



100 Years ... And Counting  
Lake Worth High School

# Alumni News

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Volume 26, No. 2

Fall 2024

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## There's nothing like a class reunion

By Ann Carter  
Foundation President

One of the best parts of being president is attending class reunions. I've found the classes -- from 1965 to 2014 -- to have lots in common. They fondly remember their high school years and many have kept in touch for decades. Some of the students have hardly changed in appearance and outlook, while others are nothing

like their teen-aged selves. The music and attitudes are different, but many feel a responsibility to help the next generation. The class of 2004 awarded three scholarships this spring, while the class of 1979 generously gave \$1,250 to Dollars for Scholars, especially impressive as Hurricane Milton affected their attendance. Both great examples of paying it forward.



Photo/Leonard Bryant

Your president with color guard of Trojan Sound marching band at reunion of class of 1979.

## Awards Day 2024



Former Foundation President Carol Webster leans over to hug Student Representative Yadira Caceres, who broke her leg skating a few days before graduation. Dollars for Scholars President Lady Hereford and LWHS Principal Elena Villani watch as Yadira receives the Lake Worth Kiwanis Club scholarship. More pictures from Awards Day and Graduation on page 3. Complete list of scholarship recipients on page 8.

## On the calendar

**Tuesday, Dec. 3, 7-9 a.m.** at Farmer Girl restaurant, 1732 N. Dixie Highway, Lake Worth. This is a return to a longtime tradition of a monthly get-together before some of us go to our jobs. We're setting this up for the first Tuesday of each month. All class years are welcome to join us for good food, great service. Call Alumni Foundation President Ann Carter, 954-471-5758 for information or to RSVP so we save a seat for you. **Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, 1-5 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. We've just

begun to plan an event along the lines of the popular spaghetti dinners. Food, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, yearbooks for sale, memorabilia on display, maybe a tour of the school.

Keep an eye on the Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation group for updates and new events.

**Photo credits: Unless otherwise noted, photos were taken by board member Rick Harlowe or President Ann Carter.**

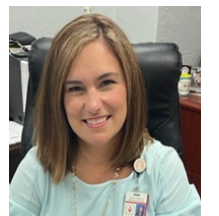
## Principal's message

# Academics, athletics are pride points

By Elena Villani

As we continue to celebrate the amazing achievements of our Trojans, I'm thrilled to share some recent highlights that make us all proud.

Three of our outstanding students have qualified for the Cross Country Championship, showcasing their hard work and dedication to both academics and athletics. We're



cheering them on as they represent our school at the next level. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage, the Florida Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce honored three of our exceptional students for their academic excellence, and we couldn't be more proud. Additionally, a big congratulations to Mrs. Maria DeLaCruz-Gutierrez, who was named Teacher of the Year for her dedication to inspiring and empowering our youth—an honor well-deserved.

Our School Counseling Department has been recognized as the Large High School Counseling Department of the Year for their **See Principal, Page 8**

## Correction

An article about chef Thomas Keller in the Spring issue incorrectly listed one of his influences, which should have been Paul Bocuse. We regret the error.



The color guard adds sparkle to the band's tunes. Among the alumni attending were Bobbie-Sue Bressmer, Maggie Witherow, Manouchka Lovanice and Erica Hadden.



Announcing the Homecoming Court: The JROTC comes to attention as the attendants, queen and king are announced.

At Alumni Night football game, clockwise from above: Aaron Elias (2021); Maggie Shamo Witherow (1950), left, and Susan Smith Tieche (1973); school police officer Dieubirny Cosmeus (2008); Carla and former Dollars for Scholars President Paul Blockson; Johnny Tieche and Joe Smith, (1963).



Trojan Sound marching band refuses to yield: The award-winning group fills the stadium with music and color.



No joy in Lake Worth: The Trojans fell to the Pahokee Blue Devils, 38-0.

**Alumni Foundation On-Line**

The Alumni News publishes just twice a year, but the news about Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation never stops.

The official Web site is: [LWHSAlumni.org](http://LWHSAlumni.org)

Instagram - @LWHSAlumniFoundation

Facebook: Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation

Email: [LWHSAlumniEvents@gmail.com](mailto:LWHSAlumniEvents@gmail.com)

Address: P.O. Box 15004 \* West Palm Beach, FL 33416

**ALUMNI FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FEES**

DUE JAN. 1 EACH YEAR

Single: \$30 Couples: \$50 Business: \$150 Lifetime: \$250\*

Please mail your payment with application to:

Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation

P.O. BOX 15004 \* WEST PALM BEACH FL 33416-5004

Paying your dues ensures you'll receive the newsletter.

