

# CABARET BILL

THOMAS G. CRONE AUDITORIUM

THE WOODLAND HILLS FOUNDATION in collaboration with  
THE WOODLAND HILLS PERFORMING ARTS GUILD

PRESENTS:

THE WOODLAND HILLS

*Alumni*

CABARET

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025; 7 PM

WOODLAND HILLS HIGH SCHOOL • THOMAS G. CRONE AUDITORIUM



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THE WOODLAND HILLS

Alumni  
**CABARET**

Saturday, June 7, 2025 • 7:00 PM

Thomas Crone  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Alicia Scaramuzzo ('98)  
**ACCOMPANIST**

Bobby Carr ('17)  
**DRUMS**

Joe Slick  
**SOUND**

Larry George III ('02)  
**VIDEO**

Bill Kostandinu ('97)  
**LIGHTING**

Jamie Glasser ('97)  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Kathleen Good  
**PRODUCER**

# PERFORMANCES

**Company:** *Wait for Me, Hadestown*

*Hadestown* is a retelling of the Greek myths of Orpheus & Eurydice, and Hades & Persephone set in an industrial Underworld. When his love, Eurydice, is taken to this underground kingdom, Orpheus (Bobby Carr) follows the guidance of Hermes (Desmon Jackson) on his quest to rescue her. The Company of our show plays the roles of workers and denizens of Hades.

**Arianna Gaiter:** *Maybe This Time, Cabaret*

*Cabaret* is a gripping tale of the lives of performers and patrons in a 1930s Berlin nightclub. Sally Bowles is a classic, tragic figure who seeks love but can't find a way to hold on to it when it touches her. She puts on a brave face, but we see through it as she sings, "Maybe This Time".

**Helena Marshall & Zoë Spear:** *I Will Never Leave You, Side Show*

Conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton were famous stage performers in the 1930s, traveling with sideshows and vaudeville companies. *Side Show* dramatizes their lives, and culminates in this song of commitment between the sisters.

**Ashley Blye-Timbers:** *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Simon*

Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel wrote and performed songs that have become staples of the American songbook. One of these is *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, which has been covered by artists of every style and genre. This version is based on the performance of John Legend and others.

**Michelle Pistella & Maria Yezovich:** *Baby Dream Your Dream, Sweet Charity*

Cy Coleman's work was a fixture on Broadway from the 1960s through to the 1990s, with his like *On the Twentieth Century*, *City of Angels*, and *Barnum*. *Sweet Charity*, about a taxi dance in New York City, was among his biggest hits, with an original production that starred Gwen Verdon and was directed by Bob Fosse. This song is performed by Charity's closest friends, encouraging her to pursue what she wants.

**Liam Blaney:** *It's Hard to Speak My Heart, Parade*

Jason Robert Brown's *Parade* is based on the real-life story of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory owner who was accused of the murder of one of his young workers. Despite asserting his innocence, Leo was convicted of the murder. When his sentence was commuted, an angry mob lynched him. In this song, Leo speaks to the court, protesting that he is innocent of the crime.

**Giavonna Zinn & Aidan Potter:** *Something to Believe In, Newsies*

*Newsies*, based on the 1992 Disney film of the same name, tells the story of the successful 1899 strike of newsboys against the major New York newspapers, owned by such magnates as Joseph Pulitzer. This song, between Jack, the leader of the strike, and Katherine, a reporter who is covering the events, shows the power of hope in challenging times and of young love when one feels alone.

**Eamonn Blaney:** *Humors of Whiskey, McGuinness*

The distinct character of Irish folk music is strong in this anthem to Poitin, whiskey distilled illicitly in Ireland. Akin to moonshine, the spirit is strong and carries this history of Ireland with it. The roots of the beverage are traced to 6th century monasteries. This song offers the sage advice that regular consumption in significant doses leads to the best results.

**Daquan Moss & Ashley Blye-Timbers:** Easy, Goldsmith, et al.

Breakups can be hard, and remaining stoic about them when forced to see your partner is even harder. This song reflects on the effort needed to put on a brave face.

