



# Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association

Founded October, 1994



*Supporting Our Community through Education!*

**April 2011**

## First annual SWHSAA Scholarship Winners Recognition Ceremony Held March 31



**2011 winners, L to R:** Sharayah Blair-Nelson, Tyler Manke, Kristin Huggins, Carrie Swenson, Leah Perkins, Andrew Steen, Maria Avalos, Dylan Berg, and Samantha Bray. Not pictured: Roslyn Gober, Chelsea Seidel., and Markas Harker. *Photo by Joanna Bruno*

*By Joanna Bruno, Class of '66*

**Nine students, their families** and friends gathered at the Sedro-Woolley community Center March 31<sup>st</sup> for the first annual SWHSAA Scholarship recognition ceremony. On hand to honor the students were Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association president, Pat Hyatt, who opened the ceremony, then introduced the guest speakers, Mayor Mike Anderson, Commissioner Sharon Dillon, and high school principal, Mike Schweigert. Schweigert introduced several staff from the high school, and Kathy Ehman, Assistant Superintendent.

Joanna Bruno, Scholarship Committee chair, introduced the vocational scholarship winners for 2011: Maria Avalos, Dylan Berg (winner of the Ola Harang vocational scholarship), Samantha Bray, Tyler Manke, Leah Perkins, Andrew Steen (winner of the Susan Batey McKinley vocational scholarship), and Carrie Swenson.

Lorine Newcomer shared the story behind the one-time Jack Newcomer Music Scholarship. This scholarship, named in honor of her husband, a long-time music teacher in Sedro-Woolley, will go to Sharayah Blair-Nelson, who met Mrs. Newcomer for the first time that evening.

Judy Johnson, Chair of the Class of 1971 Scholarship committee, introduced the four winners for this year: Academic scholarships will go to Kristin Huggins, Roslyn Gober, and Chelsea Seidel. A Vocational scholarship will go to Markas Harker. Two of these students were away at college, and one was unable to attend the event. On hand were Kristin Huggins and her parents.

Following the program cake and punch were served by members of the SWHSAA Scholarship committee and other members of the group. A special thank you goes to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church for generously allowing attendees to use their parking lot for this event.

## All Class Picnic Scheduled for July 9

*By Barbara Ward Thompson, Class of '43, Chairperson*

**Planning has begun** for the annual reunion/picnic to be held Saturday, July 9, 2011 at Riverfront Park in Sedro-Woolley. The area will open at noon and serving of the picnic buffet will start at 1:00 p.m. Preregistration for the lunch will be required with **registration slips to be returned no later than June 30.**

Individual classes planning to install their own tents should reserve their space by phoning **Barbara Thompson at 360-855-0293** as soon as possible. The two large tents will be put up Friday morning, July 8. Classes may install theirs Friday afternoon, or early Saturday morning.

Efforts are being made to improve parking for the handicapped. The Parks Department prefers that no one except the caterer park on the park grass. Handicapped drop-offs are allowed at the handicapped area near the main shelter, with parking on the upper level on a first-come-first-served basis. Overflow handicapped parking will be on the lower level in the smaller parking lot near the RV lot. If a golf cart and driver can be located, they may provide jitney service to the upper level.

Donations to the raffle from individuals or classes will be gratefully accepted, of either goods or services. The raffle will be limited to 15 items. Those wishing to discuss a tax-deductible donation may call **Bonna Beitler at 360-855-0030** no later than May 30.

Volunteers to help the day of the picnic are equally welcome. **Call Barbara Thompson at 360-855-0293**

## President's Message:

By Pat Hyatt, Class of '52

**As I move into** my second year as President of SWHSAA - I continue to be amazed at the dedication of those who have worked so very hard over the past 17 years to make this organization a visible part of our community.

Yes, the Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association is alive and we invite you to be a part of this great group of volunteers. This year we are moving forward with some exciting additions to our format. These will be detailed in articles in this mailing but in short, we hosted a reception to honor our scholarship recipients; we are recruiting high school students from the class of 2012 to assist at our annual picnic, and perhaps having an evening function to install our officers for the 2012 year.

