
BERKELEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY JOURNAL

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SINCE 1980

Volume 22, Issue 4

Winter 2002

BAA Annual Meeting Notice

Scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2002.

The 2002 BAA Annual Meeting will be held at the Association offices at 1581 Le Roy Avenue, Berkeley, California on Saturday, March 16, 2002 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Come visit our newly renovated office space at Hillside School.

Refreshments will be served. There will be entertainment. Please RSVP at 510-841-2770.

BAA Donates \$3,000 to BHS Library

BHS Students eagerly await the arrival of a Toshiba 2060 copying machine, purchased with a \$3,000 donation from BAA to the school library.

Librarian Ellie Erickson-Goldstein told us that while the copier's arrival was delayed due to a defective coin box, the copier finally arrived and is being put to good use. Copies were to be 10¢ each. The Toshiba 2060 can reduce and enlarge copy, and can produce copies 8½x14 in addition to the usual 8½x11.

It's a great improvement over the old machine which grew cranky and had to be retired.

Mens' 50th BHS Reunion

For those not aware of it, every October for many years, the guys who have been out of BHS for at least 50 years get together at lunch for old times sake and to renew acquaintances from past years and try to remember what their friends said they were doing last year! Yes, there were a lot of senior moments. This event had been organized by Dick Ready ('45) for many years, but unfortunately he succumbed to cancer last May, and just before that, he asked Marv Wiegman ('49) to honcho the event. Marv graciously accepted and enlisted Ed Nelson's ('49) computer skills and between them they did a marvelous job of putting the whole shebang together.

The luncheon, as usual, was held at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville, Oct 26th. There were 257 BHSers there from 1926 to 1951. There were 5 men from the 20's, 40 from the early 30s and almost 60 from the late 30s! The oldest, Dr. Jack Gompertz (21) was the personal physician of Bill Jaeger (43) who also attended. Dr. Jack had an error on his calendar - he came a day early, so he and his attendant ate at Trader Vic's. His attendant was not available to assist him on the day of the luncheon. Dr. Jack will be 99 on 1/16/02. WOW!

As customary, being a social event, the only speaking done was to introduce the oldest classes (5 men) and the newest "inductees" from the

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BAA Quarterly Journal Numbering

You have probably noticed that the publication of the Quarterly Journal has been irregular. This issue of the QJ is numbered Volume 22, Number 4. Winter 2002. Issues Number 1, 2 and 3 were not published.

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Ah, Memories of Cragmont in the 1930's

I attended Cragmont from about 1932 to 1938. As I remember, the school was a white stucco rectangular 2 story structure with a traditionally red tile roof. The office was in the center with front doors aimed at Regal Rd. To the south was a bank with steps that lead to the playground. Bleachers (or at least a place to sit) were on the bank. From this vantage point, the playground activities could be watched and monitored by adults. There was a wooden building uphill to the East which was the cafeteria (lunch room?) and a couple of special rooms. There was a small wooden building by the south side of the main school building that housed athletic equipment that could be checked out at noon and after school athletic activities. There was another wooden building to the West on the playground level. I think these were additional classrooms.

The western half of the playground was for baseball, football and other activities that needed a lot of space. Part of the other half had basketball courts with keys that actually looked like a key hole! The rest of the playground had monkey bars and assorted climbing things in addition to marked areas to play dodge ball (four square?) and an 8 ft. by 10 ft. wall in the center of a mini-volleyball court over which big balls could be thrown. The object was to throw the ball where you THINK the person on the other side of the wall WASN'T.

My first teacher was Miss Billings who lived with her mother on Euclid just below Keith. The only other teacher I can remember was Mrs. Service. I liked Mrs. Service -

she was always putting her pencil in her bun and forgetting where she put it! Many years

later, little did I know that she and her daughter, Joy would visit and "do lunch" at the Pleasanton Hotel just 3 miles from where I have lived for the past 37 years. If only I had known!!

I remember Ms. Wade. She said that she was Cragmont's principal and it was spelled with a "-pal" not "-ple" because she was our pal! But I was mad at her for not selecting me to lead the Berkeley Junior Traffic Patrol to Spruce and Marin to perform crossing guard duties.

Mr. Minsky came to Cragmont a few hours a week to give instrumental music lessons. There was also a woman who provided some musical lessons and conducted programs.

Do these items jog your memory about your school be it elementary, junior high or BHS? Is my memory of Cragmont School in the early days correct? Please send your earlier or later remembrances to the BAA office.

Bud Barlow ('43)

Solano Stroll

"A Whole New Game" was the theme of the annual event which was held on September 9, 2001. Your Alumni Association again had a presence on the avenue, under our familiar blue canopy in front of the Pac Bell substation. Our display was provided by Historian Ken Pettitt, the booth was manned by Christopher Bowen, Jeff Jue, Bart Fong and Wilton Lee.