**Desmon Jackson & Henry Hilf:** Agony, *Into the Woods*

Stephen Sondheim is perhaps the greatest musical theater composer of his generation, and among his classics is *Into the Woods*. Weaving together and then twisting up the stories of Cinderella, the Baker and his wife, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel, among others, *Into The Woods* contorts our understanding of the childhood stories we knew, but leaves its audience with a powerful message of belonging. "Agony" is a duel between one prince, smitten with Cinderella, and another who is unable to reach his love, Rapunzel. Each asserts his heartbreak, clearly more profound than the other.

**Maura Jacobs (with Liz Kostandinu, Michelle Pistella, Jen Willson, Jamie Glasser, Helena Marshall, & Giavonna Zinn):** Heart of Stone, *Six*

A modern retelling of the lives of the wives of Henry VIII of England, *SIX* is an 80-minute rush. Each of the Queens gets her moment, but none is more poignant than Jane Seymour's. Purported to be the wife that Henry loved the most, Seymour's life was tragically short, ending just two weeks after the birth of her son, the long-sought male heir to the throne. This song comes before she dies and conveys her unyielding love for her husband and son, a sentiment that is easy for our performer to understand.

**Caitlin Carlisle, Eamonn Blaney & Liam Blaney:** Who I'd Be, *Shrek: The Musical*

The hero's "I Want" song is a staple of musical theatre. There are few better than this example from *Shrek: The Musical*. Shrek, an ogre, tells his companion, Donkey, what he longs for, unaware that his perfect match is Princess Fiona, who is along for the journey.

**Juliana Connelly:** Someday, *The Wedding Singer*

Based on the 1998 film starring Adam Sandler, *The Wedding Singer* tells the story of a wedding singer's travails on the road to love. This aspirational song is sung by Julia, a waitress at a wedding gig who will ultimately fall for the titular singer.

**Bobby Carr, Francisco Rios, & AJ Prestogee:** Beyond the Sea, Darrin

While "Beyond the Sea" is considered a Big Band standard, the 1959 recording by Bobby Darrin is the one that comes to mind when the song is mentioned. This is a well-known love song in the U.S., but the melody comes from a French tune that is a tribute to the Sea itself, not a lover.

**Luanne Russell:** Just You Wait, *My Fair Lady*

*My Fair Lady* is a classic of musical theater with the original Broadway production running for a then-record 2,717 performances. The 1964 film adaptation won eight Oscars, including Best Picture. The story is based on *Pygmalion*, itself a classic play by G.B. Shaw, and tells a story of transformation and love. This song comes at a moment when the tutor, Henry Higgins, takes credit for Eliza Doolittle's success in a social outing, causing her to question their relationship.

**Jen Willson & Liz Kostandinu:** Both Sides Now, Mitchell

Joni Mitchell is one of our greatest living songwriters and this song is among her most well-known. It's been featured in film and television and covered by artists from around the world. The song speaks to something deeply compelling about the world around us and the human experience, making the personal universal in a way so impactful, it set Mitchell's course to fame.

# PERFORMANCES *(continued)*

## **Mia Damico & Maria Yezovich:** I Did Something Bad, *Swift*

Another beloved songwriter, Taylor Swift is a voice of her generation and the current American ethos. This song, featured on Swift's album *Reputation*, was inspired by a storyline on the TV series *Game of Thrones*.

## **Devontez Moses:** Past is Catching Up to Me, *The Great Gatsby*

F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterwork, *The Great Gatsby* has held Americans in thrall for decades. The mysterious title character, the betrayal, the lost love, and the Jazz Age setting all combine to make a piece that has fascinated for decades, and been adapted into every media. This song of longing, in which Gatsby tells a friend about his lost love, is from the 2023 Broadway musical.

## **Maura Jacobs & Jamie Glasser:** I Wanna Go Back, *The Notebook*

*The Notebook*, based on Nicholas Sparks's novel, shows an aging couple grappling with memory loss and dementia by remembering their life together. This song comes at the moment in the musical when Allie, who is experiencing memory loss, first fails to recognize her family. Her younger selves appear to convey the sentiments that she no longer can express, and the pain of her condition is clear.

## **Brooklyn Grimes:** Butterflies, *Ambrosius/Harris*

Michael Jackson, a star since childhood, was in a phase of reinvention when he recorded "Butterflies" for his album *Invincible* in 2001. Having scored massive hits with albums like *Thriller* and *Bad* in the 1980s, Jackson was an icon. *Invincible* would prove to be the last album released before Jackson's untimely death in 2009 at age 50. Regardless of the questions that have swirled around him throughout his life, his talent as an artist and performer cannot be denied, and this song is a late example of that.

