



THE BOYS' LATIN SCHOOL OF MARYLAND

this week at 

Pride & Tradition: Alfred Hamilton Barr, Class of 1918

Alfred H. Barr '18 was born on January 28, 1902 in Detroit, Michigan. When he was young, his father, a Princeton educated minister, moved the family to Maryland to begin his work as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on Madison Avenue in Baltimore. Alfred was just nine years old in 1911, when he entered Boys' Latin School as a sixth grade student. He was a terrific student and was consistently ranked as the number one boy in his class during his seven years at BLS. His transcript reveals he was a "fine student" who "passed all College Board examinations." Barr especially excelled in languages and studied English along with Latin, Latin Prose, Greek, Greek Prose, and German.

Alfred's younger brother, Andrew, was also an excellent student and graduated from BLS in 1923. Andrew Barr later became a partner with the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse & Co..

Alfred Barr was an active member in the school community while at BLS. He was President of his class, started on the 1917 football team, was Editor-in-chief of the *Inkwell*, and was a member of the Gymnastics team. It was while at BL that he became interested in writing. In 1918 he won the senior composition award and was named Honorable Mention Best Boy in his Class of 1918. It was at this time according to an article in the December 12, 1953 issue of *The New Yorker* that he contemplated becoming an art historian.

His mother was a graduate of Vassar College and her brothers also attended Princeton University and in 1918 Alfred decided he too would matriculate to Princeton. While at Princeton, he developed an interest in Art History and by his junior year he declared his major in art history and began taking multiple art classes each semester along with Italian, French, and English. It was at this point in his academic career that he started his interest in modern art. According to the *New Yorker* Barr, being the contrarian, became interested in modern art because his teachers made fun of it. Barr stated, "I've always had to guard against a tendency to be in opposition for the sake of opposition. Maybe it's got something to do with being Scotch and Presbyterian." Barr enjoyed his college undergraduate years. One of the reasons was he was able to room with his old Boys' Latin friend **Ed King '18** during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Ed King was also an art historian major at Princeton and later worked as the Director of the Walter's Art Gallery in Baltimore.

Barr's Princeton transcript reveals he graduated in 1922 with High Honors and was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. The following fall he decided to stay at Princeton and pursue a Master's degree. In the fall of 1923 he studied at Harvard in pursuit of his PhD. After his schooling ended he taught for a year at Vassar College and then returned to Princeton in the fall of 1925 to teach a course in art. The following year he again started to teach at a new college, Wellesley College, and this time he was teaching an original course - modern art. It was thought to be the first modern art course taught in any American college.

The criticism followed. Many art pundits viewed Barr's teachings and interest in Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cezanne as ludicrous. However, Barr didn't care what the critics thought and believed in his mission of revolutionizing the art world. He continued to be focused and at the same time was considered by many to be difficult to work with. Philip Johnson told *The New Yorker* in 1953, "Alfred is hard to work with because he KNOWS he's right, and the hell of it is he generally is."

In 1927, Barr decided he needed to spend some time in Europe studying, particularly in Germany. No doubt his days studying German at Boys' Latin helped him travel about the land. Two years later he was told some art enthusiasts were seeking to start a modern art museum in New York. He was asked if he would be interested in running it. He agreed to do so.

On November 9th, 1929, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) opened its doors with Barr as its director. Without an endowment Barr ran the MoMA successfully during the Great Depression. He organized scores of exhibits at the MoMA including a Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit in 1932, a Van Gogh Exhibit in 1935, a "Cubism and Abstract Art" Exhibit in 1936, and a Pablo Picasso Exhibit in 1939. In the spring of 1939 the MoMA opened in its present location at West 53rd Street to rave reviews. Modern Art was now firmly established in the world and thanks mainly to an unassuming BL graduate named Alfred H. Barr, Class of 1918.

In 1943 he was relieved as the museum's director but did stay on for over nearly 25 years as the MoMA's Director of Collections. According to an article written about Barr by Beaumont Newhall, Alfred H. Barr WAS the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and considered by most historians as the guiding spirit of MoMA. Newhall writes about Barr's "intense energy and his devotion to the cause. The fervor of the museum's early years has been compared to the early Christian Church – for it was truly a crusade." Unquestionably, Barr's dedication and knowledge of modern art allowed MoMA to achieve the international distinction it still holds today.

Alfred Barr was married and had one child – a daughter Victoria. He died on August 15, 1981. He was 80 years old.