We were greeted by many members, and by Alumni who wanted to sign up to keep in touch with BHS classmates. Beverly Hollick stopped by and volunteered

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeff Jue '73
Wilton Lee S'65
Ken Pettitt '46, *Librarian*
Connie Silver S'62

to serve on our Board of Directors; Annalee McDonough Allen filled out our member profile; among many things that she does, she writes a column for the Oakland Tribune. And Elvie Laitinen stopped by to ask...What happened to my Quarterly Journal? (Answer: here it is!)

Be sure to look for us next year...under our blue canopy. Hopefully, we'll have a larger gallery of memorabilia and pictures to look through.

Wilton Lee (S'65)

Potluck

In the 1930s, some of the mothers whose children attended Whittier Elementary School in Berkeley organized a potluck group.

They visited each other's houses, bringing specialties to eat, talked about their children and the school, and exchanged recipes. Their friendships endured over the years and even survived the trauma of World War II when one of their members – Marian Hayashi – was forced to leave to an internment camp following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Margaret Morley and Dot Hobson sent me some information about the group. Margaret wrote about the origin of Potluck:

Some of the mothers in the Whittier neighborhood played tennis in the mornings and took the children to Depression Beach near the Standard Oil Company stone quarry.

We took rakes and brooms along with our picnic baskets to rake up the oiled seaweed washed up on the beach. We could clear a good spot and pitch a tent using blankets where we could change into bathing suits. The waves would still bring in the oil-covered seaweed and slap with that black oil, but no one minded.

We had so much fun in those days that it was Ann Morrison who decided that we should make the group permanent and keep in touch as long as possible."

So Potluck was born. Original members included Elizabeth Sykes, Babe Meadows, Lila Schachton, Grace Barlow, Marian Hayashi, Charlotte Henderson, Dot Hobson, Helen Cugley, Lillian Fry, Ella Pattillo, Ann Morrison, Edith Weston, Hazel Blyler, Alberta Skillman, Dorothy Pettitt, and

Margaret Morley.

"Members of Potluck served on the PTA at Whittier as officers or chairmen. We were a lively group, and had fun," wrote Margaret. "We didn't have money but we had other activities."

Just before World War II, most of the Potluck kids had graduated from Whittier, and some of the families had left the neighborhood. Members of Potluck became involved in the Bridge Club, which they infiltrated, replacing the bridge club dropouts with members of their own group. Following the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, one or two members with sons of draft age resented Marian Hayashi. However, it wasn't the case for most of the group. As Margaret wrote: "Marian wasn't responsible for what the Japanese navy did to our ships."

The group was very upset that the Hayashis were being sent away in 1942, and gave Marian a going-away party before she left for the internment camp. She gave some of her possessions to members of the group, and some gave gifts to her.

I remember my mother in the kitchen at 2909 Hillegass Avenue, fretting over what to give Marian as a going-away present. The gift had to be small so Marian could take it with her to camp. Mother finally decided on a gift handkerchief. It was just right. Handkerchiefs were things ladies gave each other.

During the war, the lives of the Potluck members changed; they found themselves – if not for the first time – out in the working world for the first time in years. They met during the

war to play Bridge – the ones that could get away from their jobs. Dot Hobson operated a fork lift at the U.S. Naval Supply Depot. Margaret Morley worked at the family's gas station, and many other members of the group began to work, some at the Kaiser shipyards.

"My fork lift would lift and carry machinery weighing 3,000 pounds and over. Those really were fun days," wrote Dot.

After the war, the Hayashis returned to Berkeley and "Potluck welcomed Marian with open arms," wrote Margaret. "She was a lovely, gracious person always laughing about something."

Marian was later killed when struck by a police car speeding up to a bank holdup on Solano Avenue. All the members of the Potluck group attended Marian's memorial service at Northbrae Church on the Alameda. She was greatly loved. The church was filled to the doors.

In the 1960s, Potluck members were moving to distant towns after their husbands retired, but the members continued to keep in touch with each other.

When I wrote to them, I asked if Marian had served Japanese food when the group met at her house. Japanese food would have been very exotic to Whittier mothers in the 1930s and I wondered what they had thought of it then.

Marian did serve Japanese food. However, she is best remembered for her lemon meringue pies ("She made terrific crusts," wrote Dot) and her specialty, cream puffs.

The letters from Potluck describe good times and bad, the pleasure taken in the accomplishments of the members, their children and grandchildren,

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Potluck Continued from page 3

and the difficulties of old age.

Margaret said, "It's a great old life if you don't weaken."

The last Potluck get-together was in 1980 at Kirby's in El Cerrito Plaza.

Ken Pettitt ('46)

Men's Reunion *continued from page 1*

class of 51. Of course there were plaudits for the organizers.

If any of you out there know of BHSers who graduated 50 years ago, please contact Marv Wiegman, (925)253-6314 or Ed Nelson (925)947-1019. See ya next year, fellas -----

As you might have guessed, yes, this is a sexist organization. But never fear - as of a couple of years ago, the gals have started the own "Golden Girls" luncheon.

