

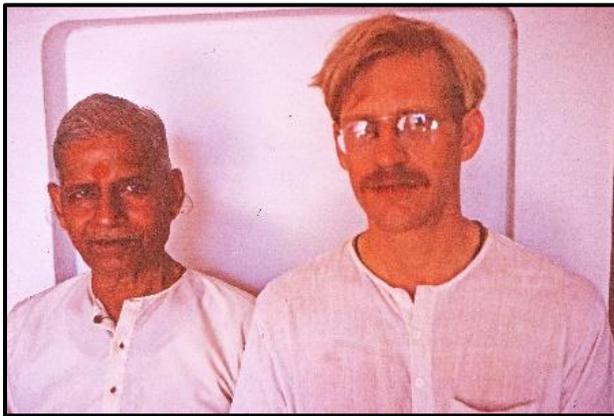
Jim Arnold

Ephrata High School Class of 1961



Born in Racine, Wisconsin, Jim moved to Ephrata with his family when his father took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation in 1952. Not particularly athletic, he took an interest in many other school activities, particularly related to science. In his high school years, he plunged into the world of amateur radio, scavenging surplus Air Force electronic parts as a member of the Civil Air Patrol. Jim set up a double side-band transmitter which allowed him to speak to friends all over the world from his room and workshop in his parent's garage. His expertise gave him employment at local radio stations KULE in Ephrata and KWIQ in Quincy, where he maintained their transmitters and ran a Sunday morning classical music program at KWIQ. This expertise earned him the nickname "the Wizard" in the 1961 yearbook.

Although Jim was interested in pursuing electrical engineering in college, competition with more mathematically talented students convinced him he'd be better off in the humanities than science, and he enrolled in Whitman College, majored in philosophy and played Bach on the chapel pipe organ. Graduating in 1965, Jim moved on to the graduate philosophy program of the University of Chicago. However, he was more interested



in big philosophical ideas and not the Chicago approach of examining Western culture through great books, and he got more out of playing the pipe organ in the Rockefeller Chapel. With a philosophy M.A. he enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania's South Asian Studies program in 1968, and he soon gravitated towards the study of the Sanskrit language and Indian classical music, and taking lessons in sitar while there.

Jim with his sarangi teacher in Varanasi India, 1975.

As a Ph.D. candidate, in 1974 he obtained an Indo-American Fellowship and travelled to India to undertake his dissertation studies in the philosophy of Indian music. He became fluent in Hindi and Urdu, took more lessons in sitar and sarangi from master teachers, and began the analysis of the structure of the Indian raga within the most ancient Dhrupad tradition. He learned how to use a computer and spreadsheet (Apple IIe and Lotus 1,2,3) to analyze performances, obtaining additional funding from the American Embassy to do this. However, nothing came of this research and he found himself at an impasse. He had been a student for 20 years, had burned through two marriages, and was dropped from the Penn graduate program.

Then, Jim re-invented himself, at age 38. Through his musical research he met an elder brother, Sahimuedin, of the Dagar family, one of the most illustrious musical families in India. He fell in love with the younger daughter, Nazneen, and they married in October of 1981. Their first son, Shah, was born in 1985, and it became imperative that Jim improve his financial situation. Capitalizing on his computer and spreadsheet skills, he obtained a position at the American Embassy in Delhi. This position provided insights into problems of aiding developing countries, particularly in famine relief. In 1988, they returned to the U.S. where Jim began his work in disaster relief through U.S.A.I.D. and its contractors. Jim saw that the major problem in disaster relief was coordinating the delivery of food supplies to areas of greatest need (and to help prevent their theft), and the agencies did not have the communications technology to deal with this problem. Jim used his knowledge of electronics and applied the relatively inexpensive technology of amateur radio to set up communications systems. Through inter-agency contacts, Jim found his greatest opportunity to serve through the United Nations, and its World Food Program, the foremost global organization delivering food relief and averting famine. He started work there in 1993, just after the birth of his second son, Zabe. Jim worked as a communications specialist for the World Food Program four twelve years, until his retirement in 2005. Jim set up



to avert death through starvation of millions, particularly young children. The World Food Program, where Jim was instrumental in averting famine, from 1993-2005.

communications systems in the sub-Saharan of Africa— location of the worlds worst famines. The family moved to Rome, where for several years Jim worked in the Program’s headquarters, and he made innumerable trips to northern Africa to help avert famine there. **His communication systems helped**



While working for the program, Jim became aware of increasing lapses of memory— the beginning of his descent into dementia. After retirement, he moved the family to East Wenatchee, a disastrous undertaking because of the isolation for his family and him. Nazneen eventually moved him back to Baltimore where he died in April 2010, at 67 years of age.

With family in Yonkers, New York, end of 2004 and just before retirement and move back to Washington State. From left to right, wife Nazneen, elder son Shah, and younger son Zabe.