Our lifetime memberships continue to increase as do our annual memberships. We encourage you to send those in if you haven't done so. With an annual membership fee of only \$10.00 or a lifetime membership of \$100.00, it should be affordable for most budgets. We have a base of over 4500 alumni and yet have annual memberships paid of approximately 650. We encourage you to be part of helping future students follow their dreams by participating to ensure the continuation of our scholarships. We ask you to send those in if you haven't done so. Those funds assist us in our mailings and publicity to keep all alumni and the community aware of our functions. Those mailings go to all alumni whether or not their respective dues have been paid - so as the old saying goes "the check's in the mail" - is yours??

In closing, I am making a personal invitation for you to attend our monthly meetings at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center - the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. except for November and December when we meet on the third Wednesday. Let's continue the great legacy that was started as a dream that is now a great reality - you will be glad you did!!!



## "Save the Steinway" Project Successful

By Barbara Ward Thompson, Class of '43

**Students with any participation** in SWHS music programs have enjoyed the accompaniment of the high school's own 80-year-old Steinway M piano. Unfortunately, time was not kind to the piano or its surface finish. Four students recently revived the old piano, spearheaded by Carly Hayes who took on the challenge as her senior project.

Senior Sam Lidgard and State Street High School Junior Chris Wagar resurfaced the piano with the assistance of Roger Weaver, local woodworking expert. Graduate Carly Hayes raised \$5000 in locally donated funds for the rehabilitation of the piano's insides. Student Stacey Harris continues to raise funds for a dedication plaque for the piano.

The rededication ceremony was held January 20, 2011 with a reception following musical entertainment. Jerry Sommerseth, retired orchestra teacher and local concert pianist, was on hand to demonstrate the project's results.

Major contributors to the project included Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley, Rotary Club of Sedro-Woolley, Sedro Woolley Lions Club, Truck Vault, Inc., Cascade Physical Therapy, Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation, SWHS ASB, SWHS, and many individuals.

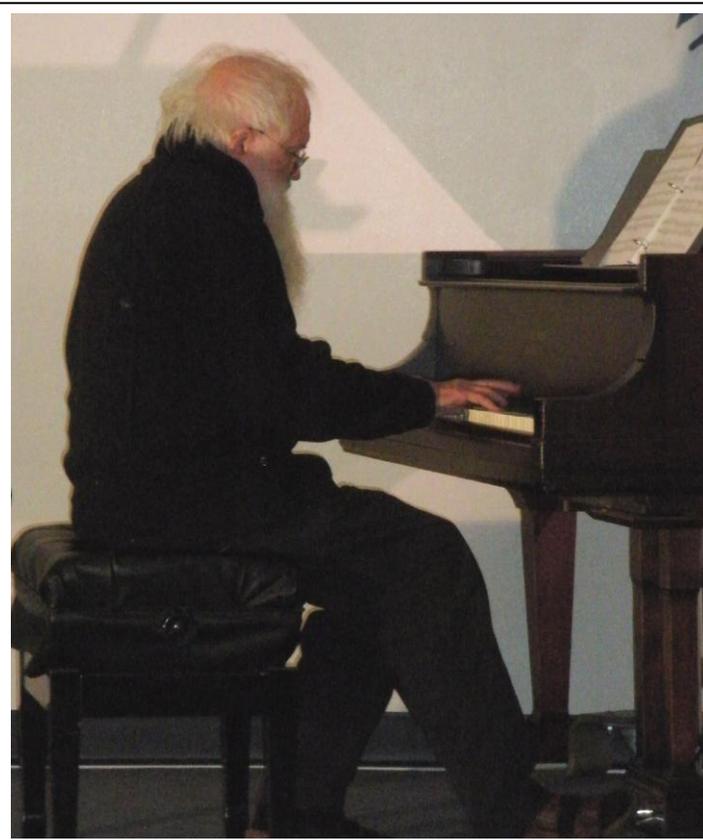


Photo of **Jerry Sommerseth** playing reconditioned Steinway, courtesy Barbara Ward Thompson, Class of '43.