\*Lifetime Membership/One Time Fee



# These moments to remember

Few things are as gratifying as seeing hard work come to fruition. That especially goes for high school seniors on Graduation Day. It's also a proud day for board members of the Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation/Dollars for Scholars. The board's work starts with its stewardship of money donated and raised to fund awards to

deserving students. This year the board was thrilled to present \$101,000 to 50 LWCHS seniors (plus students from two other schools through Dollars for Scholars), bringing the total amount awarded in the past quarter-century: more than \$1.7 million. Scholarship applications are reviewed by the scholarship committee, considering the students'



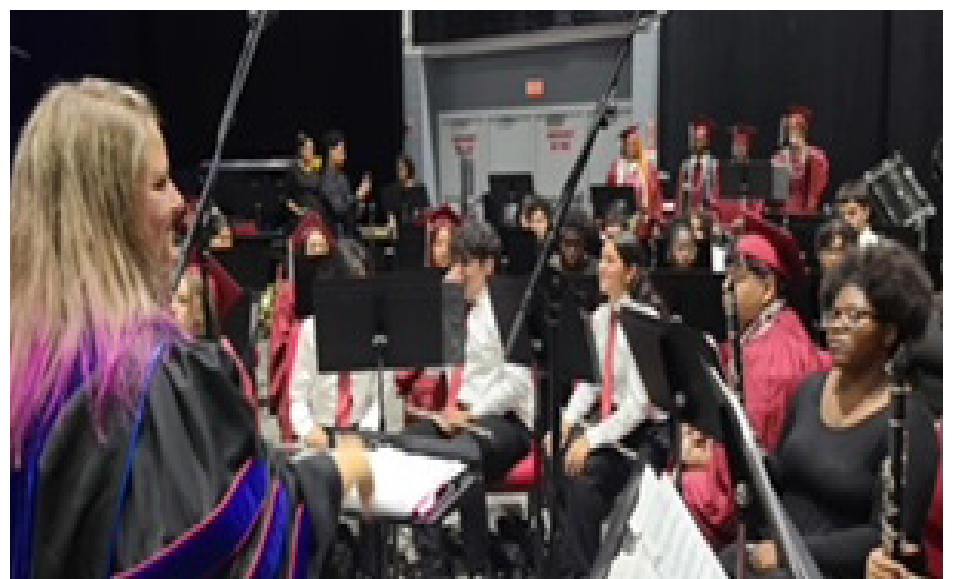
Awards Day is almost as big a deal as Graduation. Above, some of the more than 50 recipients of scholarships through the Alumni Foundation/Dollars for Scholars. Left photo, Dr. Annette Grimes Gilbert, left, Awards Co-Chair Doris Welsh, Carol Webster, Lady Hereford and Principal Elena Villani.

grades, activities and financial need. The ceremony of donning cap and gown to march down the aisles, then cross the stage to shake hands

