

WOSA-100

Our First Century

The first WOSA meeting was held at Woodstock School in 1911. We marked the centenary with celebrations in Delhi and on the hillside during October 19th - 23rd. Here's a flavour of what happened, drawn mainly from Anne Lind's (S) blog. Anne played a large part in the organization of the event, and we're glad she enjoyed it! You can see many more of her photographs at <http://anne-india.blogspot.com>.

Wednesday 19th – early arrivals plus Delhi alumni were treated to a Bollywood dance and dinner evening, courtesy of Sumana Bhasin '85.

Thursday afternoon was coming up day for most of those who were attending, and registration was set up at the Woodstock gate from 2:00, with a welcome banner and photos of everyone as they arrived. Meanwhile, the Quad was being prepared with golden streamers overhead and the class flags hung from the balconies. It was breezy most of the time, so the fluttering gold was very attractive.

Following registration, everyone gathered in the Quad for the Welcome Dinner hosted by Principal Eleanor Nicholson. The current Woodstock staff were invited to come and interact with the alumni visitors. It was very festive, if a bit chilly. Pandit Ajit Singh performed on the Vichitra Veena, and we were treated to a 15-minute sneak preview of the Fall school musical, "Brigadoon," two weeks away from its opening in Parker Hall. Lillian Skinner Singh, class of 1939, cut the 100-year cake.

Friday morning we had an all-school assembly in the gym. The school took this opportunity to honour long-serving staff, and two young teachers from the music department, Bethany and Abe Okie, performed a set of updated variations on "Shadows", which reached a climax when Principal Eleanor Nicholson

was pressed into duty as Lady Gaga. After the assembly was over, our volunteers took the visiting alumni for tours of the school. One group went to the dorms on the lower level, but others did not. We headed out Tehri Road to the Hanifl Centre for lunch. Even the older ones made it very well. (It's about a kilometer and slightly uphill.) It was pleasant to sit around the grounds at Hanifl eating our box lunches.

After lunch, Friday got even busier. The Mela was held in the Quad from 3:00 to 6:00. Vendor stalls ranged from food to handicrafts to books. Following the Mela, the advanced student recital was held in Parker Hall. Many students and visitors attended the recital, and they still had time to get down to Hostel for the Pool Party and dinner. The dinner had stalls serving many Indian food items, made fresh right in front of us. Yum!

Saturday was a mostly open day. Some went to Wynberg Allen for the inter-school sports, others to the bazaar. In the evening a dinner was held at Rokeby Highlands at the top of the hill, hosted by Sanjay Narang '81. It was quite chilly, but there were several fires at which we could warm ourselves. There was a lot of dancing, eating, and visiting.

Sunday we had a service in Parker Hall. Eleanor Nicholson and Amitavo Roy (S) played a violin duet for the prelude and postlude. Four alumni gave short reflections on how Woodstock influenced their lives. Other alumni and former or long-term staff read the scriptures and led the prayers.

Following the service, we headed to Hanson Field for the alumni cricket match. For those of you who haven't been here, it is below even the lower dorms. We had a box lunch. The entire class of 1981 came, with

some of their members joining in. There were two sides, led by Tom Alter and Brij Lal, who were probably the ones who first brought cricket to Woodstock in the 1960s. Everyone who played seemed to have a great time. And in the end the two sides were tied (after 20 overs each).

It was a full and tiring weekend, but a worthwhile and memorable way to mark the passing of 100 years of WOSA. Here's to the next 100!





Gatherings

Class reunions

Class of 49

Mobile, AL - OCT 24-29, 2011

Attendees: Paul and Becky von Tucher, Nedra Bloom (Becky's sister and co planner) and Don and daughter Catherine, Helen (Banker) and Ivan Syswerda, Harvella (Bauman) Stutzman and daughter Sue Gillis, Betty (Bauman) Shelly, Bill and Norma Parson, Anna Mae (Whitcomb) Lennington, Diana (Bond) Holtshouser, Reed Hunt and Joyce Moulton, Bob and Eva Forsgren, Fred and Mary Downs, Joe and Joan Chacko, Al (48) and Kathy Bauman, Harold and Maxine Wilkinson. Bob

and Norma Jean Erny were unable to come when Bob became ill.