## Mother's Day Geranium Sale May 7

By Bonna Beitler, Class of '59

**The day before Mother's Day**, Saturday, May 7, is the SWHSAA annual Geranium sale, held in the building west of the Community Center on Pacific Street. Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On sale will be hundreds of colorful geraniums from Thompson's Nursery, different varieties of tomato plants provided by Shirley Arthur, and lots of baked goods from the ovens of talented alumni members.

If you would like to contribute to the baked goods table, please contact Doreen Brown at 856-1919 or Shirley Arthur at 856-0471. We can always use more, and the proceeds go to our Scholarship program. We always have coffee and a warm fire, so come and check out the sale. See you there!

# SWHSAA Scholarship Winners Chosen for 2011

By Joanna Bruno, Class of '66, Scholarship Committee Chair

**Our scholarship winners** this year are active in many areas, both with school functions and giving back to the community. We had a number of excellent applicants, so choosing just the right ones was difficult. However our committee members are very proud of the eight students selected!

	<p><b>Maria Avalos.</b> Maria graduated from SWHS last year. She currently attends Skagit Valley College, where she is studying Early Childhood Education. Maria is active in several SVC clubs, and also does volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, and helped with the Thanksgiving Feed at Cascade Middle School.</p>		<p><b>Tyler Manke.</b> Tyler will graduate this year from SWHS. He plans to attend UTI in Arizona, where he will study Diesel Mechanics. After graduation from that program, he hopes to work on ships, semi trucks, and heavy equipment, and then he plans to start his own business. He has spent time remodeling flower beds for the City of Sedro-Woolley, and trimming trees for local residents.</p>
	<p><b>Dylan Gary Berg.</b> Dylan will graduate from SWHS this year. He plans to attend Skagit Valley College and take the Automotive Technical class. For his Senior Project he built a Sprint Car. He has volunteered with Mount Vernon Parks as a trail builder, helped the Summer Bible School program at his church, and has cleaned up trash on Highway 9. Dylan will receive the <b>Ola Harang scholarship.</b></p>		<p><b>Leah Perkins.</b> Leah will graduate this year from SWHS. She plans to attend Whatcom Community College, where she will study nursing. Her goal is to work as a nurse in a small clinic in Kenya, Africa. Her volunteer activities include spending time cooking for and feeding residents in an adult care facility and donating babysitting for low income families attending Bible study classes.</p>
	<p><b>Samantha Bray.</b> Samantha will graduate this year from State Street High School. She plans to attend Skagit Valley College in the nursing program. She has been attending Northwest Career and Technical Academy, on the SVC campus, where she is studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Samantha and her classmates take pride in keeping Memorial Park, right outside this building, clean and welcoming. She also cares for the homeless by donating warm clothing and food.</p>		<p><b>Carrie Swenson.</b> Carrie will graduate from SWHS this year. She plans to attend Eastern Washington University or Everett Community College. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse because she loves working with children. Carrie has volunteered at Skagit Valley Hospital, helped out at the Foster Child Christmas Party, served on the grandstand clean-up crew after football games, and helps her grandparents with chores.</p>
	<p><b>Andrew Steen.</b> Andrew will graduate from SWHS this year. He plans to attend ITT Technical School in Everett where he will study drafting and design. He spent time volunteering in the first grade class at Clear Lake Elementary, helping with arts and crafts, tutoring, and walking the track with them. Andrew will receive the <b>Susan Batey McKinley scholarship.</b></p>		<p><b>Sharayah Blair-Nelson.</b> Sharayah will graduate from SWHS this year. She plans to attend Whitworth University. She has volunteered in the nursery at her church, served breakfast at the local Grange, packaged meals for the Skagit Feeds Children Project, and played in the band's brass quintet. She will receive the <b>Jack Newcomer Music Scholarship.</b></p>

## Class of '71 Scholarships for 2011

The Class of '71 awarded four scholarships of \$2,500 each this year. Three were Academic Scholarships and one was a Vocational Scholarship. Winners were honored at the SWHSAA Scholarship recognition ceremony, held March 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Roslyn Gober:** A graduate in the SWHS Class of 2009, Roslyn attends the University of Rochester and is majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Cell and Tissue Engineering. She volunteers with a group that raises funds for the National Kidney Foundation, has been making quilts for Haiti, and she plays the trombone in various college ensembles. She is the daughter of Richard and Paula Helinski of Mount Vernon.