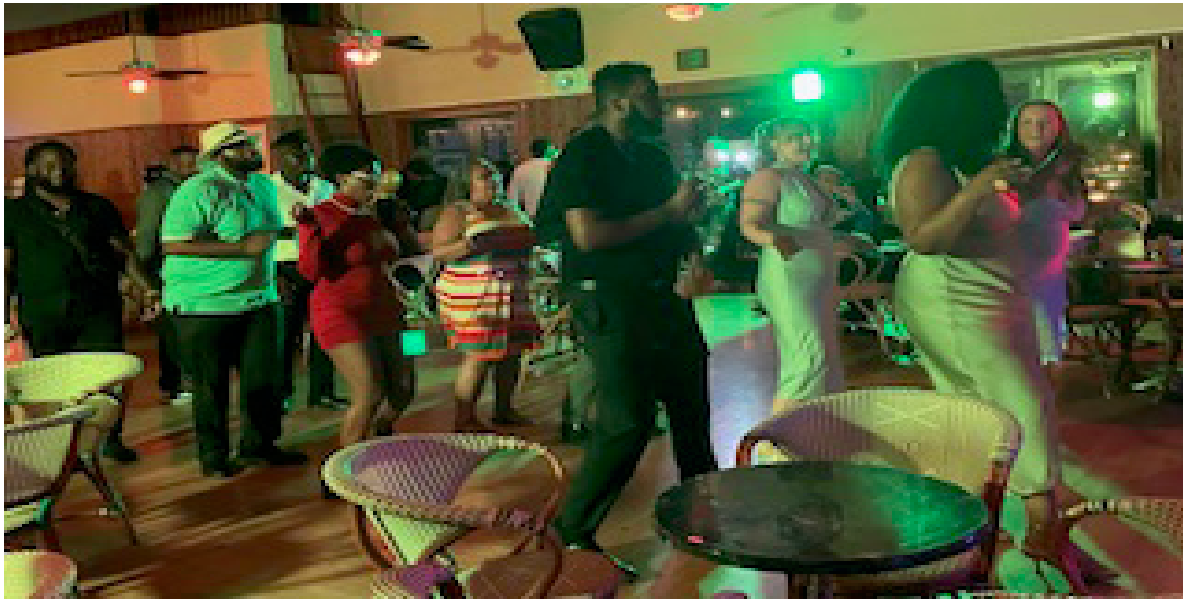
with school officials tops off a week of events to fill seniors' memory banks. Congratulations, class of 2024. -- Ann Carter



Above, Principal Elena Villani and Schools Superintendent Michael J. Burke lead the class of 2024 down the aisle at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Top right, Dr. Tiffany Cox conducts the Trojan Sound band for the last time. At right, seniors from the band pose with Dr. Cox.



**2014**



**A night to reminisce, make new memories**

The class of 2014 spent the night of June 8, 2024 rockin' and rollin' at the Bamboo Room in downtown Lake Worth. DJ Supernova kept the tunes coming on a hot -- what else? -- night in Lake Worth. The venue also has a history for the city. Once known as Tutus, the second floor space had been the first dance studio for Grace Thomas, the first Miss Lake Worth.

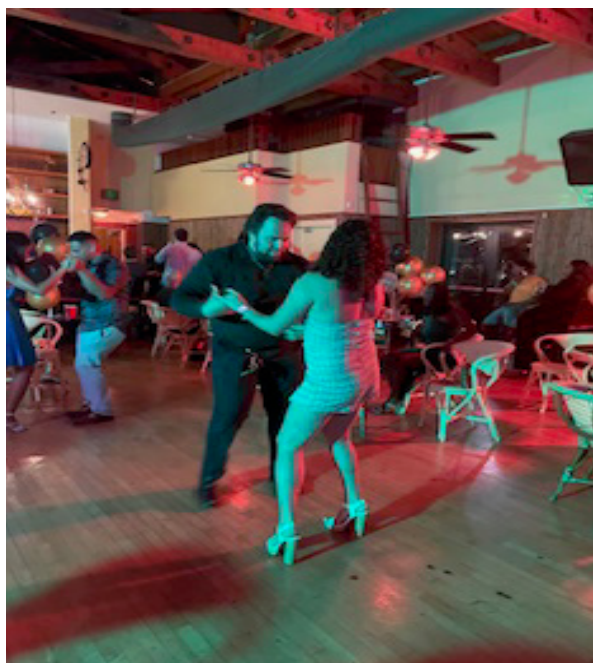
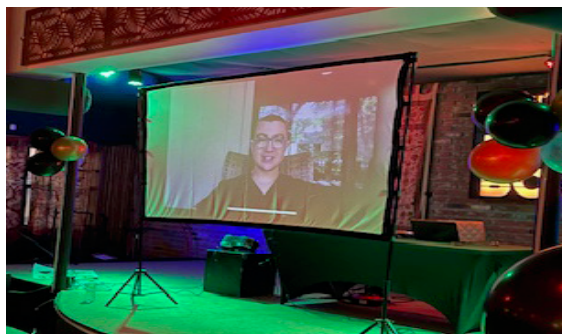
-- Ann Carter

**Top photo: The conga line drew lots of classmates to their feet.**

**At right, top: A couple trips the light fantastic.**

**At right: Jeanie Strait was the driving force to bring the class together.**

**Below: Even those who couldn't be there in person were able to be present. Bottom: The celebration was too big for the room, so part of the crowd gathered on the terrace outside the main room.**



**2004**



**Above: Tahsin Nadib sets out memory backpacks for the class of 2004 in the school's cafeteria on Friday night. At right: Natasha Plunkett, unidentified classmate and Olen Whiteley look through yearbooks, remembering the good old days.**

**'04 like none**

The mercury was high and so were spirits as the Class of 2004 gathered to catch up, reminisce and party like it was 1999.

