

## A HISTORY OF THE LAKESIDE SCHOOL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION

Compiled by Judy Bauer, 1989

Updated by Leslie Schuyler, 2016

The Mothers' Club began in 1941.<sup>1</sup> Each year there were Library and Garden committees and Social Teas. Mothers of senior boys were asked to donate books to the library at graduation time. Funds were raised to build the Chapel and landscape the campus.

It was suggested that music be added to the curriculum, and a partial scholarship was established in the amount of \$632 for one student. In the 1950s, the Mothers' Club and the school formulated a policy on alcohol, parents' nights were held, and the first parents' newsletter was written.

Lakeside merged with St. Nicholas School (founded in 1910) in 1971. Lakeside, which had been a grade 7-12 boy's school until then, became coeducational and added grades five and six. The Middle School (grades 5-8) was housed on the St. Nicholas campus on Capitol Hill, while the newly merged Upper School (grades 9-12) was located at Lakeside. The Middle School moved to First Avenue NE in time to start school in the fall of 1981.

Potluck dinners were first held in the 1970s, first for all Upper School or all Middle School parents and guardians, then two grades at one time, with questions asked in writing by parents and guardians of the administration and faculty who were present.

In 1978, the Mothers' Club became known as the Parents Club as more and more fathers became active in the school. Everyone was automatically a member rather than membership through dues. In 1990 the name of the organization was changed to the Parents Association, and in 2015 the name was changed again to the Parents and Guardians Association (PGA), in order to reflect the reality that not all students come from traditional two-parent households.

Cookbooks of favorite recipes were assembled and published in 1974 and 1984.

Grand Day, then called Grandparents' Day, began in 1976 and continues today through the joint efforts of the Parents and Guardians Association and the Development Office.

Many years ago, banquet tables that were used by the PGA for Rummage and major fundraising events were rented from the Puget Sound Dahlia Association and required a pick-up from a storage garage on Capitol Hill. This meant loading the tables into the school's maintenance vehicles and unloading them at Lakeside or the Seattle Center, and then bringing them back. Today the PGA owns the tables and stores them on campus.

The Used Bookstore began at the Middle School in 1978 following guidelines used at the Upper School where it was run by students and a faculty adviser. Today the PGA organizes this means of recycling books on both campuses.

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<sup>1</sup> Lakeside School Board of Trustees meeting minutes include references to the Lakeside Mothers Club as early as May 31, 192, which conflicts with the 1941 date listed here.

In 1988, June Arnett retired as the administrative assistant to the headmaster and was persuaded to provide the secretarial support for what was then referred to as the Parents Club. Cathey Burkett followed June, providing staff support to the Auction and Rummage Sale efforts. Since 1994, Vonnie Breidenstein has served as the full-time volunteer coordinator, providing support to the Association's more than 75 committees including: 40 PGA Board Committees, 33 Rummage Committees, and 5-30 Fundraising Committees. Lani Carpenter joined the PGA team as a part-time administrative assistant in 2013.

In the fall of 1998, the entire "old Business Office" became the Parents [and Guardians] Association building, a move anticipated since 1986 when the Rummage Depot was enlarged. The Association had been putting aside money each year since 1986 to cover expenses needed to furnish the building and make the office workable for their needs. Some of that money was used to have built-ins made for storage and counter space.

## **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

PGA-driven fundraising events have grown and changed considerably over the years. More than 25 years ago, several special items purchased on a trip to Africa and donated to Rummage were auctioned at Family Preview Night, an event that preceded the Rummage Sale. This additional effort to raise funds inspired an annual auction, a separate event held some years in the fall, others in the spring. The auction is now known as ROAR (Raising Our Allocation Resources).

In those days, one chair took care of all donations and the other did everything else: food, decorations, catalogues, and silent auction. They each worked with very small committees. By 1984, the co-chairs made decisions as a team and worked with many sub-committees for most of a year. The auction chairs worked at home until space next to the old Business Office became available in 1986.

These fundraising efforts have grown from a lasagna dinner in the Middle School lunch room on the old St. Nicholas campus, and the silent and live auctions held in the small gym down the hall, to catered sandwiches in the Upper School Gym, to the elegant Garden Court or Sheraton catering for 500 - 600 guests in the Fieldhouse, to theme-related food provided by Lakeside's catering service.

In 1992, the annual fundraising event, by then a large-scale auction, moved off campus to a downtown hotel, in hopes of raising more money as well as simplifying the amount of physical set-up required by the volunteers. In 1997, the PGA decided to return to campus for an event modeled after a county fair, with an emphasis on building a sense of community as well as raising funds. Since then, there has been a mix of on- and off-campus events. Both types of fundraising efforts have been very successful in building community among Lakeside families and raising funds for the school.

Themes have included a tailgate picnic, railroad, French village, safari, and night at the movies. A sampling of event titles includes: "It's a Small World," "2000 Year of the Dragon," "Spotlight! Lakeside," "Discover the Depths," and "Night at the Harlequin Café."

## RUMMAGE

The Rummage Sale, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2000, began in the basement of the Chapel in 1951. Funds raised that year supported the Chapel building fund and the publication of then headmaster Robert Simeon Adams' poems.

In the 1950s, the first winter sale was held on campus. Later abandoned, it was resurrected in 1980 and is now called the Fall Sale. This smaller sale, once considered a "practice run" for the larger Spring Sale, has proven to be a lucrative effort in its own right. Each grade is assigned to a specific department.