Our schedule included visits to the Fort Conde Welcome Center, Conde-Charlotte House Museum, Mobile City Museum, Tour of Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium, Bellingrath Gardens and Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain, Fairhope, AL on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, and Gulf Shores beach.

On Thursday night we enjoyed an Indian Khanna cooked by Joe Chacko and friends,

followed by a class meeting and a documentary video presented by Hal Wilkinson about his mother's father traveling to the Arctic as a missionary. Hal's mother was born in the Yukon.

On Friday we toured the Oakleigh antebellum mansion and historic complex. Each evening we gathered at a local restaurant for dinner and visiting.

Harvella (Bauman) Stutzman

Class of 51 – 60 years



Class of 51: Judy Landry, James Loehlin, Carolyn Smith (F), U Kyaw Win, Warren Hall Crain, Pronoti Sinha, Ashoke Chatterjee, Charlene Chitamber Connell, John Morgan

The Class of '51 was pleased to have mustered a mighty contingent of fifteen people (all of whom were somehow related to our class or to one of our classmates, and several of whom were actually proud members of the Class of 51). We participated fully, though not in full strength, at every one of the events of WOSA 100. Be it noted that in our day we were constrained to move

between Hostel/College/Ridgewood daily with a weekly trek up as far as Kellogg Church for Sunday worship and occasional trips down to Hansen Field. This past month we found events as far flung as the Hanifl (I still can neither spell nor pronounce that!) and some maidan even above Rokeby. None of us however made it as far as Wynberg Allen this time, though of course we were

well represented there back in our days at the Mussoorie Olympics. In those days of the late forties we moved up and down like village goats. These days some of us move somewhat more slowly.

Let one picture suffice to point to our presence in the event which was the capstone of the reunion for us – the School Assembly. The picture shows several members of the class, each a Veri Important Person (please note the spelling of the first word to indicate that we are "Truly" important persons).

Some of us have pointed to this reunion as our last visit to Woodstock. I would surely not include Ashoke in that, and almost certainly I will myself be back. I doubt, however, that we will have such a strong contingent should we schedule a seventy year or seventy-five year reunion. We will certainly, however, continue to support and boost Voodistock Iskool in whatever way is appropriate for each of us. And we will hope, though "Hullo" is not around to modify the lyrics, that one day we will sing of "Woodstock, known over all the world!" "Hand" rhymes well with "Land". What rhymes well with "world"? Perhaps: "Woodstock, proudly our flag unfurled!"

Warren Hall Crain

Class of 65 – 45 years

“Pray for the people of Afghanistan. Pray for the men who murdered my husband,” she said in a quiet but firm voice as she handed out toy Afghani camels to the assembled members of the Woodstock class of 1965 gathered around the table.

Speaking was Seija Terry, widow of Dan Terry, our beloved classmate who, along with nine other aid workers, had recently given his all in the service of his Lord. Listening in respectful silence were all 15 of us (plus kids and spouses) who could afford the time and cost of a trip last November to Woodstock to celebrate Dan’s life and wax nostalgic once again as we walked the covered passageway, stood in the Quadrangle, chatted with Mrs. Kapadia, and posed under the Lyre Tree.

Thank you especially to all the wonderful faculty and staff at Woodstock, who rolled out the red carpet for the Class of 65. Heck, the last time I was a visitor at the principal’s residence, it was to work off a straight gating; and now I’m sipping chai, munching pakoras, downing gulab jamuns, and shaking hands with the good man himself.

In addition to the memorial service for Dan, we were also privileged to attend an all-school assembly, honoring classmate Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, for his marvelous work as an

anthropologist in the Himalayas. (You can find him on the web.)

Of course, we reserved one day for sightseeing. My group decided to make the long trek to Surkunda, you remember, out Tehri Road past first and second Jabarkhet, Bears’ Hill, the Gap, Suakoli, Dhanaulti, and then that last killer mile straight uphill to the temple at the top—exit taxi—and catch a breathtaking view of the snows.