## **Caitlin Carlisle:** I'm Breaking Down, *Falsettos*

*Falsettos*, which premiered in 1992, tells the story of a family breaking up. Here, Trina, the wife, conveys her mental state as she copes with the reality that her husband Marvin has left her for a lover named Whizzer as her son's bar mitzvah approaches. The stress seems to be too much to bear, and Trina seeks to cope.

## **Maria Yezovich & Dennis Hruska:** I Believe My Own Eyes, *The Who's Tommy*

Moving the landmark album, *Tommy*, from vinyl to the stage, *The Who's Tommy* tells the story of a traumatized boy who is deaf, nonverbal, and blind, but also really good at pinball. For his parents, the inability to help their son is an ongoing source of tension and stress. Tonight, Maria and Dennis reprise their performance from the 1996 in-concert Performing Arts Class production of the show.

## **Daquan Moss:** Listen, *Dreamgirls*

Set in a world much like the Motown scene of the 1960s and 1970s, *Dreamgirls* tells the story of a group of singers who see their bond tested by the reality of the music business. In this number, added to the score for the 2007 film adaptation, the group's lead singer, Deena, who has become entangled with their producer, pushes back against him and a relationship that has become too controlling for her. In ending the relationship she finds her voice and power.

## **Elijah Kline & Mia Damico:** What You Mean to Me, *Finding Neverland*

Already a playwright of some renown, J.M. Barrie introduced Peter Pan to the world in his stories in the early years of the 20th Century. The character was devised to entertain a family of five brothers he befriended in Kensington Gardens, London, and has entertained generations of children ever since. The

musical *Finding Neverland*, adapted from the 2004 film, tells the tale of Barie's connection to the children and the inspiration he found in them. This song, between Barie and the boys' widowed mother, conveys the significance of the relationship for them both.

**Henry Hilf:** Have You Ever Seen the Rain?, Creedence Clearwater Revival

A stalwart of the 1960s folk-rock scene, Creedence Clearwater Revival had a string of top hits throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s. "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?", released as a single in 1971, came late in their career, and only the year before the group's breakup in 1972. The song is a testimony to the complications that led to the break up that would come and the challenges that come with success.

**Bobby Carr & Isabel Concepcion:** My Green Light, *The Great Gatsby*

The lost love at the center of *The Great Gatsby* will prove disastrous for all involved. Before it does, though, Gatsby and Daisy reconnect and come to understand what the misunderstandings and interference that separated them has caused them to lose. They begin an affair that exemplifies the libertine attitudes of the time, but will have a comeuppance from which no one involved will recover.

**Jamie Glasser (with Maria Yezovich, Maura Jacobs, Liz Kostandinu, Brooklyn Grimes, & Arianna Gaiter, feat. Lillian Divelbiss (cello)):**

Worth It, *Suffs*

*Suffs* recounts the work of women as they pushed for the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the vote. Told largely through the lens of Alice Paul's work to lead activists through the struggle, but incorporating influential activists like Ida B. Wells, Carrie Chapman Catt, Mary Church Terrell, and Inez Milholland, the show depicts iconic moments like the Woman Suffrage Procession and the Silent Sentinels, challenging the administration of Woodrow Wilson. In "Worth It", Alice and her fellow suffragists grapple with the level of sacrifice required to achieve their goal of equal rights, and, ultimately, what it means to be a woman.

**A.J. PrestoGeorge & Leah PrestoGeorge:** Go the Distance/Defying Gravity, *Hercules/Wicked*

Sometimes there is a serendipity in music that allows two great things to become something spectacular. Such is the case with this mashup, which combines two powerful songs to result in a super-anthem. These two additional examples of the "I Want" song move the stories of their respective stories powerfully forward, and the combination is truly exceptional, like the siblings who will sing it here.

**Zion Rumble:** Almost There, *The Princess and The Frog*

Set in New Orleans in the 1920s, *The Princess and The Frog* is a reimagining of the classic fairy tale, "The Frog Prince". Telling the story of Tiana, a young woman who aspires to open a restaurant in the City, the movie reimagines the story as a tale of adventure and empowerment. This song shows Tiana's belief that her dreams are within reach.