The festivities kicked off on a July Friday night in the cafeteria on the stompin' grounds. Organizers Ameshia Whitely Cooper, Tahsin Nadib and Willow Louis had backpacks, marble composition books, markers and backpacks for their classmates, as well as snacks that surely stirred memories. A bubble machine, a cornhole set-up and jumbo size connect 4 to occupy children of all ages, while a big whiteboard flashed information on the rest of the weekend. Alumni were also invited to share advice for the next classes.

The evening's highlight was a tour of the school. Because it was after-hours, this class was able to visit lots of classrooms, the auditorium and gym. On Saturday night, the action moved to the Fountains Country Club, where the DJ kept the crowd on its feet for much of the night. It was also nice to see a couple of teachers had been invited. MC Willow Louis changed up the awards for things like longest married, most children. One award was for the least-law-abiding citizen: the graduate with the most traffic tickets. Several students proudly admitted to more than 20 tickets in the 20 years since graduation. Sunday morning shifted to Rhum Shak on Lake Avenue, formerly a bank, then the women's wear department of Fountain's Department Store. Classmates crowded the venue, displacing some of the regulars including a book club that usually meets there. More memories to share when they meet again.

--Ann Carter

**These younger alumni know how to have a good time. Top right, the digital photo booth was rarely empty.**

**Bottom right, the dance floor also got a workout with design by Kustom Designs.**

**Far right, Tahsin Nadib, one of the weekend's organizers, with a couple of classmates.**

**At the bottom far right, on Sunday morning, Emily Skye, left, chills with classmates and spouses at the Rhum Shak, looking none the worse for the evening spent dancing, dining and remembering.**



Willow Louis, one of the reunion organizers, center, chats with classmates as they tour the school. Below, the class of 2004 replicates its class photo on the bleachers in the gym..

# before

Classmates reminisce, share updates and much more from LWHS cafeteria to country club to downtown



**More reunions on page 6.**

**1994**



Hurricane Milton blew a hole in reunion plans for the class of 1994. Above, organizer Priscilla Sandoval and Melinda Springman-Herrera chill at NOBO Brewing, while classmates catch up.



**1979**



**Reeling in the years**  
Graduates from 1979 made a weekend of it, starting with friends, food and fun at the Beach Club on the golf course in Lake Worth, above. The next night, below, was dinner and dancing at the WPB Marriott, with Tulucci and Friends, led by Johnny Tulucci (class of 1977).

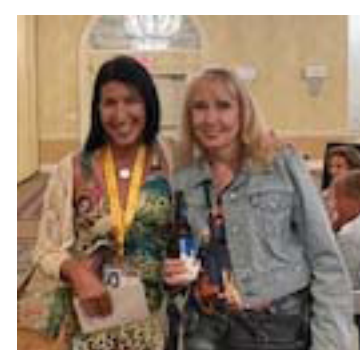
**1989**



The class of 1989 went back to the '80s at Clematis Social on a Sunday afternoon in August. This class also changed up the formula for a reunion, piggybacking on a ticketed event at a popular local spot. Shellie Pike organized the afternoon for about 25 classmates, and shared the photos below.



Above, David Cipriani Jr. and Beau Fink. Above right, Cheryl DePew Lewis, left, and friend. At right, Suzanne Juhl and Lara Westfall Ellison.



Candace Cochran Radder, left and an unidentified classmate.