That night we sat around the campfire at the Himalayan Castle and sang the mandatory Woodstock songs while Jonathan Larson played his guitar. After a while we broke into a spirited rendition of “Jana, Gana, Mana,” and with us we soon had several other hotel residents clapping hands and singing India’s national anthem in an unforgettable scene of spontaneous patriotism.

All too soon it was time to catch the bus down to Dehra and the Shatabdi Express back to Delhi, for some to return home, for some to visit family, for others to tour the Plains and the places of their childhood, and for others to catch a flight to Kathmandu as guests of Gabriel and his wife.

A side trip to Chitwan National Park, complete with a ride on elephant back to spot chital, sambhar, peafowl, and rhinos lurking in the bushes—ask Jonathan—proved the highlight of the Nepal experience, especially the drive

back up over the mountains on roads that people in their right minds—other than Dan Terry—would never dream of navigating with something other than a helicopter.

A Thanksgiving dinner at the Campbell residence provided the final exclamation point on a trip filled with them. Here we were in Kathmandu, Woodstock grads (with a sprinkling of spouses and kids thrown in) raised in India, munching down Butterball turkey, cranberries, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie in a colonial rose garden and giving thanks in the best American tradition.

I must admit that it took me a while to get acclimated to life back in the U.S.—the congestion in my lungs lingered for a month or two and the “Delhi belly” a tad longer—but, seriously, the memories are worth your time if your class ever decides to have a reunion at Woodstock.

A smaller group of the Class of 65 met this summer at Ft. Collins-WOSA and helped to lead with song and story a gathering to recall the work and vision of Daniel Terry. They were joined by Dan’s sister Ruth and his daughters Anneli ’99 and Saara ’02, who assembled a photo essay on Dan’s life. A plan is under discussion to launch an annual event at Woodstock that would foster the values and practice of peacemaking that marked Dan’s life.

by Marv Modder, for the class of ‘65



Class of '65 at Woodstock School I-r front row: Cathy Forman, Mary Kay (Burkhalter) Larson, Dale Brown, Hilary (Roxburgh) McKenzie, J. Gabriel Campbell, Karen (McCray) Modder-Border, Jessie Lacy back row: John Alter, Jonathan Larson, Derek Bean, Joanna (Gough) Roy, Delbert Friesen, Marvin Modder, Greg Hartman, Daniel Blosser not pictured Anju (Dayal) Mathur

Class of 71 – 40 years

The 40th reunion of the Class of 71 was held in Flagstaff AZ over the weekend of July 15-17. ANITA JOHNS HOWARD had graciously offered to host. Little did she realize what she was getting herself into! Although the reunion officially started on Friday, by Thursday evening there was quite a crowd. Numerous pots of chai were made and drunk as we reconnected with classmates, renewed friendships and just continued from where we left off 40+ years ago. Friday we gathered back at Anita's house to welcome those arriving that day. Some classmates took the opportunity to do some sightseeing – the Grand Canyon and Sedona both being within easy driving distance of Flagstaff.

For dinner Anita cooked us an amazing Mexican buffet with Hibiscus Margaritas. We sat over dinner talking until the full moon rose over the valley, and it was chilly enough to move to the fire pit. MIKE SINGH has just finished a documentary, *Valentino's Ghost*, about the West's conception and misconceptions of Arabs, and he had brought a copy of it with him. The film was shown and it proved to be a provoking film prompting some great discussions.

Saturday was more of the same: sight-seeing, hanging out, drinking chai and of course the endless talking, laughing and even some crying. Mike was interested in hearing about our experiences as third culture kids and spent his time interviewing and videotaping classmates and spouses. It made for some interesting and emotional discussions. That evening Anita had arranged Hindustani khanna for us. But prior to that, we had namkeen and pakoras, prepared by Iris, Judy, Tejal and Roopa. The khanna was delicious. There were close to 40 people at dinner so it was held in the community hall at the firehouse where Anita's husband, Don, is the Fire Chief! After dinner we had the mandatory singing of Shadows and the sharing of slides. The plans for our next reunion were revealed - India in 2014, details to be disclosed at a later date. Iris Hunter, Bruce Ferguson and Rahul Amin are the planning committee.