**Desmon Jackson:** If I Sing, *Closer Than Ever*

*Closer Than Ever* is a revue that includes a sequence of songs that are self-contained stories, connected by theme and intention. This song is a paean to the inspiration that allows artists to find their voice from the mentorship of others.

**Alicia Scaramuzzo, Leah PrestoGeorge, Liz Kostandinu, Jamie Glasser, Mia Damico:**

Great American B\*\*\*\*, *Suffs*

Reclaiming language has become an important feature of modern liberation movements. *Suffs* imagines an early example of this tactic, suggesting that Alice Paul and her fellows in the nascent National Women's Party of the 1910s might have embraced their identity challenging the norms of society.

# Tradition of Excellence

2025 Honorees

## Program Contributors

**Bob Vukich**

*Award-winning Scenic Designer for WHHS Musical*

**Terry and Shelley Zollner**

*WHHS Band Staff and Musical pit orchestra*

**Jamie Glasser**

*Class of 1997*

*Stage Crew lead and Stage Manager for WHHS Musical, Junior Musical, and Performing Arts Workshop productions*

**Beverly Hruska**

*Volunteer - Band Parents Organization; lobby and bake sale coordinator for WHHS Musical*

## Performance

**Dan Parasky**

*Class of 1998*

*Professional flute performer, educator, and administrator*

## 2025 WHPAG Scholarship Recipients

**Carmella DeVore**

**Mackenna Matthews**

Visit our website, [tinyurl.com/whpag](http://tinyurl.com/whpag), to learn more about the Tradition of Excellence honorees and our scholarship winners.



**Woodland Hills**  
**Performing Arts Guild**



# LISA CAULFIELD



## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

*"I'm proud to say that I am a long-time supporter of the Woodland Hills Foundation and the Woodland Hills School District. I am forever grateful for everything the Performing Arts Department has done for my children, Jake, Class of 2021 and Em, Class of 2025. Today, it is my honor to sponsor the 2025 Alumni Cabaret and to celebrate the talented alumni of Woodland Hills School District."*

- Lisa Caulfield



Mamma Mia, Spring of 2019



Little Shop of Horrors, Fall of 2024



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



Our 2025 Alumni Cabaret Sponsors demonstrate an exceptional commitment to Woodland Hills School District, our alumni, our current students, and our community as a whole. The Woodland Hills educators, business owners, community leaders, and alumni who have shared their energy and passion with us, help our goals reach new heights. In fact, their support of the Alumni Cabaret makes our scholarship program possible. There are many ways to help those around you and we are deeply honored that they've chosen the Woodland Hills Foundation as a trusted partner.

The Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild Invites you to:

# JOIN US

*After the Show!*

The Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild invites you to attend a reception with the star's of the show *immediately following tonight's Cabaret* at Asti's Italian Steakhouse at Grandview Golf Club.  
Hope to see you after the show!



Asti's Italian Steakhouse  
Grandview Golf Club  
1000 Clubhouse Drive  
North Braddock, PA 15104

## PERFORMER BIOS

**Eamonn Blaney ('19)** was a 4-year participant in WHHS musicals, and a 6-year member of the Marching Band.

**Liam Blaney ('25)** is a loving brother to Caitlin, Colin, and Eamonn, as well as a loving son to James and Barbara. Liam has performed in 11 shows with the Woodland Hills Performing Arts Department and is happy to be here!!

**Ashley Blye-Timbers ('23)** played one of the Blind Mice in *Shrek: The Musical* (2022) and Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q* (2022). She looks forward to returning to the stage after a brief hiatus from performing.

**Caitlin Carlisle ('07)** is vocal faculty at Higher Voice Studio, mom, wife, and overbearing big sister to Colin, Eamonn, and Liam Blaney.

**Robert Carr ('17)** is thrilled to be back at the Cabaret! Bobby has stayed active at WH and now serves as the High School Band Director, Junior Musical Director, Spring Musical Asst. Director/Co-Producer, and is an Asst. Varsity Rifle Coach. In his free time, Bobby can be found making props for our musicals, visiting NYC, or performing with local Tamburitzan groups. He would like to thank the Woodland Hills Foundation for their support of the students and Performing Arts at Woodland Hills!

