

Bennett Beacon



Summer 2022 • Volume 24/Issue 2

Alumni Edition

Bennett High School • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 • (716) 816-4250 or (716) 308-5451 www.bennettalumni.com

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-Marilyn Wittman, Faculty
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Class of 2023

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-Marsha Jadd, '58
-Mark Overall, '03
-Christine Salamone, '73
-Joanne Szwejbka, Faculty

BY CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.

News From Our Principal



As we continue our work through the COVID – 19 pandemic, I am encouraged by our accomplishments. Our teachers have been persistent and working diligently to prepare our students for higher levels of academic achievement. This is evidenced by the Class of 2022 earning an unofficial graduation rate of 91%!

This graduation rate surpasses the Buffalo Public Schools average graduation rate and likely the average graduation rate for New York State. Our Class of 2022 accumulated 1.6 million dollars in scholarship monies and students will be attending 23 colleges and universities across the country.

Our PTECH program successfully completed year one of the seven-year grant. The group of 48 students enrolled last Fall will begin experiencing college-level work this year, while a new group of 48 students will be enrolled this Fall. We are excited about the collaboration and support provided by Erie Community College and IBM.

We will be welcoming 120 new freshmen to our school during our Freshman Orientation in August. In addition, we will also be hosting a Summer Bridge Academy for our PTECH students after Freshman Orientation, leading up to the beginning of the school year.

We are excited to share that we are in the process of creating a Tiger Technology Lab that gives students access to build, program, and practice operating robots and drones. We are working to gather equipment to make this a state-of-the-art lab,

which will build upon our focus on innovative technology.

Our school continues to grow and is becoming a school of destination in the City of Buffalo. We will resume our pursuit of having 700 - 800 students enrolled as we regain classrooms within our school building. This Fall, we will recover classrooms on the fourth floor of the school building. This is the first step in recapturing the entire school building for the Fall of 2023.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, I would like to thank the Bennett Alumni Association for their continued support!



Bennett Redesign Team

Focus on Mental Health

While the pandemic has caused great physical harm and death to millions, its devastating effects have also played havoc with students and staff and their mental health. The Bennett Redesign Team adjusted our focus to make Mental Health our priority.

Principal Carlos Alvarez told us that the students were reaching out because they were in distress. This is a change from before COVID. Your Team researched and learned that BestSelf Buffalo offers a Mental Health First Aid Course that runs weekly for six sessions. Best Self agreed to come to Bennett and teach our students if ten percent of the staff took a pre-requisite mental health training course. The Alumni Association agreed to pay for the teacher training. The staff was willing, and the classes were taught. We plan to expand the program and fund this initiative every semester.

We connected with NAMI WNY (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for the staff. We were able to purchase their Resource Guide, Mind Matters. This book contains a vast amount of contact information for every mental health agency and its specialty throughout our area. We placed the Guide in a gift bag for the teachers for their reference, a letter of support, some candy treats, and a Bennett Alumni mug. We had fun distributing the bags, letting each staff member know how important they are and that their efforts don't go unnoticed.

Your alumni membership and additional contributions made all of this possible. Thank you for guaranteeing our students and staff the necessary tools for maneuvering in these difficult times! We are working our motto, "For the Best is Yet to Be!!"



Thanks for the Mini-Grant



I just wanted to take a minute to thank the Bennett Alumni Association for sponsoring my Mini-Grant for College Decision Day and Signing Day. I was able to use the funds to recognize our seniors with college "swag" and some sweet treats in collaboration with the Senior Breakfast. I truly appreciate your support. Go Tigers!

All my best,
Lisa Fisher
Guidance Counsellor

Congratulations to Retiring Teacher Jackie Albarella

She started her career in theater before working in cable television. She became the first female engineer in Buffalo at WKBW. She is the founder of Albarella Media, an award-winning multimedia production and consulting firm. She is the author of The Hotel Lafayette: Restoring Louise Bethune's Master-



piece and Dirty Tricks in the Garden.

Congratulations to our very own media/tech teacher, Jackie Albarella. She will be inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasters Association 2022 Hall of Fame. She has won numerous awards for her productions and is highly respected in the industry. Other interests include theater, cable television, and near and dear to her heart, gardening.

Our students were blessed to have her on the technology/media faculty. She has turned her attention to them as a teacher and a mentor. The practical experience she brought was invaluable.

Jackie announced her retirement from teaching at the end of June. She has been such an asset to developing a graphic design program for our technology program. Beyond her work with the students, Jackie has been an asset to the Alumni Association, helping us with many of our media productions.

