



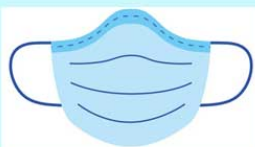
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Join WAA Today

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

Membership fees are:

- \$ 35 for one year
- \$ 450 for a lifetime membership

To join, go to our website:

oaklandhighalumni.org

or send your application with a check to:

Wildcat Alumni Association,
P.O. Box 11436,
Oakland, CA 94611

Alumni News: Harold Adishian Class of 1940

WAA Board members Nancy West, '75, and I (Georganne Ferrier, '63) recently had the pleasure of talking with alumnus Harold Adishian, '40, about his memories of OHS and his Oakland Lakeshore neighborhood. Harold reached out to us several years ago to donate memorabilia to the Oakland High School Archive Room in the OHS library. Since then he and Nancy West have been communicating, and we asked if he would talk to us about his Wildcat experiences for the newsletter.

Harold was the Commissioner of Publications and editor of the Aegis during his years at Oakland High. His elementary school years were spent in San Leandro at Lincoln and Washington schools, but he moved to the Lakeshore neighborhood and attended Oakland High from 7th through 12th grades —yes, in the 1930s Oakland High School started in grade 7, so Harold was a Wildcat for 6 years! He has many fond memories of those years.

Dr. L. P. Farris was the principal, and the Aegis advisor was Mr. Miles. Harold remembers sending the final copy of Aegis articles to Oakland Tech where they were typeset. (At that time, the technical arts were concentrated at Tech.) The trays of type, each letter set by hand into a frame, were returned to the Aegis staff to review before being printed. [Harold also shared a clipping from the Aegis that stated that typesetting was done at McClymonds by Aegis staff members.]



Harold Adishian yearbook photo, June 1940.

Aegis Staff 1940, Harold on first row far right.



O. P. H. A.
Sponsor
Mr. Charles Mil

(Article continued on page 2)

Two 2020 Graduates Receive WAA Scholarships

This year's \$4000 Alden McElrath Scholarship was awarded to Xaio He who will be attending Cal this year. Xaio credits her experience at Oakland High with helping her confidence bloom and providing her with countless leadership opportunities for leadership in her community including serving as a class delegate, a club officer, and a recycling system investigator.

Xaio recently wrote to us:

"Thank you for the generous Alden McElrath Scholarship. I was very appreciative and happy to learn that I was selected to receive this scholarship! I will be attending University of California Berkeley with intended majors in molecular and cell biology as well as economics. I plan to pursue a degree in dental medicine or dental surgery upon graduating from UC Berkeley."

(Article continued on page 4)

(Harold Adishian continued)

Asked about his most memorable classroom experience, Harold didn't hesitate—his algebra class and teacher, who made math come alive. The father of Lynette Kennedy, one of Harold's classmates, was a pilot for the China Clipper, which flew tours from San Francisco to China. Harold's algebra class was assigned to compute the legs of the journey. It was exciting to watch their calculations become reality as the planes actually flew to China.

Harold also remembered student body president Doris Lind, notable according to the yearbook as only the second female elected president "in the seventy years of Oakland High's existence."

Harold still has fond memories of a full afternoon of swimming at the Orinda Country Club on "Ditch Day," when students were excused from/cut classes—he didn't remember how official not going to school that day was. But he remembers they had a good time. He also remembers a graduation event at a big San Francisco hotel and another at the Claremont Country Club.

As for his old Lakeshore neighborhood, he has memories of boxer Max Baer hanging out around the Grand Lake Theater, and the Grand Lake itself, July 4th fireworks over Lake Merritt (an annual event until the 1970s), B and T sodas (toasted almond) at Eddy's, a great hardware or variety store, and the best hamburgers at a place all of us remembered (but none of us could name) on Lakeshore Avenue. And the Bay Bridge was opened during Harold's years at Oakland High.