**Isabel Concepcion ('24)** is thrilled to return to the Woodland Hills stage for this year's Alumni Cabaret! A 2024 graduate, Isabel is currently studying nursing at the University of Pittsburgh, where she continues to pursue her love for performing as a member of MTC (Musical Theatre Club). At Pitt, she has appeared in *The Lightning Thief* and *Sins, Scandals, and Showbiz* along with other cabaret performances. At Woodland Hills, some of her favorite roles included "Kate Monster" in *Avenue Q* and the "Queen of Hearts" in *Wonderland*. Isabel is grateful for the amazing friends and unforgettable memories she's made through theatre and is honored to perform once again on the stage that started it all.

**Juliana Connelly ('24)** is so excited to be performing in her second Alumni Cabaret! Previously she has appeared in Woodland Hills productions of *Wonderland*, *Seussical*, and *Shrek*. Currently, she is in the Honors College at The University of Pittsburgh pursuing a double major in Biochemistry and History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) on a pre-med track.

**Maria Costa ('07)** is mostly known for her amazing stage presence as a dancer. This is her first Alumni Cabaret. Since last year's alumni musical, Maria Yezovich, Michelle (Spynda) Pistella, and her favorite Karaoke DJ Brooke Tate have been pushing her to share her voice. Here we are! Maria has participated in *Seussical* ('05), *Pippin*, *Les Misérables* ('07), and the WH Alumni productions of *Tommy* ('22) & *The Rocky Horror Show* ('24). She looks forward to sharing the stage once again with such talented alumni. If anyone is willing to take on an amateur singer (at best) as a student, let her know!

## PERFORMER BIOS *(continued)*

**Mia Damico ('24)** was a part of the WH Performing Arts program for 7 years and 12 productions (performing and student directing). Her most recent performance was starring as the first ever "Alice" in the Pilot Production of *Wonderland*. Mia currently attends the University of South Carolina as an honors college student earning a degree in Marketing, Management and minoring in Digital Media Arts. She is so excited to be performing on the WH stage again and would like to thank the incredible Staff for the endless encouragement and love!

**Lillian Divelbiss ('25)** participated in 13 Woodland Hills musical productions, including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Shrek*, *Seussical*, *Wonderland*, and *Hairspray*. She will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in the fall to pursue a degree in biochemistry.

**Arianna Gaiter ('25)** is a member of the marching band, musical, performing arts class, chamber choir, and symphonic band. She has been seen in multiple musical productions, including *Seussical*, *Wonderland*, and *Hairspray* as "Motormouth Maybelle". After high school, in the fall she will attend The Cleveland Institute of Art with a major in animation. She hopes to pursue community theater and play in bands outside of school.

**Jamie Glasser ('97)** is frequently confused for a person with no occupation aside from coaching Woodland Hills Mock Trial and running the Stage Crew portion of the Woodland Hills Repertory Theater Company, which is perfectly fine by her. She loves nothing better than a well executed scene change, particularly if it involves a grand entrance, fire extinguishers, and lifts, and is extremely pleased to report that she does, in fact, have a well-paying job as the School Librarian at Pittsburgh CAPA. SHHH!

**Brooklyn Grimes ('23)** is a Licensed Cosmetologist and fashion consultant. When she's not styling a client or putting a fierce look together, she's learning a new skill or taking on another hobby. She loves an adventure and her latest adventure is continuing her professional education. Brooklyn's passion is to entertain and inspire others and she does so through her artistry, self expression, and genuine love for others.

**Henry Hilf ('21)** performed in the Woodland Hills Musical productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

**Dennis Hruska ('98)** is currently an Associate General Manager for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and serves on the board of the Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild.

**Desmon Jackson ('21)** is now a graduate of Point Park University's MT program and is excited to be back at Woodland Hills Cabaret! He would like to thank Jamie and Mr. Crone for inviting him back!

**Maura (McDaniel) Jacobs ('09)** is thrilled to be returning to Pittsburgh and the Woodland Hills stage. She now lives in the New Jersey suburbs near NYC with her family; Dylan her husband, Shepperd (who is 5) and Keira (who is 6 months old)- plus her parents who live upstairs! Maura works in tech and has mostly taken a hiatus from the stage, but comes out of retirement for a few fundraiser cabarets and of course, Woody High alumni events.