Congratulations to teacher, Jackie Albarella. And a great big Bennett Tiger Roar for all you have done (and, hopefully, all you will continue to do!!) for us!

Founders' Circle

Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund

BY MARGARET LANZ PUZIO,
'68 & FACULTY



You Make the Difference

Education has the power to shape people's long-term job success, financial stability, and ability to pursue happiness. The nation's public schools remain one of our most valued, relied upon, and trusted institutions for providing a free public education. But there are distinct differences in the educational resources supporting public schools in America. Buffalo ranks among the poorest of cities in the country and its public schools face what sometimes seem like insurmountable challenges. Add to this the pandemic of the last two years and many students have lost months of instruction and suffered significant social and emotional damage because of the prolonged isolation.

This story clearly needs a hero to right this ship. In the midst of this bleak landscape sits an oasis, an educational gem, where urban students find a high school setting with small class sizes, academic rigor, personalized relationships with staff and real-world relevance in their workplace experiences and career pathways to post-secondary education. This school is our beloved Bennett High School, where so many of us found the power that fueled our post-high school lives.

One of the reasons Bennett thrives is its extensive and generous alumni. You make the difference; from the members of the Alumni Board and committees who maintain day-to-day contact with staff and who step in at critical moments to advocate for Bennett with the Board of Education, district personnel, and other political players, to the alumni who fund our work with students

and staff through your annual dues and generous donations. You are the key to leveling the playing field and righting the ship for urban students.

One special way that you can make a difference is a donation to the **Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund**. During this initial year of the fund, we invite you to join the **Founders' Circle**, a group of alumni who contribute at least \$1,000.00 before December 31, 2022. The members of the **Founders' Circle** will be remembered by having their names inscribed on a plaque in the foyer at Bennett and will be celebrated at a special gala event.

To donate, send a check payable to the **Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund** to 2885 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214 or donate online at www.bennettalumni.com. As you are considering possible charitable donations from IRA

disbursements, please keep our alumni endowment fund in mind. A gift to the fund outlined in your will, or as a named beneficiary, will also ensure your legacy. Please call Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 if you have any questions. (*See page 10 for our Founders' Circle members to date!*)

In the midst of this bleak landscape sits an oasis, an educational gem...

Easy Ways to Donate to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund

- Mail a check made out to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund to Bennett Alumni Association, 2885 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214
- Go to bennettalumni.com/endowment to donate online!
- Ask your financial advisor to send your donation to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity, when you set up your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA or 401k before the end of the year.
- Designate the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund as a beneficiary for a life insurance policy, annuity, or IRA/401k.
- Name the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund as the primary beneficiary for a specific gift, such as a certain amount of money or stock when you make your will.
- Allocate a percentage of your total estate to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund when you make your will.

Bennett Alumni Moving Forward Alumni Board “ZOOMS” in...

In February of 2020, no one on the Bennett Alumni Board ever heard of Zoom. During the pandemic, everyone learned to become Zoomers. Your Alumni Board met on its regular schedule with the aid of Zoom technology. Hats off to everyone who downloaded, set up and used the app.



Ever thinking and seeing the value in the technology, the Board decided to convert our Bennett Alumni Board Room to

a Zoom Room. With the addition of a big screen, a sophisticated camera, and some microphones, we can now include those not able to attend our meetings in person. We can also have all those out-of-town Tigers be active as members of the Board or as guests. Zoom is another example of Bennett embracing the future as we celebrate our past.

Our Board usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except July). To be a guest, let us know at bennetalumniassociation@gmail.com. We will send you a link and you can join us! We are always looking for more people to be involved!

I am looking to start a Bennett Ambassadors program. I need one or two volunteers from each graduating class to make phone calls to keep in touch with your classmates once a year. We hope to learn about what our alum our doing so we can add more information for our Class Notes section. Call Neil at (716)308-5451 to volunteer!!!

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Gift Bag Celebration

May is the month to show our staff how much we appreciate them. So, on May 4, each staff member received a gift bag. It contained some chocolate sponge candy, a Bennett Alumni mug, a letter of support, and some vital information about how to access mental health help. The local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) provided Resource Guides that outline the hundreds of WNY agencies available to assist individuals. The pandemic has created tremendous stress on schools--students, parents, and staff. This reference will be a quick and easy way to find just the help needed.

The Bennett Alumni Association loves its staff. They are an essential part of our Bennett family. We were glad to give them a token of our appreciation supported by the dues dollars you generously give.