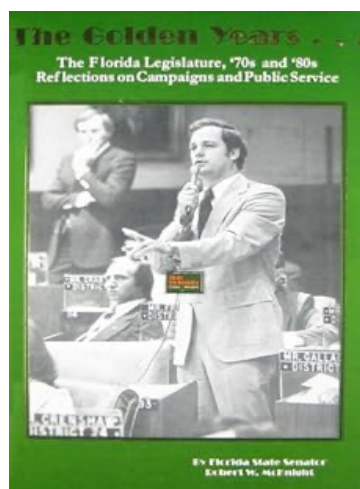
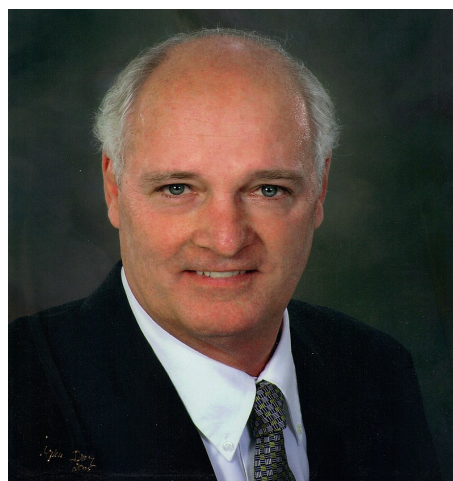
Has it really been 45 years? These classmates look pretty good.



Left photo above: 1979's yearbook editor, Liz Avila, right, looks over her work from 45 years ago.



Right photo above: The dinner-dance started with a visit from the Trojan Sound marching band, playing a medley of Motown hits, led by drum major Vicklande Henrisme.



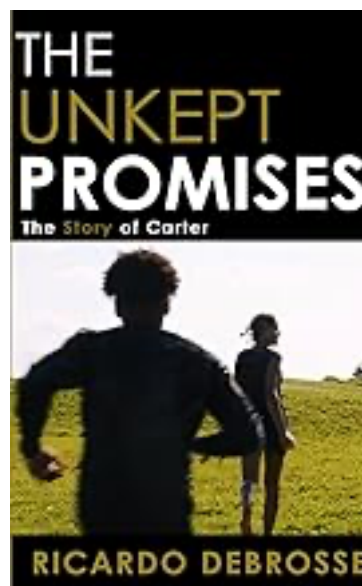
## Former legislator's second career

Robert McKnight, class of 1962, served eight years in the Florida Legislature, learning the ins and outs of politics while rubbing shoulders with many of the names in the news of the 1980s. His book on those years, *The Golden Years ... The Florida Legislature '70s and '80s*, lifts the curtain on some of the back-channel work that goes on into making law, with photos and copies of documents.

He's now adding to his resume with a much-honored screenplay for *Calle 8*, in the works, adding to his list of books.

Bob's family ran a children's clothing store on Lake Avenue, just east of U.S. 1. After graduating from LWHS, he earned a bachelor's degree from Florida Southern College, and a master's from Florida State University.

-- Ann Carter



I was selling 100th anniversary T-shirts at the reunion for 2014 (photos on page 4), when Ricardo Debrosse strode up and asked if I knew what I could get for free. He handed me a copy of *The Unkept Promises: The Story of Carter*, inspired by his military experiences. I'm not sure how to get it free, but it is available on amazon. As soon as I read it, I'll share my thoughts.

-- Ann Carter



## Alumna to join PB School Board

Virginia Savietto, class of 1991, was elected without opposition to the District 2 School Board seat. She will take office on November. Virginia is an administrative assistant to Palm Beach County Commissioner Gregg Weiss. **Look for an interview with Virginia in the Spring issue of Alumni News.**

## We Remember

# Jonathan Calise, Bronze Star recipient, class of 2003



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan N. Calise was born in Boynton Beach to Nicholas and Julie Calise (class of 1979) and was a lifelong Florida resident. From his earliest days, Jon's fascination with all things aviation commanded his attention, and he began the pursuit of his ultimate goal of becoming a pilot in the U.S. armed services.

Jon attended Lake Worth High School and embraced the Air Force Junior ROTC curriculum and military discipline lifestyle throughout his high school years. Jon was a member of the Lantana-Lake Worth Civil Air

Patrol Cadet Squadron where he achieved the coveted position of Cadet Colonel. By age 16, he had more time in multiple aircraft than he had driving a car. Upon graduation, Jon attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, but his love of flying directed him to apply for an aviation position with the U.S. Army. Jon obtained an Aviation Warrant Officer's appointment and became a Black Hawk pilot after completing training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Jon's military career took him to many postings in the U.S. and multiple combat tours overseas to

include Afghanistan and the Middle East, where he was awarded several Army Air Medals, Army commendations and the Bronze Star for combat action. Jon continued his role as an instructor pilot and earned Senior Aviator status while at Fort Bragg, N.C. In his spare time, Jon enjoyed painting, sculpture and creating art on his 3D printer. Jon's Fort Bragg family celebrated his life at the Chapel on Fort Bragg in November 2023. Interment will be at the South Florida VA National Cemetery, Lake Worth, at a future date.