# CARMELLA

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WE ARE SO VERY PROUD AND EXCITED TO WATCH YOU BUILD A WORLD OF YOUR OWN.

WE LOVE YOU, BITTY!

-MOM & DAD-





# Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild

## WHPAG welcomes our newest alumni!

This year, community support allowed us to:

- Provide drumming curriculum for elementary music
- Sponsor Middle School Jazz Night
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## PERFORMER BIOS (continued)

**Elijah Kline ('24)** still likes trains.

**Liz Kostandinu ('97)** is thrilled to be back performing in the Alumni Cabaret. She has worked in public media for the past 9 years, both at WQED and just recently joining the team at Fred Rogers Productions. She sings with both the St Joseph the Worker Parish Choir and the Masterworks Concert Chorale, but her favorite role is mom to Matthew, Owen, Riley, and Quincy - the best fur baby.

**Helena Marshall ('24)** is in college for theater, and this year attended to many pressing matters, such as eating and sleeping. She can also do a cartwheel. As you watch her performance tonight, she'd like you to know that in her pocket are three beans.

**Devontez Moses ('25)** appeared in numerous productions during his time at Woodland Hills, including the role of "Seaweed J. Stubbs" in this year's production of *Hairspray*. He is also active in the company at Pittsburgh Musical Theater, where he has appeared in *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney Todd), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast). While at WHHS, Devontez participated in PMEA District and Regional Choirs for three years.

**Daquan Moss ('22)** played "Donkey" in *Shrek: The Musical* (2022) He is currently working as a renovator and is planning on going to the carpenters union. He is very excited to come back to the stage after taking a break!

**Michelle (Spynda) Pistella ('06)** is a proud alumni of WHHS and member of the WHPAG. She's performed in 4 high school shows and 2 alumni musicals. You may recognize her from her roles as Erma, *Anything Goes* '04, Gertrude, *Seussical* '05, or most recently Magenta, *Rocky Horror Picture Show* '24. Michelle is married to her husband, Robert, and has 3 children, Audrey, Jaxson, and Savannah. Currently, most know her as the singing vampire at Westmoreland Hospital, where she is a night phlebotomist that is heard singing all shift long.

**Aidan Potter ('24)** attends Vanderbilt University, where he is double majoring in Secondary Education and Psychology with a minor in Special Education. At Vanderbilt, he is part of the Mascot Team, performing as Mr. C at football and basketball games. Aidan has appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Shrek*, *Seussical*, and most recently, the pilot production of *Wonderland*, where he was also the student choreographer. While at Vandy, he was the choreographer for Vanderbilt Off Broadway's spring performance of *COMPANY*.

**A.J. PrestoGeorge ('18)** is a Pitt grad and has since "joined the family business," PrestoGeorge Coffee & Tea. When not roasting coffee, he moonlights on the stage in various shows and companies in and around Pittsburgh, most recently in several productions at The Strand Theater in Zelienople. AJ also sings in Voces Solis Chamber Choir, Greek dances, and assistant directs WH Junior High musical productions. @presto\_aj

## PERFORMER BIOS (continued)

**Leah Presteorge ('16)**, is currently living in NYC and just closed her first New York show, *Something Rotten* with The Gallery Players, Off-Off Broadway! She was last seen on the Woody High stage in the alumni show of *Rocky Horror* as Columbia and choreographer. Her recent regional credits include: *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Mountain Playhouse), *Songs of the Season* (St. Vincent Summer Theatre), *Bandstand*, *Grand Hotel* (Front Porch Theatricals). Catch her back at St. Vincent in Latrobe, PA in a couple weeks in their *Showstoppers: A Broadway Tribute*, July 8-13! Thanks and love to the Woodland Hills Foundation and PAG!