2021 - 2022 Major Alumni Donors Diamond Club - \$500+

Dr. Harry Ausprich, '50
Marland L. Berdick, '49
Richard Berkson, M.D., '64
Sheldon M. Berlow, '50
Joan Broderick Mooney, '64
Philip Celniker, '54
Laurence Cohen, '49
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65
Bruce A. McNallie, '56

Donald H. Meyncke, Jr., '49
James Phillips, '61
Robert A. Russell, '63
Norman Schreiber, '59
Gordon T. Warme, '66
Donna Weber Wattman, '59
Marilyn Wittman, Faculty
Sandra Wolfberg Schreiber, '61
Anonymous (1)

Class Notes

The 1930s

Betty Jane Feuchter Dettmer, '39, died just three weeks before a party that was planned to celebrate



her 100th birthday. Betty was married to Bill Dettmer for over 50 years. Together they raised five children. Upon becoming empty nesters, they travelled around the country in an Airstream trailer. Betty was loved by everyone.

Class Notes

The 1950s

Ann Strunk Seibert, '52, remembers her mother, Mary Bartlett Strunk, who was a gym teacher at Bennett for over 30 years.

Sally Laurie Drake Murphy, '51, sends congratulations to the Bennett Football Team for their phenomenal season. "You are all #1 young men in my book," she explained. "And know that this old alum is SOOO proud of all of you - you are a stellar team."

Class Notes

The 1960s

Christopher Wende, '68, wrote, "I thoroughly enjoyed my four years at Bennett. It was due to the quality of the education that I received that I was awarded a Regents Scholarship. In speaking with friends who attended other schools around the country, I have come to realize the quality education that I took for granted. I thought every-

one was receiving the same." Christopher is a Founders' Circle donor to our Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund! Thanks, Christopher, for your continued support!!!

Class Notes

The 1970s

Dr. Helene Gayle, '72, has been named to head Spelman College, one of the nation's two historically Black colleges for women. She is the college's 11th president. She is currently the president of the Chicago Community Trust. She said, "Spelman is a place where young women can really tap into who they are; really develop a sense of confidence as women." Congratulations on this magnificent achievement!!!

Class Notes

The 1980s



Rhonda Wells, '89, went on to earn two Associates Degrees, one in Science from Trocaire College and the other in Culinary Arts

from SUNY Erie. Fueled by her love for feeding others, Rhonda is the proud owner of Buffalo Plant Burger, a vegan soul food business that provides great-tasting meals which are also healthy.

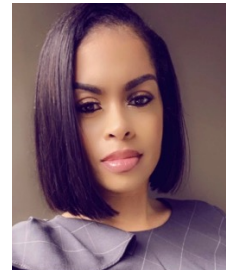
Class Notes

The 1990s

Marc D. Adams, '90, is a teacher at Emerson School of Hospitality in Buffalo, and was a finalist in the Friends for a BetterBuffalo 2022 Excellence in Education Awards. The annual awards program was broadcast on WBBZ-TV in early May.

Frank S. Williams, '93. After graduation, Frank enrolled at SUNY Fredonia. After graduating from Fredonia, he entered the University at Buffalo and graduated from there in 1999. Currently, he is serving as Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management at Nazareth College.

Tamara Jones, '97, went on to earn a BS in Criminal Justice and two Master's Degrees, one in Public Administration and the other in Special Education. She currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and serves as the Director of Youth Workforce Development at Gaston College. Tamara is also the owner of 4Gems Consulting Group, where she assists clients in the areas of Grant Writing and Nonprofit Management, Curriculum and Program Design, Program Management and Design, and Training Development.



Melodie McCalister Baker, '99, was invited to present her research on mathematics at the American Education Research Association (AERA) national conference in San Diego. She was also nominated for an Excellence in Research Award and invited to present at UB's showcase. She said, "It's so rewarding to have people read my work and find it useful!"



Nikia Miller Sweet, '99 is a woman who knows about resilience and determination. Graduating from Bennett as a teenage mother, Nikia continued her

Class Notes

Continued on page 8...

Alumni Honor Roll *2022 - 2023 Nomination Form*

Check Category:

please use this form to make your nomination

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Professions | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artisans & Crafters | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Principals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Aerospace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/
Consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dentistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Responders | | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteerism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Careers | | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |

Nominee _____ Class of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Briefly describe the accomplishments of this graduate in the field of endeavor.

Information of person submitting the nomination.

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please feel free to duplicate this form and send in as many nominations as necessary. We would like to recognize all those Bennett Alumni who have done so much for our community. Please submit your nominations before November 30, 2022!