From 1964-78, one of the Rummage chairs each year was responsible for finding an empty warehouse somewhere in Seattle that could be donated for six weeks. Set-up, receiving, sorting, pricing, and the sale all took place during this period of time. Every year the building and department arrangements were different; locations varied from downtown in a building with an elevator, to a storefront in Lake City, a car dealership on Aurora, or at Bryant's Marina.

In 1977, no warehouse was available for the 1978 Spring Sale. Rent had to be paid for the first time. The Sale was held in the Seattle Display Hall, located under the Opera House. Move-in that first year followed move-out of a dog show and the move-in crew was then coach Bruce Bailey's basketball team. Set up, receiving, pricing and the sale took two weeks instead of six.

The 1979 sale was also held in the Display Hall over a period of eleven days. In 1980, the sale moved to the Flag Pavilion where it was necessary to have all of the receiving and pricing done before move-in, because the venue was only available for six days. All of the receiving and pricing were done in the basement of a little campus house to the rear of the WCC. There were three pricing days per grade.

Move-in of all properties and rummage took place between 7 a.m. and noon, including the year Queen Elizabeth visited Seattle Center. The students had to return to afternoon classes before the queen's arrival, but volunteers peeked out the windows to see her. Lakeside had put a big sign in the window advertising our "jumble sale," as rummage sales are called in England.

In the early '80s, the Book Depot portable was purchased for use by Rummage. From 1980-86, Rummage was handled in the following way: donors brought their rummage to the Business Office basement, part of which is the concrete shelf in the current Depot where cardboard boxes are stored; boxes and bags were loaded into cars and taken to Receiving in the little house; everything was stored in the back room until needed for pricing days when it was loaded again into cars and taken to the portable to be priced and stored in the giant trailers parked outside. It often rained on pricing days and everyone had to dress warmly because the portable wasn't well heated. Nothing seemed to dampen enthusiasm for the sale, however.

In 1981, two maroon and gold trailers (now retired) were purchased to hold the ever-increasing number of properties. The PGA now owns four additional trailers, and more are rented as volunteers continue to process and store rummage all year.

Bags that sold on Bag Day for \$1 many years ago are now \$6 or \$20 depending on bag size, or half price in the Best of Show Department, formerly known as Boutique, French Room, and Collectibles.

In 1982, while pricing books one day, parent volunteer Kirsten Lumpkin looked around the portable and asked, "Isn't there a better arrangement for handling rummage?" Committees, meetings with architects, and several years of planning resulted in the 1986 construction of the Rummage Depot where all the year-round work is done, with the exception of books. Lumpkin Construction Company built the Rummage Depot, the same company that had provided a truck with driver for move-in through the many years at Seattle Center.

Rummage overflowed the Flag Pavilion every year until the 1985 move to the Exhibition Hall. Everyone had wondered if that building could ever be filled. It took all day Wednesday to move in and set up properties before the arrival of the materials on Thursday morning. After a long and happy run at the Exhibition Hall, the 2001 Spring Sale was Lakeside's last in the space. As part of a major renovation of Seattle Center, the Exhibition Hall was taken over by the Opera's new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Lakeside's farewell sale at Seattle Center was particularly memorable because a 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit just as the first day of move in began. Miraculously, the sale opened on schedule two days later.

The search for a new home for Lakeside Rummage began, and the 2002 Spring Sale took place in Stadium Exhibition Center next to Safeco Field. Rummage successfully paired with the Women's Show in the same building. Chairs of the two organizations worked together to share move-in logistics, advertising, enthusiasm, and shoppers. The new location offered 10,000 square feet more space than the old Exhibition Hall, wider aisles, more tables, more hanging racks, shorter lines for cashiering, and increased revenue. And for the first time, trailers could drive right into the building for unloading, a feat not possible at previous Rummage locations. On the downside, parking and traffic proved to be a major challenge for volunteers and shoppers alike.

In 2003, the Spring Sale moved again, this time to Building 27 at Sand Point Magnuson Park. This new venue proved to be the best yet, with even MORE space (89,000-sq.-ft. of it), free parking, an abundance of natural light, close proximity to Lakeside, enthusiastic volunteers and shoppers, and increased revenue. The hurdles of a potentially leaking roof were resolved by cleverly-rigged tarps and ducts. The larger space accommodated a concessions stand where Lakeside athletes sold food and beverages to appreciative shoppers and raised funds for their teams. Lakeside sophomores and juniors handled all aspects of move-in more effectively than ever before.

Over the years, the Association has sought new ways of collecting and selling Rummage more efficiently. In 1998-1999 it experimented with selling collectibles on Ebay, an on-line auction. A few items sold for fabulous prices, but a bigger percentage failed to make the minimum reserve amount. The effort proved to be very labor intensive and not worth it, in the end. Since then, on a few special occasions, only select items have been sold on Ebay.

As Rummage has grown, so have the number of volunteers needed to staff the effort. At the helm are the four Spring Rummage Chairs, whose duties include overseeing Depot operations in addition to mounting the Spring Sale. In 1999, two 'Fall Chair' positions were created to plan and

run the Fall Sale. All chairs work collaboratively with the PGA volunteer coordinator and administrative assistant to sustain what has become a year-round effort.

In 2002-2003, the Association commissioned a Long Range Planning Committee study to examine every aspect of Rummage. The work clarified the mission of Rummage as a community service and community builder as well as a fundraiser, and validated an effort then more than half a century old that had become a Lakeside tradition. The survey also provided a framework from which Rummage could continue to prosper and evolve into the future.

Compiled by Judy Bauer, 9/89 and updated 3/93, 8/00, 5/02, and 9/03. Updated by Leslie Schuyler, 9/16.