Annual Fund 2010-2011

The Boys' Latin Alumni/Development Office would like to challenge everyone who was a student of *Mr. J. Marshall Bruce* to consider doubling from last year their 2010-2011 annual fund UNRESTRICTED gift in his honor. For those of you who didn't participate last year we ask that you consider an UNRESTRICTED gift this year in memory of a great teacher, counselor, and friend.

Boys' Latin Athletic Hall of Fame



Boys' Latin is proud to announce the next group of inductees into the Boys' Latin Athletic Hall of Fame.

William E. Berndt 1954

Eugene M. Fusting 1962

Joseph S. Sweeny, Jr. 1963

R. Bruce Fingles 1964

William F. Thomas, Jr. 1964

Jay Gettman 1966 Stanley H.

Dorney III 1972 Mark G.

Dorney 1974

W. Brad Gano 1974

Bryant Waters 1974

Philip C. Federico 1975

Hugh L. Andes 1976

The induction dinner will take place on Thursday evening, November 4th, starting with a cocktail party at 6:00. The dinner is open to everyone in the Boys' Latin family. The cost of the affair is \$30 per person and checks should be made out to the BL Alumni Association and sent to my attention here at BL.

Boys' Latin Admissions

The Admissions Office wants to know if any alumnus knows of someone who would make a good Laker. If so, please send the names, email address or phone numbers of possible candidates/families to Candy Bradfield - cbradfield@boyslatinmd.com - and be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate at the BL School Store. The Admissions Office wishes to remind us all - "Word of mouth brings us our best students!"

BL MVA Car License Plates



If you live in Maryland, you can still obtain a Boys' Latin State of Maryland license plate. Please contact me here in the Alumni House for the MVA form. The additional cost to the MVA for the special plate is \$25. The next number available is "0089." The Maryland MVA will send you your new BL plates with the same expiration stickers you currently have on your tags.

50 Falls of BL Bull Roasts



The 2010 BL Bull Roast will take place on Saturday, November 20th from 5-9 p.m. in the Gelston Athletic Center. Ticket prices will revert BACK to 2004 prices: \$35 per person (\$40 at the door) and \$20 for children 12 and under. Mark your calendars now.

Alumni Notes

Bert Waters '71 remembers two of BL's best in writing about former lower school teacher **Bill Zemer** and alumnus **John Barcik '88**:

Bill Zemer: "During my first year at BL as a fourth grader, I and my classmates would often glance across the lower school hallway from **Doris Regan's** room into Bill Zemer's fifth grade classroom, eagerly anticipating an important rite of passage. Once we would become rising fifth graders, we knew we would be leaving the realm of female instructors. So we fancied ourselves as men in the making, for we were well aware that Mr. Zemer meted out discipline with a flair for wielding the yardstick. On our first day of class with Mr. Zemer, most of us brought in a complimentary yardstick or two, wishing to ingratiate ourselves with this popular figure. While the novelty of his discipline quickly wore off as we suffered his timely dispassionate administrations, a practical mutual respect developed that enabled us to know when to laugh and banter and when to be serious and learn. While I could regale readers with entertaining tales of meaningful classroom drama, I'll just say that the following fall of '64 wasn't quite the same when Bill Zemer was nowhere in sight. Before long, though, his absence ceased to be lamented as his place was capably filled by **Dyson Ehrhardt**.

"Bill Zemer will always be an institution among those of us who were a part of BL's first years at Lake Avenue. As an athletic and lively role model, he helped to make BL a unique place of learning that I quickly regarded as a second family. I am very grateful that I was able to see him at last November's reunion of Lake Avenue's first undefeated football team. After forty-five years I was able to thank him for his memorable efforts to educate us.

John Barcik: "I first saw John Barcik as an assistant varsity soccer coach. The first session of the first day of training camp has just ended, and John informed Coach **Butch Maisel** about his hesitation to play in the backfield for the upcoming defense of the championship title. While I was impressed by John's candor and reasoning, I was even more impressed by his willingness to consider Coach Maisel's wisdom about sticking with his deployment. I was further impressed as John put aside his agenda for the entire season and kept everyone relaxed with his opportunistic sense of humor. As Butch has already pointed out in his appreciation, John found his reward as we successfully defended the title, and he found a bonus reward by scoring the decisive goal. What a fitting finish! Like Butch, I can recall his elation. The following spring, I believe John scored a critical goal in the lacrosse team's come-from-behind defeat of Loyola in the MSA Championship game. John loved to compete.

"In addition, John was simply a good guy. Though I had little idea of what I was doing as a rookie soccer coach, John had ways of complimenting me for any helpful information I offered (even if it was usually a matter of me talking to myself). That was John, always noticing things."