**Markas Harker:** A graduate in the SWHS Class of 2011, Markas plans to attend Skagit Valley College to study Welding. He has volunteered at the Big Lake Fire Department and completed other volunteer opportunities through Sedro-Woolley High School. He is the son of Mariah and Shannon Dugger of Mount Vernon.



**Kristin Huggins:** Kristin will graduate with the SWHS class of 2011 and plans to attend the University of Washington studying Graphic and Web Design. She has volunteered as yearbook editor for her high school and for an elementary school, and is an accomplished Girl Scout. Kristin is the daughter of Meriden and Pat Huggins of Sedro-Woolley.



**Chelsea Seidel:** A member of the SWHS Class of 2010, Chelsea currently attends Eastern Washington University in the Nursing and ROTC programs. She has volunteered at a local community kitchen in Sedro-Woolley and for various youth wrestling tournaments and clinics. Chelsea is the daughter of Chris and Rogene Seidel of Sedro-Woolley.

### Would you like to receive this newsletter in living color???

Send us your email, and we'll send you the **full color** version of our newsletter as a **PDF attachment!** Don't miss out on this great free offer! Send us your email TODAY! Send it to: [SWHSAA@wavecable.com](mailto:SWHSAA@wavecable.com). You'll be GLAD you did!

## Newcomer Scholarship Goes To Tuba Player



**Jack Newcomer Music Scholarship** winner, Sharayah Blair-Nelson and Lorine Newcomer, who created the one-time scholarship with funds raised from the sale of a book of her late husband's poetry. Photo by Joanna Bruno, Class of '66

By Joanna Bruno, Class of '66

**When musician, teacher and poet** Jack Newcomer passed away several years ago, a few of his poems were read at the memorial service. So many people asked his wife, Lorine, about the poems that her son Darrell compiled a small booklet of his poetry. Poems by his son, Dennis, daughter Lynn and granddaughter Anna were also included. Sales of the booklet funded a one-time scholarship, the **Jack Newcomer Music Scholarship**, which will be presented to Sharayah Blair-Nelson, a senior this year at SWHS.

Blair-Nelson, who plays the tuba, began her music career with the Baritone, then switched to the tuba because the band needed a tuba player. She has been playing that instrument for eight years.

"I like marches just because it's fun for the tuba players," she said.

Her audition piece, a tuba solo called "Waltzing Gallop" is one of her favorites. Because music is such a big part of her life, Blair-Nelson created a brass quintet as her Senior Project. She also plays in the wind ensemble for SWHS.

Jack Newcomer, who came to the SW school district around 1960, played flute and piccolo in the Spokane Symphony, the Skagit Valley Symphony, and various dance bands, but was a sax player in the U.S. Army band. After teaching elementary music for a number of years, Newcomer moved up to SWHS in 1966, where he taught choir and band.



## Steinway Restoration Project Labor of Love

*By Chris Wagar, Class of 2011*

**Throughout high school** I have had two passions, choir and woodworking. One day, while in wood shop, my teacher, Mr. Stewart announced that he was looking for volunteers to help restore the piano in the choir room. There was no way I could resist, so I jumped at the opportunity and on the last day of school, after all of the students had left, we started in. Mr. Brask, the choir teacher, Mr. Weaver, a local carpenter and our mentor for this project, Sam Lidgard, (a fellow student also doing this as a project) and I disassembled, stripped, stained, and refinished the piano. We also repainted the harp, and fixed many pieces of the piano. A week before school started we were in the choir room for one last time, reassembling the piano. It was later rebuilt and rededicated to the public.

For me there could be no better match for my senior project. I had wanted an advanced task, something hands on, something that would leave a lasting mark and improve the school that I loved. I got all of that and the added bonus of getting to combine my two passions, choir and woodworking, as well as a once in a lifetime chance to help restore an 80 year old piano. I felt so very honored. It is not everyday a high school student, or anyone, gets to restore such an old and grand piano, let alone do it for a cause they loved dearly. It looks and sounds so much better, the tones, so much richer and deeper. In the end, I hope that this piano will help many future students to love choir, singing, and performing as much as it has for me.

