to have a female wrestler qualify for the CIF State Tournament.

Coach Barrientos has returned to Oakland High to rebuild the wrestling program and is asking for support and help from "any quarter I can get it. I left OHS [in the 1990s] with warmups, singlets earguards for 26. In my absence all is gone, I am left with 2 earguards and six singlet's, no warm ups." If you are able to lend support to the OHS wrestling program or want more information on how you can help, contact Coach Barrientos at (805) 405-8743.

Wildcats in the News

Julia Morgan Receives Award



The WAA recently learned that **Julia Morgan (OHS 1890)** was awarded the **American Institute of Architect's 2014 Gold Medal**, the top honor an American architect can receive. She is the first woman to receive the honor; it comes 56 years after her death.

Morgan is probably known best as the architect of Hearst Castle at San Simeon, California. She designed over 700 buildings during her career. Some of her buildings in the Bay Area include the former Webster Street Oakland YWCA (now the Envision Academy of Art), Berkeley City Club (formerly Berkeley Woman's City Club), the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, the former St. John's Church (now known as the Julia Morgan Theater), and several buildings on the University of California campus. She also oversaw the restoration of San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel after the 1906 earthquake.

Alumna Ha Kiet Chau, who as a student at Oakland High wrote for and helped edit Oakland Leaves Magazine, has just published a book of poems *Woman Come Undone*. Since graduation Ha has continued to write poetry and has been nominated for awards including Best New Poets (Ploughshares, 2011) and Best of the Net (Flutter Poetry Journal, 2012). *Woman Come Undone* explores the experience of women from many perspectives, including that of women in Vietnam during the 1970s war, which Ha's mother endured before coming to the United States. Ha's imagery can be painfully rich as in the poem "A Woman's Warfare:"

Death fights for the fast pulse on my wrist,
for the eight-month fetus in my belly.
Our bodies run for a nearby underground tunnel, our single escape.
We hide like timorous red crabs under protective shells,
as mature men beg for a mercy they rightfully deserve,
for a more lenient peace.

It can also be languorously sensual as in "Sharp Point of Rapture" where she writes about the collaboration between the poet and her pen:

we go back to what we do best,
the pleasure of words mounting and breaking,
lining straight, in conjunction to one another.
The rearranging of phrases by candlelight,
a very sensual process.

Ha has a poetry blog at <http://hapoetryblog.tumblr.com/> and her book is available through Mouthfeel Press at www.mouthfeelpress.com.

OHS TRIVIA Answer:

Edwin Meese, class of 1949, led the OHS debate team to statewide championships and served as valedictorian at graduation. He attended Yale (BA '53) and UC Berkeley Law School ('58), and later served as an advisor to Ronald Regan and as US Attorney General until his resignation in 1988.

Contact Us

Send information for newsletter to waa@oaklandhighalumni.org
Use subject line "WAA Newsletter"

For questions about membership, activities, or for opportunities to volunteer or donate waa@oaklandhighalumni.org
Or WAA, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611

Website: <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>

