



In Memoriam: Hal Wingard March 21, 1926 – May 25, 2009

By Lorraine D'Ambruoso, Executive Director

Hal Wingard was known as an expert educator, songwriter, and most importantly, a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Hal was a born leader. This was exemplified by his selection as speaker his UCLA graduation in the Hollywood Bowl, where Eileen Schiff, a member of the same graduating class, first became aware of this vibrant young man. Hal and Eileen coincidentally landed in the same summer school course, quickly became acquainted, began dating the following September, and a year later, both launched their teaching careers. During winter break in December of 1952, they were married.

What is the greatest gift that life can offer? There are many good answers to that question, but surely one of them that best characterizes Hal's life is "love," and Hal professed many times publicly that he had many loves in his life.

He had the love of teaching, which, combined with good luck, kept him out of harm's way in World War II, when four members of his Company of 400 were held back to help teach future Companies. The rest of his compatriots were sent to fight in the Battle of the Bulge, where the vast majority of them perished.

He had the love of music. Early in his life, he played the clarinet. Later on, he played the guitar, composed and sang over 300 songs, many dedicated to his family,

friends, colleagues and to his profession.

He loved to travel, and did so often for as long as he was physically able.

He had a great love for Germany, where he taught early in his career as a Fullbright Scholar and traveled there often over the years, forming friendships which lasted a lifetime.

He loved to meet new people, and his frequent travels afforded him many opportunities to do just that.

He loved the City of San Francisco. This love was formed at a very young age, and fortunately, his work offered him many chances to travel there.

He loved the arts, and helped pass that love on to all of his children, who have become accomplished artists in their own right. He loved to see his son Danny act onstage. He was proud when his older daughter, Myla, received her Master's degree from Harvard.

He was proud of his second daughter, Tamara, who was the first member of their family to receive a Doctorate degree. And how proud he was that his youngest child, Harriet, followed in his footsteps and became a teacher, and an accomplished fiddler who often joined him in duets at the Summer Seminar in Santa Barbara.

But the love of his life was his wife, Eileen. Theirs was a remarkable union which encompassed more than half a century of shared experiences and which

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resulted in four children and four grandchildren. And they were both part of a vast tapestry of family and friends.

After retiring from the San Diego City Schools, Hal became instrumental in the formation of what began as CCLFLTA, then changed to the California Foreign Language Teachers' Association (CFLTA,) and finally dropped the word "foreign" from its title to become what is now the California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA). He served as its Executive Director until 2001. Among the many initiatives that he pioneered were weeklong summer seminars and weekend language immersion retreats called "Pract-Ins," which took him up and down the coast from his beloved San Francisco to Santa Barbara. During the 1990s, Hal developed a model for peer coaching that he called "colleague collaboration" that was the catalyst for many teachers to continue to collaborate and implement the instructional strategies learned at a workshop or institute. He was honored with the first Hal Wingard Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995, recognizing his more than forty years as the dominant force in foreign language education in our state. This award continues to be given annually and has become the hallmark of professional achievement in our profession. Hal served as a distinguished member of the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission and was a primary author of several reform documents in the area of language and culture education as well as many other articles that illuminated the art of teaching and learning languages for over four decades.

While he withdrew from his formal education work over the past three years, Hal's devotion to teaching

and learning never diminished. His passion continued to thrive in the conversations he had each day with colleagues, friends and family. His deep love and appreciation of Eileen, his wife of 56 years, continued to flourish, and he cherished the time they spent together with their four children, three sons-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Beyond his family and professional achievements, Hal leaves behind an additional legacy: the 325 songs he penned over the past 35 years that reflect his wit, wisdom and unique perspectives on life. Inspired by his travels, layovers in airports, eavesdropping, reflections on the meaning of life, and the life cycle events of his family members, Hal lovingly composed his songs, taking note of his inspiration, and often dedicating them to the people he held dear. He often referred to his songs as his "other children." For the complete list of Hal's songs, which many of you will recall from Summer Seminar and other places where he originally sang them, and to listen to him sing them, please consult the following URL: <http://www.jewishstseeing.com/san-diego-jewish-authors/jewish-authors-wingard-hal.htm>

At the memorial services, his family fondly remembered Hal Wingard as a great lover of language, travel, chocolate and his grandchildren, Legos and laughter—their beloved and cherished husband, father, grandfather, and teacher. CLTA is saddened as his family and the profession mourns the passing of our memorable and illustrious mentor and is proud to honor and remember him as its "Founding Father"—and, to quote Duarte Silva, "the wind beneath its wings."