**Tired of paying yearly dues? Become a Life Member!  
See back page for details!**

## Show Your Cub Pride!

*By Judy Johnson, Class of '71*

Have you shown your Cub Pride lately? Wear it!

**There are several businesses** in Sedro-Woolley who are happy to help you wear your Cubs or Sedro-Woolley pride with custom or pre-printed wearables. Having a class reunion? Or family reunion? Benchmark birthday? You can find great shirts and other items from these vendors. No need to limit yourself to the traditional t-shirt or sweatshirt, unless you want to. There are hundreds of options from custom printers/embroiderers. If you call ahead, your order can be shipped to you or be ready when you come to town! Imagine how great you and your classmates will look at the All Class Picnic with Sedro-Woolley wear!

For more information call Lola Ellestad at 1-360-424-7243 or, email her at [swhsaa@wavecable.com](mailto:swhsaa@wavecable.com).



**Barbara Ward Thompson**, Class of '43, pictured at SWHSAA All-Class picnic, July 10,

## Picnic Chair Thompson Helped Found SWHSAA

**Barbara Ward Thompson**, '43, has been active with SWHSAA from its beginning at the first organizational meeting in October, 1994. She was first appointed to the board in 1999, along with Verna McClure as replacements for the resigning Kathleen Nicholson Earnest and Austin Fair.

After planning for a year, the first Annual All Alumni Picnic was held during the summer of 1998 as a brown bag affair. About 150 alumni and spouses attended. Positive feedback from the attendees was that everyone had had a good time and hoped it would continue. Interestingly, Vern Sims '43, provided the huge tents for that first picnic, and has been doing so every year since!

The spotty SWHSAA history does not tell us when the picnic, which HAS CONTINUED, changed from a brown bag affair to a catered affair, but it was roughly five years. It does tell us that attendance has continued to grow each year to where 500 - 600 people attend now. Chairmanship has been shared, with Bonna Beitler serving for the first few catered years, and Barbara taking over for the last three, hoping the appointment will not become lifetime! She will welcome you again July 9 for the 2011 (now) All Class Reunion & Picnic.

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## **Board of Directors 2011**

**Shirley Arthur, '42**

**Bonna Harrison Beitler, '59**

**Doreen Utley Brown, '42**

**Joanna Randall Bruno, '66**

**Lola Wood Ellestad, '42**

**Eugene W. Johnson, '42**

**George H. "Bud" Jones, 39**

**Margo Rhodes Sorensen, '62**

**Barbara Ward Thompson, '43**

## **Officers 2011**

**President: Patricia Hyatt, '52**

**Vice President: Unfilled**

**Secretary, Lola Ellestad, '42**

**Treasurer, Eric Stendal, '67**

**Asst. Sec., Tammy Olson, '78**

**Asst. Treas., Bonna Beitler, '59**

## **Finance Committee**

**Chair, Gene Johnson, '42**

## **Picnic Committee**

**Chair, Barbara Thompson, '43**

## **Scholarship Committee**

**Chair, Joanna Bruno, '66**

## **Archives Committee**

**Chair, Barbara Thompson, '43**

## **Ways & Means**

**Chair, Doreen Brown, '42**

## **Newsletter**

**Chair, Joanna Bruno '66**

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## **Class of '61 Plans summer Reunion**

*By John Keene Class of '61*

**The Class of 1961** is having its 50th class reunion! We hope to see all of you for a great series of events. The fun will begin on July 3, and continue on July 4. We will gather again the following Saturday, July 9, at the All-School picnic and reunion party at Riverfront Park. This is going to be a grand event with many of your friends attending. For more information please **contact: John Keene** at [jhkeene1@msn.com](mailto:jhkeene1@msn.com), or phone him at 206-669-0793. We look forward to seeing you!