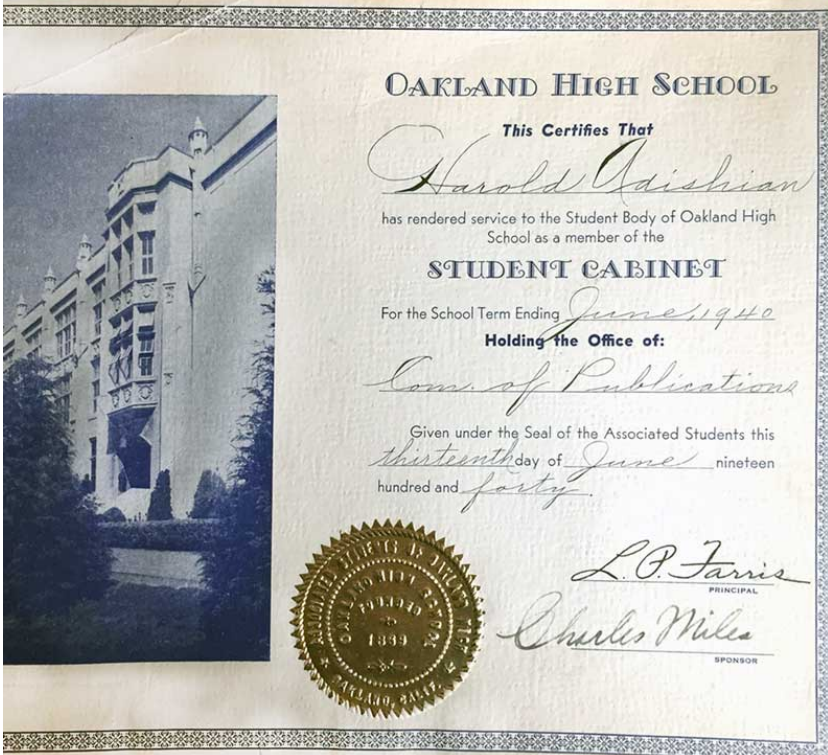


STUDENT CABINET

For the second time in the seventy years of Oakland High School's existence a girl was elected president of the student body. Pictured with President Doris Lind in the center is Dr. L. P. Farris, Principal. The Cabinet, who have worked and cooperated with Doris this term, are pictured in clock-form. Starting the winding clock around in the place of number one is Clint Keeler, Secretary; Barbara Goesch, Commissioner of Girls' Affairs; Jack Gregory, Commissioner of Boys' Athletics; Dick Voight, Commissioner of Entertainment; Audrey Lea, Commissioner of Publicity; Al Gross, Yell Leader; Roy Davis, Stage Manager; Bob Hall, Commissioner of Welfare and Safety; Virginia Gardner, Commissioner of Girls' Athletics; Dick Henderson, Commissioner of Boys' Affairs; Harold Adishian, Commissioner of Publications; and Joe Haley, Commissioner of Finance.

Above: Harold Adishian Commissioner of Publications, Doris Lind-- 2nd female student body president in Oakland High's first 70 years-- and Principal Farris.

Below: Aegis Harold's Student Cabinet commendation signed by Principal Farris, for whom Farris Court the senior hang-out in the Park Blvd. OHS, was named and publications sponsor Mr. Charles Miles.



After graduating from Oakland High, Harold moved to Southern California and attended Whittier College and later USC where he received his Masters in Education degree. He taught grades 7- 10—grades 8 and 9, his favorite ages—and then became a principal in Norwalk and La Mirada. He has kept in touch with former pupils. He is especially proud of a favorite, Dana Boles, who is now working for NASA in Washington, D. C.

So if you have any memories to fill in the blanks of Harold's reminiscences, like the name of that Lakeshore hardware store, the 1940 senior prom S F hotel, or the home of the best hamburgers in town, or any other memories of your days in Oakland and at Oakland High, we want to hear from you and will print them.

Send them to us at
waa@oaklandhighalumni.org.

Find more images of Harold on page 5!

OHS: School Begins in the Fall of Covid-19 Isolation

Oakland High is starting this school year as it ended the last with no classes being conducted face to face in the building. Oakland Public Schools will not send students to in-person classes until it is decided that it can be done safely. So what does the beginning of a new school year look like in 2020?

August 3-5 registration, staffed by OHS administrators, the OHS Wellness Center Director, case managers and teachers, began outdoors by the pool gate and in Senior Court. The district supplied PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, and hand sanitizer.) Each academy and all new freshmen had a scheduled day and time to come to register, with no more than 15 groups scheduled at a time.

Teachers from each academy volunteered to give out school materials, so students were able to see their teachers face to face before all communication became digital. Students were loaned Chromebooks (about 500 as of mid-August) and hotspots (to connect to the internet) if they needed them for online learning. They also received goodie bags of school materials such as art supplies for students in VAAMP, the visual arts academy. For most students, the whole process took less than 15 minutes to register and pick up items.