Memories of Hal Wingard

Hal Wingard was truly a heroic figure to hundreds of teachers and students whom he entertained with his guitar music, his original lyrics, his contagious laughter, and his *joie de vivre*. (Gloria Payette)

Let us always remember this gentle giant. (Flo Martin)

I remember very well the brunch when Hal tore off his shirt imitating John Rassias and the Rassias Method. He laid the foundation for CLTA to proceed successfully into, through, and hopefully beyond the 21st century. (Carol Moir)

To struggle with G-d is at the core of Judaism, a religion of deeds rather than creed. Hal Wingard follows a long tradition of Jewish men and women who, through their actions, are a testament of good deeds. I remember him as a leader in diversity-sensitive education teaching a song based on Psalm 133, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Brandon Zaslow)

We have lost a wonderful advocate and a dear friend. He has left us with a wonderful legacy, which will keep him always in our thoughts. (Jan Treadgold)

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It is difficult to comprehend the loss of our dear Hal, a unique individual who gave all to ensure that world languages were well taught. We will listen to his songs and remember his legacy. (Sylvia Jones)

I will remember him fondly and with great gratitude for his vision, energy and devotion to CLTA. (Jan Letson)

I will always remember him as the “world languages troubadour”—a visionary and pioneer in language learning, he inspired us lofty heights; he was a true mentor and role model extraordinaire. (Pat Nakashima)

Hal will continue to live in all of us forever, for his inspiration was the “wind beneath our wings” for all the years that we had the good fortune to be associated with him. (Duarte Silva)

Everything I do is always with the memory of Hal behind me, pushing me, telling me I can do it! He was my mentor, he was my colleague, he was my friend. I will miss him greatly. (Lorraine D’Ambruoso)

I can still see Hal turning his love and vision for languages and cultures into reality. Hal will live on in the hearts of many. (Arleen Burns)

Hal was a special part of my professional career. He found the best in everyone and reminded us, through his actions, that we are all very wonderful people (Bruce Cole)

An era passes. I’m in Russia right now, on a cruise, but I’ve spent time learning the Cyrillic alphabet and. I dedicate my new learning to Hal. (Ken Kirkeby)

Hal has been my valued, loving friend for many years. All of us treasure his quick innovative mind, creative spirit, and love of languages and cultures. (Jan Costella)

CLTA Celebrates

This year is a very special one. CLTA will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding by a group of language educators who were led by Hal Wingard. We plan to honor Hal and the other “Founding Fathers and Mothers” with a special celebration at the 2010 CLTA Conference in San Diego. Be on the watch for further announcements and registration information. You will not want to miss being a part of this celebration! CLTA may be getting older, but we are also getting better at serving the world languages professionals in California.

Epitaph 1

By Hal Wingard

I hope upon my passing,
You’ll shed a tiny tear
And feel a moment’s longing
That I’m no longer here.

But don’t extend your mourning,
No matter what your pain,
For neither death nor living
Should make a soul complain.

If joy is part of living
As life flows day by day,
Then emptiness of dying
Is little price to pay.

So, thanks for all your sadness
But do not weep too long.
Instead, recall my living
And sing a joyous song.



CLTA News

P.O. Box 123, Ferndale, CA 95536
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Should you wish to make a donation in Hal's memory, the family has suggested the following organizations:

CLTA Memorial Scholarship
C/O Sue McKee
2430 Avenita Alpera
Tustin, CA 92782

JCC Astor Judaica Library
4126 Executive Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Ohr Shalom Synagogue
2512 3rd Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103

San Diego Symphony
1245 7th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101