**Francisco Rios ('01)** was an active member of the drumline, chamber and acapella choirs, and performing arts department while a student at Woodland Hills. Francisco appeared on the Woodland Hills stage in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The King and I*, and *On the 20th Century*. He is a graduate of The University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a BA in Spanish Language and Literature followed by earning his teaching certification in secondary ELA and Spanish from Point Park University. Currently, he teaches high school Spanish at Propel Andrew Street High School and is an assistant instructor with the Woodland Hills drumline. He enjoys short walks through school hallways and eating fajitas at Pecos Bill's, in Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

**Zion Rumble ('25)** graduated this week. She is excited for what's next!

**Luanne Russell (TCHS '59)** is a 1963 Penn State grad who was a member of the Penn State Thespians. She appeared in shows in elementary school in East Pittsburgh, TCHS, Boal Barn Playhouse, Penn State New Kensington, directed and performed with Monroeville Civic Theater and Holiday Park Players, served as choir director and cantor at Hebron Lutheran Church in East Pittsburgh, and is retired from WTAE-TV. Luanne has worked on all of the WHHS musical sets in various capacities: co-designer, consultant, and scenic artist. It continues to be a true joy! Thanks to all who make this evening possible. Enjoy!

**Alicia Scaramuzzo ('98)** earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music Education from Duquesne University and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Boston University. She is currently the director of choirs and strings at WHHS. She is also the music director for the Woodland Hills Musicals. Alicia is very happy to be able to contribute to the alumni cabaret each year. She is a proud 1998 WH graduate.

**Zoë Spear ('24)** was a member of numerous stage crews and was the student stage manager for *Legally Blonde Jr.*, *Seussical*, *Clue*, *Annie*, and *Wonderland*. She is currently a student at the University of Pittsburgh and is studying History, Museum Studies, and Italian. She has continued stage managing in college. She'd like to thank Helena Marshall for singing with her.

**Dorian Wells ('24)** performed in numerous WH productions. He is currently enrolled at North Carolina Central University and is also an Army National Guard Service member.

## PERFORMER BIOS *(continued)*

**Jen Hykes Willson ('99)** is the Chief of Staff for an education nonprofit, Instruction Partners. She serves on the board of the Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild and is the proud parent of two Woodland Hills students.

**Maria Yezovich ('98)** is happy to reunite with so many of her favorite WH alumni performers for another WHF Cabaret. She works for her brother, Baird Private Wealth Management Financial Advisor Joe Yezovich, who is a proud, alum sponsor of tonight's event. Maria remains connected to musical performance as the lead singer of local cover band, Walkin' Rosie, and as a member of the Board of the Woodland Hills Performing Arts Guild.

**Giavonna Zinn ('25)** will be attending AHN West Penn Hospital School of Nursing in the fall. She recently choreographed *Something Rotten, Jr.* and loves working with kids. Gia has appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Shrek*, *Seussical*, *Wonderland*, and most recently in *Hairspray*, where she was also the student producer and dance captain.



**YOU  
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A DIFFERENCE**

We're seeking diverse individuals who are interested in giving back to our school district and community by joining our Board of Directors!

- Assist in selecting scholarship winners
- Award grants to teachers
- Connect alums with the community
- Make decisions on programming and services
- Assist in the planning and execution of events like Starry Night Gala!
- Help ensure our services reach our most underserved students and families
- And much, much more!

**Scan to  
learn more!**



To learn more, visit: [www.woodlandhillsfoundation.com/joinourboard](http://www.woodlandhillsfoundation.com/joinourboard)

# 2025

WOODLAND HILLS FOUNDATION

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED



On Tuesday, May 27, the Woodland Hills Foundation was pleased to present 17 scholarships, totaling \$18,504, to deserving Woodland Hills students during the Woodland Hills High School Academic Awards Banquet,

While the Foundation reserves the right to award only one scholarship which is funded solely through the Foundation per student, students may *additionally* receive a privately funded scholarship, which is *facilitated* through the Foundation. In 2025, 7 of our scholarships were funded fully through generous donors who have established ongoing scholarships solely for students in Woodland Hills.