## **Class of '71 Plans 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

**The Class of 1971 is planning a BIG party** for our 40-year reunion! Everyone is counting down to July 9, 2011. We're planning to meet at the Alumni Association's All-Class Picnic during the day, and adjourn to JB and Sue Bryson's for our class event starting about 5:00 p.m. Our chief chef for the evening is Gary Rothenbuhler! Plus, there will be some user-contributed content. \$15 reserves your spot at the dinner. Contact Judy Johnson at [judyjj@comcast.net](mailto:judyjj@comcast.net) or Nancy Handy Scott at [wacmill@gmail.com](mailto:wacmill@gmail.com). There are monthly e-mails with news about our reunion – be sure to get on the distribution list! We're looking forward to seeing you!! Check our web site for updates and details! [www.swhsclassof71.blogspot.com](http://www.swhsclassof71.blogspot.com)

## **Class of '66 Planning 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion?**

**The Class of '66** will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> reunion this summer. Tentative plans include gathering at the SWHSAA All Class picnic, scheduled for July 9 at Riverfront Park in Sedro-Woolley. Anyone with more information about the reunion for the Class of '66, please call Joanna Bruno, 360-755-9872, or email me at [JoannaEwe@yahoo.com](mailto:JoannaEwe@yahoo.com).

## **Harvest Sale Raised Funds for Scholarships**

**The Harvest sale** held last November at the Sedro-Woolley Sr. Center was a success for SWHSAA. Two tables were rented, and a host of usable things, pre-priced, were donated. Committee Chair Doreen Brown was helped by Alumni Assn. members Shirley Arthur, Bud Jones, and Margo Sorenson. All proceeds went to the Scholarship Fund.

## **Final SWHSAA Membership Totals for 2010:**

Annual level members	501
Life level members	120
Total members	621

## **Membership totals for 2011 up thru April 1, 2011:**

Annual level members	303
Life level members	127
Total members	430

**Class of '52** has the most members: 26; **Class of '56** is next with 23 members; **Classes of '48 and '50** each have 21 members; **Class of '67** has 20 members.

***Please fill out all forms you are sending in as completely as possible.  
Our bookkeeper will thank you!***

**RESERVATION FORM FOR  
SWHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS PICNIC  
JULY 9, 2011—SEDRO-WOOLLEY RIVERFRONT PARK**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK AMOUNT (\$15.00 per person): \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE OF CHICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_ HAMBURGER (with condiments): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SWHSAA and mail in enclosed envelope. Registration deadline is 7/1/2011. If reserving under more than one name, please specify. You **MUST** pre-register and pay in advance to join in the catered lunch, provided by *Joy's SW Bakery*.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

**Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association Membership/Donation Form**

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Maiden Nickname

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City/State Zip

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Maiden

Annual Membership Dues, \$10: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paying for years: \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership, \$100: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Lifetime membership card will be sent to you)

Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Maiden

Name of Acknowledgement Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Their mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acknowledgement will not be sent without an address) Street City/State Zip

Total Membership fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Scholarship Fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**The Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association uses membership dues for the operating expenses of the organization. Memorials and Donations go directly to the scholarship program funds. Thank you for your support!!!**

THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 509  
SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284

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OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

**17<sup>TH</sup> Annual Spring Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### IT'S A BLOG!

**SWHSAA has a blog!** Check it out to find great photos and the latest news on the Alumni Assn. doings. The site is updated regularly, so check back to see what's new. Here's the link: <http://swhsalumni.blogspot.com/>. Be sure and submit your email address to [SWHSAA@wavecable.com](mailto:SWHSAA@wavecable.com), so you will get all the latest news and an email copy of future newsletters. We hope to deliver most of the newsletters by email to save postage and keep dues at the current \$10 value!

### Membership Dues

**Membership dues in SWHS** Alumni Association continue to be \$10 per person. These dues pay the general expenses of the Association. Additional donations may be earmarked for the scholarship fund. Memorials are always welcome, and will also be added to the Scholarship fund. If sending a memorial, please include the name of the person to be remembered, as well as an address for the person's family, so an acknowledgement letter may be sent to them. For more information, **Please call Bonna, 360-855-0030.**

### ***Lifetime memberships:***

**SWHSAA is offering a special lifetime membership for the amazingly low price of \$100 per person.** SWHSAA members do NOT have to be graduates of SWHS. We welcome anyone wishing to support continuing education. Our vocational scholarships benefit graduates of SWHS. This year we awarded Eight Scholarships! See inside for more on the winners.