After cleaning up the firehouse (many hands made light work) we returned to Anita's house for more chai, talk, and a second showing of Mike's documentary. Some of us stayed up until the wee hours talking around the firepit. It was a special evening.

Sunday, amid cups of chai, promises to keep in touch and chants of Vadodara in 2014, the group began to break up. By mid-afternoon there were eight classmates and five spouses remaining. It was decided that we should go visit a park which had lava flows from an extinct volcano and some old Native American ruins. The vistas were beautiful and the talk continued to be invigorating, even though we were all exhausted.

On Monday the rest of us left and I am sure that Anita was glad to have her house back. We missed all of you who weren't able to make it and hope that all of you will be in India for our 43rd Reunion!!

The list of attendees included: Rahul Amin, Bob Conrad, Smruti Bhagat Dale, John Davis, Bruce Ferguson, Gary Gamble, Gary Geisbrecht, Cheryl Groff, Anita Johns Howard, Iris Hunter, Mohan Gupta Kejriwal, Anne Marriott, Michael Midkiff, Bharat Patel, Gary Peterson, Monroe Sawatzky, Victor Schoonmaker, Bill Scott, Martha Brown Sill, Judy King Sims, Mike Singh, and many spouses and partners.

Judy



Class of '71 in Arizona L to R: Gary Giesbrecht, Gary Gamble, Judy Sims, Michael Singh, Bruce Ferguson, Anne Marriot, Smruty Bhagat, Bill Scott, Monroe Sawatzky, Anita Howard, Iris Hunter, Bharat Patel, Cheryl Groff Hess, Martha Brown Sill, John Davis, Rahul Amin, Mahendra Mohan Gupta, Mohan Gupta Kejriwal, Michael Midkiff, Victor Schoonmaker and Gary Peterson.

Class of 76 – 35 years

We had a wonderful class reunion near Minneapolis this summer. Those who came were: SHARON GETTER (who is still teaching in Lhasa), MARK and JENNIE NANAKUL SOMERS (MI), CHERI (McKinley) and Gary MARSHALL (KY), JEFF and SUE SWAIN ROLLINS (at WS), DEAN JOHNS BERNARD (MA), with daughter Asha, MARY FEIERABEND GERARD (WI), NANCY SACKMAN (SC), with son, Josh, ANDREA STUTZ MITCHELL (VA), JOY GARRISON SIMPSON (ON), and JAN PLUMMER and Tony DAVIDSON, who organized this for us. We obviously have adjusted to technology since WS - half of us pulled out our laptops to share our pictures and view our missing classmates on Facebook. We had a wonderful weekend together, talking, eating, going on walks and going on a boat tour to see the eagles. It was fun to talk with TULIKA on the phone in Calcutta. We hope to do this again in about 5 years, but small get-togethers will always take place between now and then.

Joy



Class of 76 reunion w/ WS friends: L-R Back row: Mark Somers, Mary Feierabend Girard, Jan Plummer Davidson, Sharon Getter, Joy Garrison Simpson, Jeff Rollins, Carol Remington Ivance '78 2nd row: Ronda Getter Ren '73, Cherie McKinley Marshall, Jennie Nanakul Somers, Andrea Mitchell, Nancy Sackman, Josh Sackman, Sue Swain Rollins '77, Cheryl Lindquist Higgins '75 In front kneeling: Dean Johns Bernard with his daughter Astha, Debbie Getter Thoe '75, Robin Thoe '07

Class of 81 – 30 years

It so happened that the 100th anniversary of WOSA coincided with the 30th anniversary of our class' graduation from Woodstock. Thanks to the generous contributions of room, board and local transportation from Sanjay Narang - and the tons of organizational work from himself, Nabil Sheber, Pinder Bhagra, and staffers Sharon Machado and Vanessa Pretto (both by now part of the '81 family) - about 23 classmates, plus 20 of their family members, were able to attend. Financial contributions from other classmates helped pave the way for a few who would not otherwise have been able to join us - huge thanks to the donors for that!