Plus, in 2024, the Foundation was approached by Class of 2004 alumna, Katie Patrick-Burke, to establish a one-time scholarship funded entirely by the Class of '04. The scholarship was also a way for their class to celebrate their 20-year school reunion. "As a class that values investing in the future," wrote Patrick-Burke, "we are committed to paying it '04-ward by providing post-secondary education financial support to a current student at our alma mater." The "Pay It '04-ward Scholarship" aims to support and welcome all Woodlands Hills High School senior students who are investing in their future by pursuing higher education through colleges, universities, vocational schools, or other post-secondary pathways. On May 27, Class of 2004 President Dr. Victoria Mattingly presented Yah'Arra Benzo-Hall a scholarship in the amount of \$2,004. Finalists Liam Blaney, Maxwell Huck, Lena Laubscher, and Anthony Nemanic were also awarded scholarship in the amount of \$500 each.

This past year, the Foundation also announced the "Scholarship Donor Wall of Honor", which honors those donors who have established scholarships or who have made gifts solely for the purpose of creating an endowed Woodland Hills Scholarship Fund, which will ensure that scholarships will be offered in perpetuity. We are pleased to announce the support of Shelly and Michael Mayhak and Lamar Russ, our first donors to this newly-established fund.

To date, the Foundation has awarded 121 scholarships, totaling \$178,204! Congratulations to all of this year's winners! We can't wait to see all that these capable students will achieve in the coming years.

Your support of the Woodland Hills Foundation Alumni Cabaret supports scholarships for students in Woodland Hills School District!

To learn more about the Scholarship Donor Wall of Honor and our entire scholarship program, visit:

[www.WoodlandHillsFoundation.com](http://www.WoodlandHillsFoundation.com)



# Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Woodland Hills Foundation Scholarship Recipients!



**Troy Akins**  
WHF H.U.G.S. Volunteer Scholarship



**Carmella DeVore**  
WHF Perseverance Scholarship



**Lillian Divebliss**  
The Darcy Lynne Herman Scholarship



**Arianna Gaiter**  
Julia Anne McCool Memorial  
Scholarship for the Arts & Humanities



**Maxwell Huck**  
Colleen E. Kennedy Memorial  
Scholarship



**Lena Laubscher**  
Rotary Club of Forest Hills "Service  
Above Self" Tom Nunnally Memorial  
Scholarship



**SaNaya Lee**  
WHF Diversity Scholarship  
Patti Fedishen Zollner Scholarship



**Giovanna Zinn**  
WHF Career and Technical  
Scholarship

*Not pictured:*

*Woodland Hills Foundation Alumni  
Scholarship and Patti Fedishen  
Zollner Scholarship winner:  
Fataki Fataki;*

*Darcy Lynne Herman Scholarship  
winner: Josaiah Ferguson*



## **The Pay It '04-ward Scholarship:**

From left to right: Class of 2004  
President Dr. Victoria Mattingly,  
Anthony Nemanic, Lena  
Laubscher, Maxwell Huck, and  
Liam Blaney.

*Not pictured: Winner Yah'Arra  
Benzo-Hall*



### Backpacks of Hope

Backpacks of Hope provides 70+ of our most in-need students with backpacks filled with six easy to prepare weekend meals every Friday throughout the school year. With a current budget of just \$5,000, further support would allow us to assist even more students and to provide fresh fruits and vegetables and meals over long school breaks.



### Dream Book

Teachers are invited to share their "Dreams" for programs, teaching innovations and supplies they simply cannot get because there isn't money in the school's budget. Dreams are compiled into our Dream Book and shared with our network of donors to choose which programs they'd like to support. Since 2016, 56 Dreams have been fulfilled, totaling nearly \$60,000.



### Scholarships

We are proud to help deserving students in Woodland Hills achieve their full potential after high school. To-date, 135 scholarships totaling over \$178,000 have been awarded for post-secondary education including technical, vocational, and baccalaureate degrees.



### Mini Grants

Mini-Grants are modest cash awards that help educators make a positive difference in the learning experience of their students. Mini-Grants support, encourage, and facilitate great teaching ideas in the classroom. To date, over 200 Mini-Grants have been awarded, totaling nearly \$130,000.



### H.U.G.S.: Volunteerism & Community Support

H.U.G.S. (Helping Unconditionally and Giving Support) is a district-wide volunteer program supporting teachers and staff in Woodland Hills. We also host free and low-cost community events such as Trunk-or-Treat and hope to bring back the beloved Kona & Kickball this summer!

**DONATE TODAY!**

Scan the QR code or visit: [www.WoodlandHillsFoundation.com](http://www.WoodlandHillsFoundation.com)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