The GGs had their luncheon last April 25th at Boundary Oaks in Walnut Creek. There were about 210 attenders representing classes from the 20's to 1950. Two graduate sisters, led the group in a couple of BHS songs. Who were those lovely songbirds? Gladys Lien Ellison (24) Walnut Creek and Dagny Lien Bills of Oakland.

If any of you who are not on the Golden Girls mailing list and would like to be included, contact Barbara Thomas Hooper (43) at (925) 631-1400. Plan ahead and write it on your calendars, gals, the next one will be April 24th 2002.

Bud Barlow ('43)

BAA Roundup

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Jue, Bart Fong and Peter Wright. However, I am sending out a distress call for other interested Berkeley Schools alumni to volunteer to serve on the board. There is an urgent need to bring in new perspectives to BAA's board and to get the organization reinvigorated. Most if not all of the members currently serving have technically served out their original terms—so a handful of new board members to equalize the workload and bring in fresh perspectives and ideas would be welcome indeed!

Thanks to the generosity of past members we have a solid financial position that has allowed us to make substantial gifts to the CAS program and the Berkeley High School Library during 2001. Our treasurer, Bud Barlow, has carefully managed the BAA's finances so that even with a relatively small intake we are able to meet our obligations and make contributions to worthy projects in support of the Berkeley Schools. However, if our membership base continues to decline, in a few years' time we will have depleted our resources and have no further funds to distribute.

Now in its 22nd year, the Berkeley Alumni Association stands

at a crossroads. Either we will be reinvigorated as an organization by recruiting both new members and new people to serve on the board and help direct the organization, or the BAA will fade away—perhaps not so slowly! I, for one, am hopeful that we can commit ourselves to evaluating our past successes and failures and then move forward into a future in which BAA will continue to serve both Berkeley Public Schools alumni and today's students and teachers.

Let us take as a first step the Annual Meeting/Open House scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2002 in our offices at the Hillside School site. I invite all of you who can to join us there for an early afternoon of entertainment, a small amount of BAA business, and informal planning for the future of our organization. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact me at the BAA office, by email (barboncino@yahoo.com) or by telephone at home (510) 234-2325. I look forward to seeing you on March 16th or to hearing from you soon about your hopes, ideas, and plans for the future of the BAA.

Christopher Bowen ('86)
President

Help Fill This Space

You will notice that there are a number of standard features that were not in this issue of the QJ. We just didn't have enough current information to provide the Calendar of Reunion Events, Keeping In Touch and In Memoriam features. If you have any Berkeley Schools related information and news, please let us

know. We welcome any contributions to the QJ. If you've got something to share with the Alumni community, we'll be glad to help. Send your items to bpear@yahoo.com.

Bart Fong (S'65)



Berkeley Alumni Association

Alumni / Member Personal Information

| | | | |
|------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Name: Last | First | Middle Initial | Last Name Upon Graduation |
|------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Address (Home): | Phone (Home): |
|-----------------|---------------|

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | Phone (Work): |
|--|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Profession / Company / Title: | E-Mail: |
|-------------------------------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Berkeley schools attended | EndYear: |
|---------------------------|----------|

If not a BHS graduate, when / where did you graduate from high school?

Life Information

College / University, Graduation Year

History - what did you do after leaving Berkeley schools?

What are you doing now?

Membership dues information

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| Membership | Regular / Affiliate | \$30 | Senior Citizen (65+) | \$25 |
| Categories and Dues | Regular / Affiliate Couple | \$50 | Senior Citizen Couple | \$40 |

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BAA Roundup and Invitation To Help

This past year has been a quiet one around BAA. As you may have noticed, we have not published an issue of the *Quarterly Journal* in over a year. In the fall of 2000 we were very sorry to lose the services of our long-term managing editor, Jannie Dresser. In the wake of this change, we have struggled to put together a *QJ* without Jannie's assistance and skill. However, the remaining board members have pooled our efforts and intended to bring you an issue in the calendar year 2001, but we didn't quite make it. We are committed to producing another issue of the *QJ* in the first

half of 2002.

Our physical space was altered in March when another tenant of the Hillside School site, the International Child Resource Institute, offered to underwrite a physical renovation of the room which we occupy in exchange for the use of approximately one-third of our space and the shared use of a common conference area that has been constructed. As we hope you will see at our March 16th, 2002 meeting, the result is very pleasing. Gone are the stained and falling-down ceiling tiles—the floors are refinished and there are attractive and aesthetically sensitive partitions separating the BAA space from the conference area and ICRI's office space. We still have sufficient space for our library and archives and a work area for BAA business. Many thanks to board members Ken Pettitt and

Connie Silver for helping out with the move.

In September 2001, the BAA again had a small presence at the Solano Avenue Stroll. Ken Pettitt again created a sampling of our archives for display, and board members Jeffrey Jue, Bart Fong, and Wilton Lee were on hand to distribute information during the Stroll.

As has been the case for some time now, there is a severe shortage of members willing to serve on the BAA's board of directors. We are running with fewer than half of the allotted slots filled. I would personally like to thank those board members who have continued to serve—Bud Barlow, Jane Barrett, Connie Silver, Ken Pettitt, Jeffrey

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