Return this form to: Bennett High School Alumni Honor Roll
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214

Alumni Honor Roll Induction Ceremony

At the All Class Reunion held at the school on June 10, 2022, the Bennett High School Alumni Honor Roll added the following new awardees:

- **Peter Cammarata, '75**
Community Service & Business
- **Dennis Clark, '59**
Business
- **Jamil Crews, '99**
Media
- **Aneesah Shaheed Farris, '00**
Medicine
- **James Neal, '73**
Business
- **Mark Overall, '03**
Community service
- **Linda Scheffer, '61**
Volunteerism
- **Peter Trooboff, '60**
Law

A posthumous award was also given to **Dr. Herbert Berkoff, '55**, for medicine.

Five of the eight honorees were present to receive their awards. Unfortunately, Aneesah Farris, who resides in Florida, Peter Trooboff, who resides in Washington, DC and James Neal were unable to attend. Cecelia Henderson, co chair of the Honor Roll Committee, presided over the ceremony. Congratulations to all new honor roll members.

We are always excited to honor those alumni who have or had distinguished careers. Please consider nominating one of your classmates or an alum that you know of for recognition. If you are not sure if someone has already been recognized, please give Neil Lange a call at (716) 308-5451 and he can look up that information for you.

Submit your nominations today!

• In Memoriam •

*(Reported since Winter 2022 Bennett Beacon)
Your additions or corrections are requested.
Please forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.*

Dave Gamble, '45, age 75, June 3, 2002
Daniel Stoll, '45, May 31, 2008
Morris Distasio, '57, March 30, 2009
Donna King Traska, '57,
June 17, 2011
Ronald Hoffman, '45, age 85,
August 13, 2012
Edward Tragash, '57, June 25, 2013
Doris M. Arthurs King, '33, age 98,
July 27, 2013
Sanford Cohen, '57, November 19, 2014
Richard Rosenthal, '60, March 27, 2017
Diane McVeigh Ebert, '52, age 72,
July 9, 2017
Angeline Krestos Brown, '49, age 85,
September 25, 2017
John O. Ertell, '47, January 1, 2018
Carolyn Funk Gallivan, '49, age 90,
July 12, 2018
Gail Hazelet Nusall, '57, Age 82,
March 28, 2019
Mary (Mimi) Huggan Theil, '47, age 90,
May 3, 2019
Robert Shleser, '57, May 14, 2019
Patricia Sundin Herd, '49, age 89,
June 17, 2019
Albert Jacob Wagner, '48,
November 19, 2019
Philip F. Sweet, '54, November 28, 2019
Thomas McDade, '50, age 88,
February 12, 2020
Carol Melzer, age 81, July 24, 2020
William L. Kasting, Jr., '49, age 89,
October 12, 2020
Elizabeth Bernbeck O'Sullivan, '58,
November 23, 2020
Molly Sully Cloutier, '40, age 97,
November 13, 2020
Muriel Markel Goodman, '50, age 88,
December 5, 2020
David Wells, '61, January 2, 2021
Gary Cohen, '61, January 28, 2021
Richard Selby, '49, age 89,
February 23, 2021

Kathleen McCrea Schaertel, '65,
April 11, 2011
Marlene Gerstel Elkin, '54, age 84,
April 28, 2021
Lewis Smith, '57, June 24, 2021
Dr. Harry Ausprich, '50, age 88,
July 28, 2021
Katharine S. Bundt Maxwell, '63, age 75,
August 5, 2021
Betty Jane Feuchter Dettmer, '39, age 99,
October 6, 2021
Jerome Hurley, MD, '47, age 88,
October 22, 2021
Charlaine Freedman Archibald, '54, age 84,
November 3, 2021
Neil A. Savage, '61, November 17, 2021
Harold Wolkind, '63, November 20, 2021
Lawrence Kavenaugh, '51, age 88,
December 4, 2021
Janice H. Schlehr Merrick, '49,
December 7, 2021
Helen Hexemar Everett, '46, age 93,
December 28, 2021
Tina Gannon James, '75,
January 4, 2022
Raymond Wolkind, '60, January 11, 2022
Judy Safran Benjamin Goodyear, '56,
age 83, January 21, 2022
Joan Devine Walter, '49, age 90,
January 23, 2022
Gary Cohen, '61, age 78,
January 28, 2022
Anthony Ralabate, '94, January 30, 2022
Brian R. Good, '59, age 80,
January 31, 2022
Diane Dzielski Lynch, '76, age 63,
February 2, 2022
Milton Pitterman, '53, February 4, 2022
Mary Mitchell Lopian, Faculty Science,
February 15, 2022
Ellene Jaffe Mohl, '51, age 88,
February 26, 2022