With no students in the building, this fall's online classes will be quite different from a traditional school day. Students will take just 4 courses in the first 9 week "mini-mester" and a different 4 courses in the second 9 weeks. Each class will meet online as a group two days a week for one hour in the morning sessions with at least one additional hour for small group or teacher "office hour" sessions in the afternoons. Students will spend the rest of their week completing their assignments.

So Is "Real Learning" Taking Place?

To get an idea of what education this fall will look like, I asked English teacher Jessica Forbes to share a little of how she handled distance learning for her classes last spring.

Ms. Forbes shared two weeks of lessons with me. They were extremely detailed and professional. The class was beginning a new book *Buck* by M. K. Asante. She included a link to a Today Show interview with the book's author, thoughtful questions about reactions to the readings, writing assignments, and open-ended assignments where students needed to come up with their own questions about the book or relate it to their own experiences. Students did a lot of thinking and writing. As an example of the kind of reflection students were asked to do, in week 6 of the unit, Ms. Forbes asked:

How does Malo view the women in the club in Chapter 14? Consider his descriptions, his behavior, and the messages he's receiving about how a man should behave toward a woman.

Ms. Forbes was also concerned with her students' emotional challenges. Each week's lesson began with an upbeat greeting from the teacher:

*"Hi everyone, hope you are doing well! Welcome to distance learning week 6. This week, we'll continue digging deeper into *Buck*, by M.K. Asante. What do you think about the book so far?"*

And ended with a warm-

"Please feel free to email me ... or text me ... if you need any help or just want to reach out and say hi:)"

*Get some sunshine!
Ms. Forbes"*

Last spring, without any warning, teachers had to recreate their course work to accommodate the isolation of the pandemic. It took many hours of extra time each week to prepare. They worked all summer to figure out how to best offer their courses this year if face to face learning could not take place. They deserve our thanks for being creative and dedicated to their students, and for maintaining the high standards of Oakland High School.



(WAA Scholarships continued from page 1)

The \$3000 Gene Zahas Remembrance Scholarship was awarded to **Martin Pablo Ramirez**. The scholarship was created by a generous donation from WAA Board member Frank Kao to honor longtime WAA Board member Gene Zahas, who died this year (see May 2020 WAA newsletter). In his application, Martin credited teachers and programs which helped shape his goals and support his skills at Oakland High: his art teacher Mr. Tucker and the Visual Arts Program (VAAMP), his algebra teacher Mr. Saepanh, the AVID program, and the Future Center.

Martin wrote to us in August: "I'm excited and nervous to move on campus because it's a completely new environment! I am ready to learn and make connections during the next four years. I am going to UC Davis with the intent to major in Computer Engineering. I have encountered amazing people throughout my life up until this day that have supported me to get where I am now. Being the first generation in my family to attend a university is a huge accomplishment for me and I thank the Wildcat Alumni Scholarship for giving me the opportunity to get a step closer to my goals."

We will check in with Xaio and Martin later in the year to see how their freshman years are progressing.

WAA Scholarship Honorable Mentions

Honorable mention and an award of \$100 will go to these other impressive applicants: **Daniela Castillo, Vivian Feng, Denilson Garibo, David Nguyen, Kimberly Perez, Jasmine Ho Qiu, Jamiya Sanai Richardson, Toni Tran, Hnin Nu Wai, and Stephanie Wong.** Alumni **Gordon S. Boranco and Barbara Gee**, both of the class of 1965, generously donated the money for these awards. They commented, "Having participated for several years in the scholarship selection process, we were extremely impressed this year with the outstanding quality of each of the candidate's applications: their writing skills, academic achievements and ability to overcome what many would believe to be very difficult obstacles. We were moved to provide some type of affirmation to those whom we were not able to award a scholarship."

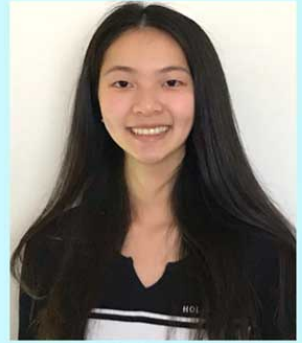
Donations Make Scholarships Happen - It would take only \$20 from 200 of us to fund one of our scholarships for next year. Please visit our website to make your donation in any amount for the scholarship project. <https://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>

Wildcats, Are You Missing Any Cash?