### In Memoriam

- Tom Vaughan (1961)
- Sally Holtkamp (1961)
- Pam Sennard Rush (1962)
- Carol Boney Brown (1964)
- Robert "Skip" Humphrey (1965)
- James "Jimmy" LoCastro (1965)
- Danny Lynch (1966)
- Richard Dwyer (1967)
- Lou Vaughan Segee (1968)
- Michael R. Boyd (1969)
- Glenn T. Suarez (1970)
- Mary Yawn Davis (1971)
- Jimmie Lee Talley (1972)
- Linda Witte
- Swedenborg (1973)
- Bob Vargas (1979)
- Jennifer Rachel Anderson (1989)
- Jonathan "Jonny" Calise (2003)

Sandra Ellice Fullington PE Teacher/Faculty for 36 years

## Sandra Fullington, teacher/coach

Sandra Ellice Fullington, 83, of Lake Worth, died at home on April 28, 2024.

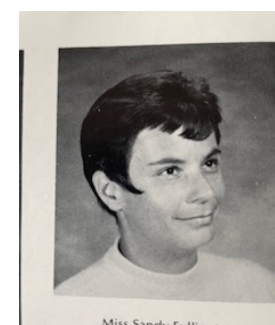
Coach Fullington was born in New York on Sept. 17, 1940. She served in the Air Force where she trained as an LPN. After her discharge, she pursued degrees from the University of Louisville (BS) and Florida Atlantic University (M.Ed.)

Accepting a teaching position at Lake Worth High School in 1967, she supervised cheerleaders for 8 years, coached softball for 17 years, and served as department head for 26 years. Retiring after 31 years, she presented Principal Dave Cantley with \$10,000 of

the \$22,000 she had raised from vending machine sales and gym uniform rentals; the remainder, of course, she earmarked for girls' sports and the Physical Education Department.

The qualities that made Sandy a successful coach also made her a valued friend. She was loyal, generous, and had a wonderful sense of humor. Her many friends mourn her passing. Her family thanks the teams from Vitas and N&L Home Health Care for their care and compassion.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Lake Worth High School's Dollars for Scholars program.



Ms. Fullington, top photo, in the 1972 Tradewinds. Bottom photo, in the 1992 Tradewinds.

# DFS keeps focus on mission in silver anniversary year

By Lady Hereford

## President/Dollars for Scholars

Every November marks a new beginning in the life of Lake Worth Dollars for Scholars. The online application for DFS scholarships opened on Nov. 1, and seniors have until March 21, 2025, to complete the form.

While today's digital application process is decidedly different than it was when DFS started back in 1999, the goal is still the same -- to help students attend the college or vocational/technical school of their choice.

The idea that a public school like Lake Worth Community High School could do this for its own students was a novel concept when

former Principal Dave Cantley and alumni Al Elam and Dennis Dorsey worked together to establish our DFS chapter. In 1999,



DFS awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to 15 students. Last spring, 50 recipients were selected to receive \$101,000 in scholarships. In the course of 25 years, DFS has awarded \$1,748,500 to more than 1,200 students.

LWCHS students are not the only beneficiaries of DFS scholarships. DFS administers the Barry Grunow Memorial Scholarship, which is open to graduating se-

niors at LWCHS and across Palm Beach County who aspire to become educators. We encourage all eligible students in our county to apply, including those in private and parochial schools and those who are educated at home.

These scholarships would not be possible without generous donors and a number of volunteers serving behind the scenes. DFS has an active Scholarship Committee under the leadership of Doris Welsh. LWCHS Principal Elena Villani and counselors Margaret Salazar Gomez and LaJayah Blain play an important role by encouraging the students and assisting them with their applications. DFS's Investment Committee provides critical

support through its oversight of the organization's endowments. Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to the boards of both DFS and the Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation for their dedication to the cause.

