

# White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.



# The Leaf



VOLUME XIV ISSUE III

PROUD MEMORIES

Summer 2012

- **Events**
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon
  - @Golden Bull in Adelphi
  - \*WOLAA Holiday Luncheon @ Argyle CC on Wed, 5 Dec 2012
  - \*Garden Tour in September 2012 ??????

\* **11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

WOLAA Web Site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org)

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## News from WOLAA

**\*May Luncheon.** Another great luncheon. We had reservations for 105 and over 100 attended. It was a gorgeous day at Argyle. The WOLAA store was busy and we have just about sold out of T-shirts---reducing them to only \$2 helped. The Legacy CD and dedication DVD were also on sale. We have sold out of the DVD's and are reordering them. Both the CD and DVD were played during the luncheon and business meeting.

Another short business meeting. Dave Wasmund, Houston Cole, Diane Palermo, and Harry Bagley were reelected to the Board for the 2013-15 three year term. George Schmitz was elected to the Board and will serve the 2012-14 term. WOLAA welcomes George to the Board and thanks him for volunteering to serve.

**\*Holiday Luncheon.** Members continue to support a two lunches/year format. So, we have booked the Argyle Country Club for our 2012 holiday luncheon. It will be on **Wednesday, 5 December 2012**. Please note the change of the day of the week for the luncheon. The agent at the Club suggested a midweek day would be better for them and with our attendance on Friday decreasing, we decided to try a Wednesday for the luncheon. We are now negotiating for the menu and costs. The Club is under new "management," and told us we should have a Club member sponsor our event. A big WOLAA BZ to Betsy and Jim Proctor, who found us a sponsor. He is Mr. Harper and he owns Summit where we buy the WOLAA mugs, pens, etc. He has already met with the Event Planner and has informed her that he is sponsoring the Holiday Luncheon. Deanne Zook and I will meet with the Planner in Mid-July to define the menu and pricing. See you at Argyle in December!!!

**\*Membership.** As of early June, WOLAA had 433 memberships. When you add the ~50 spouses who also worked at the WOL, we have about 480 members. This is down from the over 600 members we had early on. But still very good; considering the "aging of WOLers."

**\*Proud Memory Garden.** No visits to the Garden have been scheduled for the Summer. However, we will plan a visit on the September anniversary of the dedication. Please email or call WOLAA if you would be interested in attending. The plan would be to visit the garden in the mid-morning and then have light refreshments at the FDA conference center lobby if there is significance interest/attendance---like at least 15 people. This would

significance interest/attendance----like at least 15 people. This would be a great time to bring family members---especially grandchildren---and friends. Please let us know by 15 August 2012 so we can plan the event.

**\*CD/DVD Sales.** Still offering the Legacy CD and Dedication DVD for sale. Still only \$5 each. Please call, mail, or email WOLAA. We will promptly send your selection to you by mail. Several ordered the DVD at the Luncheon; and we are having copies made and will fill your order soon.

**\*Marc Bloom.** Marc is retiring from FDA after 35 years of service. He was brought to the FDA Site several years ago to manage the logistics of moving FDA employees to White Oak and developing transportation and parking processes to facilitate their commute. We met Marc through LABQUEST where he was an active participant. Marc was the person responsible for the wonderful tour WOLers had of Building 1 after it was restored. He did much more than we anticipated to make your tour/visit perfect. He arranged to fly the American flag that was used the day the WOL closed on the day of our tour and the later dedication of the Building 1. He was very supportive of the Proud Memory Garden. Recently, he arranged to have Dr. Bennett's stand up desk brought to the Legacy wall at FDA; had it restored; and is developing a historical exhibit for it. He also had the American flag flown on the last day preserved, and it will be on display with an appropriate plaque near the Legacy wall. Marc has taken the master DVD of the dedication and has made over 30 copies for WOLAA without charge, using his personal equipment. Marc has shown great respect for the work of the Navy and the employees who achieved it. Upon his retirement, WOLAA is presenting Marc with an architect rendering of NOL site as it was planned in 1946. The WOLAA Board has approved Marc to be an honorary member of WOLAA.