The very full schedule started, for some, on Tuesday the 18th in Delhi, where Sara Ahmed gave a dinner at her house for classmates and Delhi-based alumni. On the 19th many met at the WOSA Gala in Delhi (which someone else will have to report on - jet lag and Delhi Belly prevented me from attending). The 20th saw most of us wending our way to Landour

via plane, train, and automobile. We were accommodated at Rokeby (now, under Sanjay's ownership, a beautiful and very comfortable hotel), in the guest rooms at Oakville (thanks, Steve and Ameeta!), and at Sanjay's and Pinder's homes.

That evening we all met in the Quad for the WOSA dinner, a great occasion to chat with many old friends and former and current staff members. It was great to see George Ruddock back for a semester, teaching some of our kids who are now at WS! Then we went up to Sanjay's beautiful home at Bothwell Bank to talk on the deck by a fire and dance the night away to that old folks' music we enjoy. :-)

The next morning we were served an excellent breakfast at Rokeby (including peanut butter for our toast or pancakes, of course!), then headed for the fancy new gym for assembly with the current students and staff. Those who wished toured the campus, and some were even interviewed by the journalism class. That

afternoon there was a Mela in the Quad (what we used to think of as June Sale - the school held it late this year for the benefit of visiting alumni), followed by a dinner and dance given by Sanjay at the newly-revamped Hostel. The excellent catering was done by Omi (of Omi's sweet shop fame), with a long row of stands offering everything from chaat to dosas to barfi to mocha coffee. This was the first Woodstock dinner I have ever attended where it wasn't necessary to wait in line to get fed.

The dance in Hostel gym was carried on ear-splittingly by a DJ flown in from Bombay. And it wasn't even necessary to walk up the hill afterwards - cars were standing by on Ridgewood Field to take us home.

Saturday morning we all met for a catered breakfast at Mt. Hermon. The day was mostly free. I should mention that we spent the various free times hanging out in Pinder's garden (as manager of Rokeby, he and his family live in a charming "log cabin" on the property) and

at Tenzing's home Shanti - with several new rooms added on, it was able to accommodate a number of classmates and other alumni. Saturday evening Sanjay threw a Diwali party for WOSA and staff at the "Highlands" overlooking Rokeby - a party area complete with hot tubs. There was great food, danceable music provided by a duo from Bombay and a band of Woodstock staff (including Darab), fireworks, and even a belly dance exhibition by an alumna.

The emotional highlight of the evening was when the class gathered closely around Jeet (he couldn't get any of the band's amps working with his guitar) to hear a song he had composed for the occasion: "Thirty Years On": My sisters and my brothers when will

we discover Why we have to come back to this place That loves us like a mother, teaches us like a father Years that we've been gone and still we do belong here just the same... which left us all bawling. I hope he'll make a recording available soon.

Though Jeet wasn't expecting such a big crowd, of course it touches all of us, not just the class of '81.

Sunday those who wished had their choice of church services to attend, followed by brunch at Rokeby. Then we piled into cars to drive down to Hanson Field for a cricket game with captains Brij Lal and Tom Alter. Men who had not played in decades bravely took the field, eventually battling to a tie. Many of us

had never actually sat through a cricket game before, and enjoyed it (along with the snarky commentary from the stands). There were two more days of activities in and around Mussoorie, but I left on the Monday to see some other parts of India with my traveling companion.

Thanks are also due to the alumni office and everyone else at Woodstock for all the hard work that went into making this a memorable visit. It was great to see everyone, both classmates and others. My only regret, as usual, is that there is never enough time to talk with everybody!

Deirdre

Class of 86 – 25 years

The Class of 86 had our 25th reunion in Edison, over the July 4 weekend. It was graciously hosted by ANSHU AGGARWAL at his home. Lots of fun for everyone – some of us were meeting after 25 yrs and it was wonderful catching up. Having the spouses and kids there added to the fun. Members from surrounding classes were also invited.

In attendance were Anshu and wife, Rashi, children Om and Maya, FAISAL KHAN, BOBBY SINGH, MURCHANA MOHAPATRA SATPATHY, JUNAID ALIM and wife, Tabassum, MANOJ BHASIN, JOSH SHERER, SIM KIM KELLNER, ANJALI TANDON RUSSANO with husband, Pete, and VIJAY GOYAL and wife Ritu, chil-

dren Zoya and Abhimanyu. CHRIS HALE dropped by for a short while.