Looking ahead to the next 25 years, I invite all alumni and friends of LWCHS to join us in our mission of helping students reach their full potential. We welcome donations and volunteers. Please reach out to us at any time if you'd like to help.

## Lake Worth High Dollars for Scholars Foundation Board

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Jessica Latour

Karen Mostler

GINNY VIAU

Carol Webster

Maggie Witherow

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### Members

Kelsey Burke

Vince Taormina

## 2024 LakeWorth Dollars for Scholars Recipient Awards List:

Alondra Concepcion-Santiago	5000	Dollars for Scholars Academic Scholarship
Maria Tomas-Andres	3000	LWHS Alumni Foundation Scholarship
Joyce Vicente	3000	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Wensderley Ulysse	2500	First Congregational Church of Christ
Yaritzl Zarza-Cardoso	2500	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Jeilyn Sevilla- Nunez	2000	David Cantley Scholarshp
Pamela Miguel –Pascual	2000	Dennis & Doris Dorsey Scholarship
Ruthnie Pierre-Louis	2000	Tommy & Helen Hansen Memorial
Michelle Lopez-Temaj	2000	Watson B. & Honey Duncan Memorial
Yamina Perez –Diaz	2000	Malcolm Cain Memorial
Michael Knowles	2000	LWHS Class of 1971 Scholarship
Henry Reyes-Perez	2000	Al Elam Memorial
Abilenny Gonzalez-Garcia	2000	Chris & Mary Jo Petersen Scholarship
Jeselia Espinoza	2000	Betty Milone Memorial
Vianca Cardon	2000	Eva Norberg Memorial/LW Lions Club
Yuri Eugene	2000	Fred & Virginia Thomas Memorial
Marwin Manuel- Miguel	2000	Lake Worth Street Painting Scholarship
David Reconco	2000	LWHS Memorial Scholarship Fund
Francisco Basilio-Miguel	2000	Finch/Fulton Memorial Scholarship
Amanda Uriostegul-Lopez	2000	Finch/Fulton Memorial Scholarship
Manuel Juan-Jose	2000	E.R. "Buddy" Goodell Memorial
JhonatanBaron-Campos	2000	James & Nancy Woodall Scholarship
Jackelin Perez-Lopez	2000	Helen Bundy Memorial
Daniela Diaz-Ramirez	2000	Jerry McCoy Memorial
Litzy Chairez-Hernandez	2000	Charles Brooks Memorial Scholarship
Tanvir Ahmed	2000	Karl Easton Memorial Scholarship
Mariela Gonzalez –Felipe	2000	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship
Andres Contreras	2000	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship
Stephanie Escalante-Ortiz	2000	Margaret C. Donnelley Scholarship
Wilmene Adamcy	2000	Mark Foley Health/Science Scholarship
Anthony Tovar	2000	Cliff Taylor Memorial
Chaniya Manual	2000	Kristen Stanley Memorial
Leslie Lechuga	2000	Michael Fisher Memorial
Evelyn Chairez	2000	LWHS Alumni Foundation
Djouilly Begin	2000	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Michael Derilus	2000	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Roodly Declus	1500	Rock & Lyn Tate Family Foundation
Yadira Caceres	1500	Lake Worth Kiwanis Club
Sahory Ramirez	1500	Baha'i Scholarship
Leila Brumfield	1500	Baha'i Scholarship
Aaliyah Alfred	1500	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship
Justin Gutierrez	1500	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship
Angelina Florexil	1500	MLK Committee Scholarhiip
Widjina Estime	1500	MLK Committee Scholarhiip
Morita Pierre-Louis	1500	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Luis Alegria-Anton	1500	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Ava Arango	1000	LWHS Flea Market Academic Scholarship
Yolanda Najera	1000	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship
Anthony Montes	1000	LWHS Flea Market Voc/Tech Scholarship

## Grunow Memorial Scholarship Recipients:

Tamia Coleman	2000	Palm Beach Central H. S.
Makayla Emmaunel	1500	Palm Beach Lakes H.S.
Angelica Casarrubias-Barri	1500	Lake Worth H.S.

## Principal

From Page 1

tireless efforts in supporting our community through various service projects. It's inspiring to see our students making a difference both in and out of the classroom. I am incredibly thankful for the continued support of our alumni, and I welcome it as we push forward with our goals.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with gratitude and joy.

Go Trojans!