**\*WOLAA Board of Directors.** The members of the WOLAA Board of Directors and their terms follow

2012-14	2013-14	2011-14
John Tino	Dave Wasmund	Jim Proctor
Dee Zook	Houston Cole	Bill Ryan
Wayne Hopkins	Diane Palermo	Marie McLean
George Schmitz	Harry Bagley	George Hamlin

In addition, Ken Caudle is the Board's Florida representative and Ramsay Johnson is the west coast representative.

## Book Review Johnny Gram

Mjt

In high school and college, I had very good history teachers and I thought I had a very good knowledge of history. But, as I got to my senior years, I realized how much I didn't know and probably how much I had forgotten. One series of events that I know nothing is what really happened during the Crusades, about the 1000-1013 AD time frame. George Stathopoulos loaned me a three volume set on the Crusades. Book one covers the first Crusade; Book two the establishment of the Kingdom of Jerusalem; and Book three, the later crusades. The books are titled, "A History of the Crusades" (1951) by Steven Runciman. Not easy reading with the names of the knights/crusaders and the cities in the Syria/Palestine area. The interaction between the culture of the East and West and the major religions was very interesting. I believe it helps explain many of the issues in the Mid-east today. Re-enforcing my belief that the lessons of history are a significant "player" in the present and future of our society.

## Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

**\* Shucking Corn.** Time for another pet peeve of mine. Pat and I love corn on the cob. I usually get the job of shucking corn. However, I can never get all the corn silk off the kernels of corn no matter what I try. OK; take another pet peeve off my “pp bucket list.” I came across Ken on You Tube. He has a fool proof system of shucking corn. To see his video, go to You Tube and type: Shucking Corn---Clean Ears Every Time. Ken takes the ear of corn --just like you pick it--- and places it in the microwave for 4 or 5 minutes (depends on power of microwave and how “done” you like your corn. I do two ears at a time and double the time). Take corn from microwave using a heavy mitt, like you might use when grilling; next use a “butcher” knife to cut off the end where the handle is---about ½ inch beyond the handle; and then grabbing the “silk” end of the corn, you begin to shake the ear of corn so the corn slides out the other end. Don’t despair; keep shaking, and I guarantee the corn will slide out without one piece of corn silk. And, it is ready to add butter and old bay seasoning (I use old bay on almost everything.). Enjoy your corn and your summer.

**\*Pancakes.** Many years ago, hotels/motels starting serving a free “breakfast.” At first, a continental breakfast, if one is generous with the definition. Then, eggs, bacon, potatoes----but not always the greatest. Few years ago, we went into breakfast to find a do-it-yourself waffle machine. All in my family enjoys waffles and were excited to take the batter and “try” to make a perfect waffle. OK, we found the next phase for our free breakfast menu. We stayed at a Holiday Inn, and I noticed this large box setting on a table at the side of the buffet. It said: place your plate at the end of the box and as you looked into the box you saw a conveyer belt like device. Next, you pushed a button to indicate the number of the item to be produced. Finally, push OK and wait a minute or so and out popped a fresh, perfectly formed and delicious pancake. Pat said everyone has probably already known about the pancake box; but I had to add it to my ramblings anyway!

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## Features

### \*Alumni News.

**Volunteer Help Wanted.** The Physics Department at the University of Maryland in College Park runs a clinic to provide one-on-one help to students taking “Sophomore” physics. It is a walk-in clinic and normally the student asks help on a home-work problem but sometimes about a concept. The clinic provides the tutor with the physics book and solution manual. There is a small “payment” to the tutor to cover transportation expenses. The clinic is open Monday-Friday from 1000 –1500. Volunteering to tutor any portion of the 1000-1500 is acceptable and as many days a week as you can provide. Dr Slawsky and Dr Beach tutored at the clinic when it began. Harvey Peritt has been tutoring for a number of years. He told WOLAA that several of the current tutors had to drop-out, and there is a critical shortage now. If you can help or want more information, please call Harvey at (301) 598-5516.

**Health Care.** In the Spring LEAF, the supplement carried a very informative paper on health care which was written by Paul Wessel. Paul has continued his analysis of health care and its cost to everyone. He has written two additional and excellent papers:

**\*Health Care – Who Pays and Who Collects.** He shows the growth in health care costs; who gets the money; and how much is spent on various age groups; and explains the future viability of the funds to pay health care.