Also present were MANOJ AGGARWAL '87, TARUN CHACHRA '87 and wife Neema, children Diya and Krish, PAWAN AGARWAL '88 and wife, Divya, children Jagat and Mira, and ANIL TECKWANI '89 - his brother, NARESH, '84 dropped by. VIJAY KANCHI '87 was able to join us for drinks on the first night, along with KOKIL CHACHRA '00, Tarun's cousin.

On that first evening, everyone enjoyed Indian-Chinese cuisine at a local restaurant, followed by a raucous night at a local watering hole. The following morning Faisal took Junaid and Tabassum on a whirlwind tour of

Manhattan and picked up MANDHIR SAWHNEY on the way back for a party at Anshu's house that night. On Sunday, Murchana laid out a fantastic brunch at her home - it was raining hard, reminding us of the monsoons in Mussoorie. Anjali's '86 yearbook provided many laughs, and wonderful memories as well. Although the world has shrunk and we are in constant touch via facebook and email, it was truly fantastic to see the familiar faces and growing families and to reconnect. Everyone had lots of news about various schoolfriends and the varying and interesting life experiences they have had, and there are rumors afoot that another reunion in another five years is already being planned!

Faisal

Class of 01 – 10 years

For the Class of 2001, coming back to Woodstock was like coming back after a short holiday. The only exception is that everything has changed. (Which was very devastating). Our dorm rooms had become hallways and toilets, our old nooks and crannies, open spaces. The non-electric, non-wifi, non-cushy comforts that made us independent, strong-willed, capable human beings - gone. Don't get us wrong: I'm sure the kids of Woodstock today aren't complaining, but as Daniel said to one dorm parent: "but we used to have to shower together, there were no cubicles!" These were the things that made Woodstock what it was... and as we huff and puff to Chardukhan to stuff our faces with Bun Omelettes and Wai Wai with Cheese, complaining of how old and unfit we are... we remember so much and Thank you Woodstock and the people who made us who we are.



Other gatherings

WOSA-NA Reunion Conference 2011

More than 130 WOSA members gathered in Fort Collins, Colorado, for the 25th North American reunion. The program was especially rich, with a plenary keynote address by Ved Nanda, Professor of International Law at Denver University. Workshop sessions were given by NGOs working in many parts of the world. Memories of Dan Terry '65 were shared in one session by his friends and family. The Sunday evening concluding program was given by Philip Lutgendorf, former WS staff member, who is writing a book, *Chai, Why?*

The Sunday celebration was led by Jerry Weaver '59, with the assistance of Vance George (S) leading the choir and piano by Robert Bonham '59. Attendees were generous in giving an offering for the education of WS employees' children.

Willie Knierim '59 led the local committee, all of whom spent long hours making sure that everything went like clockwork.

During the business meeting on Friday evening the membership approved the merger of WOSA-North America with Friends of Woodstock (FWS). The new configuration will help clarify the tax-exempt status of WOSA-NA, and at the same time connect FWS more closely to the alumni community.

Max Marble '67 put together a video of the reunion that can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OefeLYD2pY>

Many photos are available at: <https://picasa-web.google.com/117237456728956801777/WOSA2011>

This photo of the Sunday morning choir was taken by David and Cookie Wiebe (S).



Worldwide Woodstock Day

China



Mussoorie



The Netherlands



London



Dubai



Chicago



Goshen, IN



Iowa



Knoxville, TN



Madison, WI



Madison, WI



Michigan



Meadowood Farm



Philadelphia



Salt Lake City



St. Paul, MN



St. Paul, MN



Sunnyville, CA



Southern California



Toronto



Toronto



Toronto



Wooster, OH



WOSA-NA / Friends of Woodstock REUNION CONFERENCE 2012

Seattle Pacific University

Seattle, Washington

July 20 – 23, 2012

*Important
DATE!*

Save the dates and plan a vacation around the reunion.

Details and registration at our website as available.

WWW.WOSANA.ORG