Stuart Egerton '86 wants to inform the BL family of the *Oxfords and Oysters* event to raise money for the Oyster Recovery Partnership, Inc. It will take place at Little Havana on Saturday the 18th from 3:00 to 7:00pm and will have an open bar, a live band, and plenty of oysters and food. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.blog.skyblue-events.com/oxfords-oysters.

Benjamin Wells '02 and **Meredith Gilbert** were married August 14, 2010 at Wait Chapel at Wake Forest University. There was a reception immediately after the wedding at the Old Town Club in Winston-Salem with many Boys' Latin alumni in attendance.



Left to Right -Henry Blue '02, Jonathan Wilson '02, Alex Filamor '02, Jason Dobrzykowski '02, Matt Field '02, Brian Read '02, Benjamin Wells '02, Kyle Rubeling '02, and Troy Marrocco '02.

Connor Larkin '05 is currently interning on the *Bruce Cunningham Show* which can be heard here in Baltimore weekdays from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. on WJZ-FM radio, 105.7 The Fan.

Scott Matthews '05 is currently working at First Home Mortgage as a loan originator and asks if anyone knows anybody thinking of purchasing a home or refinancing to please contact him at 410-916-1905. Rates are at an all time low (FHA-4.25% and CONV-4.5%). And of course discounts will be made to all Laker alumni.

Brett Weiss '07 is the starting kicker on the Georgetown University football team. Brett also is an attackman on the Hoya lacrosse team in the spring.

BL Athletics

This past Friday Boys' Latin's football team hosted the Little Admirals from Severn. BL was ranked 8th in the Baltimore region by the *Baltimore Sun* and received honorable mention in the state media top 25 poll. Boys' Latin won the game in the rain 47-0. **Brandon Barnes '11** and **Brandon Cherry '12** each rushed for over 100 yards and scored 2 touchdowns. **Jeff Chase '11** scored on a 81 yard kick-off return and quarterback **Brett Radcliffe '12** connected with **Michael Turner '11** on a 25 yard touchdown pass.

BL will **HOST** St. John's Catholic Prep (of Frederick) this Friday, September 24th at 4:00 in another MIAA B Conference match-up. BL's current record is 3-0.

mail.google.com/a/boyslatinmd.com/?...

The Laker soccer team hosted the Annapolis Area Christian School on Thursday and lost 2-0. BL's next home soccer game will not be until Saturday, October 2 against St. Paul's as part of the BL Fall Festival.

90 Years Ago

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, the Boys' Latin football Latinists came back after a two week layoff and defeated Loyola High School 6-0 at Mt. Washington in a drizzling rain . BL was outweighed slightly but was able to score the only touchdown in the second period when half back **Bill Lawrence '23** scored from a short distance. According to the *Sun*, Lawrence, quarterback and team captain **Barney Harris '22**, end **Butler Grimes '23** and half back **Lee Speed '21** were the stars of the game.

45 Years Ago

The Laker varsity football team was hoping to rebound after the season opening 16-14 heart-breaking loss to Mervo. On September 25 the team traveled southern Maryland to play the Charlotte Hall Cadets. BL was at a considerable disadvantage in that quarterback **Bruce Regan '66** was sidelined with a fractured finger and halfback **Mike Thomas '66** was out with an injured shoulder. **Kevin Sweeny '66** stepped in and did a solid job for the Lakers but the Cadets were too talented and the Lakers fell 26-0.

BL's soccer team was beginning only the school's second year of organized play under the guidance of Coaches **Hugh Gelston '56** and **Jack Albright**. BL opened the season with a tough 4-0 loss to McDonogh. According to the 1966 Maroon and White BL played much better than the final score indicated. .

20 Years Ago

In the fall of 1990 BL was competing in the always tough Maryland Scholastic Association's (MSA) A Conference. **Butch Maisel H'09** was once again at the helm of the BL soccer team. Leading the squad would be seniors **Kevin Lutz '91**, **Jason Barnett '91**, **Jayson Crabtree '91**, **Jason Orsino '91**, and **Ryan Smith '91**. BL started the season well with consecutive wins over Mercersburg Academy (2-0), Gilman (2-1), St. Paul's (1-0), and Severn (3-1.)

Remember When



Kurt Waters, son of **Bert Waters '71** secured this photo of a Baltimore City Fire Truck going southbound on Howard Street sometime in the 1950s. Through the truck one can see the old BLS playground and the old Boys' Latin School sign.



Boys' Latin will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on Lake Avenue with a Gala on April 2nd, 2011. Details will be forthcoming during the school term. Mark your calendars now for a what will be a wonderful celebration.