**\*Debt – A Problem on Every Level.** Paul examines not only the Federal Debt but the entire “system” from Federal-State-Local-Personal. He discusses the impact of Mortgage, Student Loan, and Credit Card Debt on our country.

Paul will send these papers to you by email if you request them by sending him an email at wes-selpr@q.com

## Alumni Correspondence

Dear Mr. Cole and the WOLAA Board of Directors,

March 1, 2012

Thank you so much for your letter of condolence that you recently sent to me and my family concerning the death of my father, Rudy Schuetzler. I was deeply touched by your words of remembrance and also your glowing remarks about Rudy's accomplishments at NOL and NAVSEA. He was a wonderful man, husband, father, grandfather, and friend -and he is sorely missed by us all. He was a shining example of hard work, determination, and dedication not only to his family and friends, but also to his job. Mr. Charles Rowzee {Bud} called me several weeks ago to express his sympathy. He offered to submit an obituary for my father in the next edition of The Leaf, which I very much appreciate. My Dad had many wonderful memories of his years at NOL as did my Mother, Lois. My family and I have been comforted by the many cards, e-mails, letters, and phone calls we have received from Dad's friends and colleagues. The stories and memories they have shared with us have helped to heal our broken hearts. I thank you for sending me contact information for the WOLAA. I am definitely interested in staying in touch with the Association and the WOL family.

Most sincerely, Patricia S. Howard

## Alumni Update.

**Bill Meeker.** Bill has been ill for over a year and is under care at his home

**Ed Whitman.** Ed is recovering at home after recent significant but successful surgery. He notes he is doing well and is driving.

**Jim Proctor.** Jim is making steady progress after his back surgery earlier this year. He is still doing physical therapy as he regains his strength.

Note: All would enjoy hearing from their co-workers and friends. Give them a call.

**What Did My Parent Do?** Over the years, WOLAA has had inquiries from the children or grandchildren of people who worked at the WOL and they frequently ask where did my parent work and what did they do. I believe most parents didn't talk about their work because it was classified. BUT, I also believe most WOLers just didn't want to talk about themselves. WOLAA has the Legacy book and now the Legacy interactive CD that can help our off-spring. Yet, they still have to be told where to look in the book and the CD. Even there, they will just know that the person worked in a given area or project. They won't know what their parent accomplished, invented, etc or what they were "responsible for."

The two most recent inquiries were for Bob and Claire Rolfe and Robert Stewart. By use of the phone book and by sending a few emails, it was determined that Robert Rolfe worked in Joe Faulkner's Branch and on the PUFFS sonar. His son would still like to know what he did on PUFFS and other projects. Robert Stewart was discovered to work in the Ballistic Design and Operations Division; but we couldn't determine what projects he worked on or what he did in the Range. Sooooo, if anyone can help, please call, mail, or email WOLAA and we will forward your information and/or contact to the family.

When the request came in re Claire and Bob Rolfe, I asked Dr. Ira Blatstein to check with his contacts at APL/JHU to see if they could shed light on Claire and Bob. It was amazing what they provided---mostly from their newspaper. They provided information concerning their marriage and the birth of their second son---Andrew Robert Rolfe. The key discovery about Claire is that she worked at APL from 1944-1951 before going to NOL. She was among a group of women who worked at the APL facility in downtown Silver Spring during WW II (A converted car dealer building on Georgia Avenue). They were known as the "wench bench staff and were among the original team that developed the critical VT fuze for WW II. This team of women assembled the early VT devices for development and evaluation. A historical achievement now known to her children and grandchildren.

## THE WENCH BENCH



LULA, DORIS, CLARICE, J.J., ANN, SHIRLEY, LILLIAN, ANNADEL, CECILY, IRMA

### Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information about deceased alumni. Phone (410) 489-2977. Or, please call or email WOLAA. The LEAF is pleased to print a tribute to our deceased alumni. Prepare and email/mail to WOLAA

Houston prepares a letter that he sends to the family of each deceased alumni. He also encloses information to help them communicate with OPM, etc. We have included that page as page S1 in the Supplement of this LEAF for your information.

**Carl Brown.** WOLAA was notified that Carl, who lived in Reston, VA and worked in the Chemistry Engineering Branch---Code 233, died in April 2009.

**Eleanor Keyes.** WOLAA was notified by her nephew-in-law that Eleanor, who lived in Baltimore, MD and worked in the Advanced Chemistry Division in Building 30, died in February 2010.