Did you know that the state of California receives unclaimed property from businesses? This can be anything from stocks and bank accounts to uncashed dividend, interest, insurance and utility checks, or in the case of one deceased relative we looked for, a refund from a hospital that was never repaid.

You might be surprised at what you might find for yourself or family and friends. Some examples of what we found: Searching for "Oakland High" lists the following amounts: Oakland High 1961 Alumni Assn--\$166.23, Oakland High C/O 2014--\$115.90; and 3 listings for "Oakland High School" --\$520, \$152 and \$573. Searching for "Skyline High" results in 5 listings with the largest amount being \$1,778. Searching for "Oakland" results in 500 listings. (Too many listings, and they only show the first 500). Searching for "Oakland" in the city of "Oakland" results in 1,011 listings.

You can check your own name or the names of relatives (even deceased relatives) or other organizations you are connected with. If you find money that is owed to you, follow the instructions to submit your claim form. So, maybe they only show the \$2.78 from your long-closed Comcast account. Not worth the effort to claim. But you never know, take a look and happy hunting!



Above: Xaio He recipient of the Alden McElrath Scholarship; Martin Pablo Ramirez recipient of the Gene Zahas Remembrance Scholarship

Go to the website of the State Controller's Office at

https://sco.ca.gov/upd_msg.html

and click on "Search for Unclaimed Property".

- Select "Individual Owner" or "Business" Search.
- Enter your name or the company name.

Hint: The more information you enter, the more precise the search. Enter less information for a broader search.

WEEKLY AEGIS STAFF

The Weekly Aegis is set up and published each week under the guidance of Harold Adishian, the editor, and Mr. Charles Miles, faculty advisor. The news for the Aegis is gathered by students of the News I and II classes. The type for the pages is set up at McClymonds each Thursday by students working on the staff.

Pictured working in the Aegis office are, from left to right, standing, John Studley, sports editor; Leamore Everson, associate editor; Jim Squire, news editor; and Eileen Sims, exchange editor. Seated left to right are Harold Adishian, editor; Nancy Black, news editor; Doris Miller, feature editor; Ralph Eckles, associate editor. Harold, the editor, is pictured in the upper right-hand corner.



A-DISH FULL

By Harold Adishian
Sports Editor

In the last O. A. L. football clash of the season, the Oakland eleven travels to Technical High School today to tangle with the league's cellar keepers, the Bulldogs.

Flash, FLASH...Cats Paw of this week goes to one we all know, one group of boys who are playing their last game of ball for the dear old alma mater and the Blue and White colors. They are Fred Farnum, Richard Dixon, Fred Massaro, Bob Huebel, Pete JouJau, Paul Reeves, Bill Gergen, Bob Hall, Bob Voortmeyer, Jack Gregory, Fred Anderson, Ken Canberry, Ray Bergesen, and Ted Sayles.

These boys have all fought hard for the Blue and White, and have suffered a couple of broken noses and other injuries and yet they don't complain. All they ask is that the entire student body of Oakland High School get out and support them today in their last battle with Technical.

HOOPSTERS LOOKED OVER

With basketball season just about on our doorsteps, we take a glance over the squad and see how and where the Oakland Basketball Club for 1940 will stand in the O. A. L.

Uh huh! Oakland High School should be right on top, taking the league crown at an easy stride, or else I don't know why. We have an outstanding bunch of boys out this season and boast of five returning lettermen, also, as many with experience that missed their letters by one or two quarters.

"Doc" Fiske, woman's man of 48 states (mental), is the only one around here that deserves any publicity this week. He anointed my palm with seven coppers to date for services rendered (publicity) and has promised to pay up every Thursday, since I didn't get my "ham and eggs."

Finishing off a successful football season by breaking training rules a little early down at Edy's was Fred Farnum and the rest of the gang.

The play by play description of last weeks game, announced to you by Pat "Forget Himself Not" Flowers, was a WONDER.

Yeh! Most intelligent people were wondering whether Pat knew it was a game of football that he was announcing rather than his accustomed parlor game of "tidley winks." Wheel it away.

eScrip

3 Easy Ways to Earn for Our Group

1. Sign Up/Add Cards
2. eScrip Online Mall
3. eScrip Dining by Rewards Network

Remember reading the Aegis newspaper in class?

Check out the latest issue of Oakland High's online student newspaper at oaklandaegis.com