**Mark Lenzi.** Mark died at age 43 after suffering a bout of fainting and low blood pressure. He began his sport's career as a wrestler in high school and switched to diving. He attended Indiana University and was twice NCAA diver of the year and won a total of 18 international competitions. In the 1992 Olympics, he won the gold medal in the low diving board competition. In the 1996 Olympics, he

won a bronze. Mark was the son of Bill Lenzi, who was the Branch Head in H Department for the HERO work.

**Clarice E. Rolfe.** Clarice of Olney, MD, beloved wife of Robert G. Rolfe; devoted mother of Martha LeGrand and Andrew Rolfe; and Grandson Nigel Rolfe, passed away April 5, 2012, at Montgomery General Hospital in Olney. She was 92. Born April 13, 1919, in Ettrick, Wis., to the late John C. and Clara A. Fillner, she was one of seven children. A graduate of La Crosse State Teachers College, she moved to the Washington area during World War II and worked at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Silver Spring. There, as a member of the lab's female "Wench Bench," she assembled components for test models of the VT Fuze, a classified anti-aircraft shell detonator used by the U.S. Navy. She later met her husband, a physicist, while both worked at the former Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak. She will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her love of cats and reading, and her allegiance to her beloved Washington Senators and Washington Nationals.

**Maurice P. McGrath.** Maurice, died, Thursday, April 26, 2012 at Medstar Montgomery Medical Center. Beloved husband of Dora W. McGrath; father of Kevin (Julie), Eddie (Jill) and the late Freddie McGrath. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Shane, Shannon, Dalon, and Angie, and great-granddaughter, Fiona. He worked as a machinist at the WOL. Dora worked in the Supply Department. Both have been active in WOLAA

**Herman F. Shermer.** Herman died at age 83 and was living in Lancaster, PA and formerly of Adelphi, Maryland, joined Jesus on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at Hospice of Lancaster County. Born July 24, 1928 in Palatine Twp., IL, he was the first of five sons of the late Herman Jr. and Ethel M. (Prinzing) Shermer. He will be lovingly missed by Betty, his wife of 63 years. He proudly served our country in the **U.S. Navy** from 1946 to 1948, advancing to the rating of Electronics Technician's Mate third class. In the Naval Reserve he reached the rank of Lieutenant. Herman graduated from Crawfordsville High School in Indiana in 1945. He received an A.B. degree in Physics from the University of Miami in 1951. In the early 1950's, he was employed at the National Bureau of Standards. From 1956 to 1985, he was an operations research analyst at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory/Naval Surface Weapons Center in Silver Spring, MD. He performed a detailed safety analysis of the Mk 113 Fire Control System as part of the SUBROC Project. His main hobby for over 55 years was his family genealogy. He and his wife (and sometimes family) enjoyed traveling, visiting Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Bahamas, England, Europe, Australia, and 49 U.S. states. In addition to his wife, Mr. Shermer is survived by two daughters: Sue, wife of Eric Seevers of Lancaster and Linda, wife of William McDaniel of Bedford, TX; three grandchildren: Laura (Seevers), wife of Andrew Glendinning, Ellen Seevers and Ian McDaniel; two great-grandchildren: Aidan and Duncan Glendinning. Herman was preceded in death by his son: Herman Fred Shermer, Jr.; granddaughters Nova and Fiona McDaniel; great-grandson Stuart Glendinning; and his twin brothers, Harvey and Earl Shermer.

**Robert Rolfe.** Above is the obituary for Clarice Rolfe who died in April. Robert died just a few weeks later. Robert and Clarice were married in February 1952. They were married 60 years. Bob was over 90 years of age. He worked in the Underwater Systems Department and moved to U20 to work on PUFFS sonar.

**Betty Sessoms.** Betty died in May 2012 at a care facility in North Carolina; she would have been 90 later this year. She was the wife of Faison Sessoms, who worked at the WOL in the Underwater Systems Department. Faison is an expert in ordnance safety analyses. Betty is survived by her daughters, Lynn and Beth and son Faison.

**Charlie Grover.** WOLAA was informed that Charlie died on 15 June 2012. He was over 90 and had been living at Riderwood. He worked in the Photographic organization.