Thomas L. Cechini, '56, age 83,
February 28, 2022
James C. Van Slyke, '53, March 2, 2022
Phyllis Kolbe Mattar Margrey, '54, age 85,
March 3, 2022
Lawrence David Freedman, '54,
March 3, 2022
Karen Jacobson Feinberg, '64, age 75,
March 16, 2022
Gretchen Ann Miller Eichhorn, '62,
age 77, March 16, 2022
Charles M. Breinin, Faculty Science,
March 22, 2022
Evelyn Baker Bruce, '51, March 23, 2022
Paul L. Emerick, '58, March 25, 2022
Cullie L. Smith Brown, Faculty,
March 27, 2022
Joan McLennan Mangano, '50,
March 29, 2022
Robert J. Hunt, Sr., '53, age 86,
April 5, 2022
Joseph C. Orsolits, '74, age 65,
April 22, 2022
Janet Anne Kelly Doan, '47, age 92,
April 23, 2022
Genell Hill, '96, April 28, 2022
Elenie Dellas Basil, '50, age 89,
May 6, 2022
Bob Lanier, '66, age 73, May 10, 2022
Herbert M. (Herb) Siegel, '54, age 85,
May 13, 2022
Marcus Morrison, '90, age 52,
May 14, 2022
Susan Busch Cullen, '56, age 83,
May 20, 2022
Carmen Iannaccone, '57, age 82,
May 20, 2022
Ethel M. Grenzebach Schleifer, '37,
age 102, May 26, 2022
Lorine McLeish Salley Williams, '57,
age 83, May 31, 2022
Dr. C. Alan Riedesel, '46, age 91,
June 9, 2022
Margaret W. Klein Kubisty, '53,
June 18, 2022
William O. Gorenflo, '53, age 86,
June 24, 2022

**Nominations for Board positions are now open.
If you would like to be part of our Board of
Directors, please submit your resume and what
you can contribute to help our vibrant
organization. Send your intent to:
Bennett Alumni Association, 2885 Main Street,
Buffalo, NY 14214**

**Have you considered supporting Bennett High
School through the Bennett Alumni Endowment
Fund as a part of your legacy or estate
planning?
Please contact Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 to
learn how you can make a difference.**

Class Notes

...continued from page 6

education, subsequently earning a degree in Early Childhood Education. However, Nikia personifies the very definition of a driven entrepreneur, serving as the proud owner of Clarity Credit, LLC, The Dress Code by N Marie, as well as an eCommerce site. Nikia loves showing people how to look great and enjoy life on a fixed income.

Class Notes

The 2000s



Jesse Ray Miller, '02. After graduating, Jesse went on to earn a Music Business degree from Villa Maria College and a Music Production degree from Full Sail

University. Jesse's love for music has taken the successful musician, singer, songwriter, and producer to venues all over the world, but he remains humble and grateful for everything he has accomplished. Jesse is a loving husband and father and proudly represents his hometown, Buffalo, New York, everywhere he goes.

Class Notes

The Faculty

Mary DelSignore, Faculty, was selected by the Buffalo News as Buffalo Division 2, 2021 Soccer Coach of the Year. Mary had another great season with her Bennett boys and has certainly earned this fine accolade. We salute you, Ms. DelSignore!!!!

From your First Vice President...

As I sit on the porch of the family cottage, typing my comments for the *Summer Beacon*, I'm reminded of that phrase that Jennie Brummer introduced many years ago... **Bennett, the Tie that Binds.** I'm reminded of that not only because I just saw **Judy Eppers Horn, '60** go by on her nightly walk (**Marcia Eppers Little, '65** is back with her for the summer, as well), but I also just typed an obituary from **Judith Bernbeck Kiley, '56** about her sister, **Elizabeth, '58** passing, reminding me that their cousins lived in the cottage next door. In fact, many Bennett people had cottages out here on Lake Erie in Grandview Bay. I recognize many of the Bennett names!

Indeed, my Aunt **Gertrude Fullington** (who spent many weekends visiting my Aunt Lucille, who owned the cottage) was a **1936** grad, but, to my Uncle Norbert's dismay, he had to switch to Kensington when it opened in 1938, leaving behind his school of choice - Bennett.

What an amazing legacy of connections we have because of our School on the Hill. These connections are inspiring.

As I worked this year with our amazing Alumni Board of Directors, I am constantly reminded of all of the good we do for our beloved alma mater. I'm reminded how important those ties are. How valuable each of our **Bennett Ambassadors** are. We excel in our mission to support the students and staff. When I get the chance to meet with the young people and the staff, I hear how successful they are. They often attribute their successes to our support. At graduation, I learned that 91% of the students in the Class of 2022 graduated. This surpasses the rates of most city schools and that of the entire state!!! Kudos!!!

As I look back on the year, I'm reminded how devastating COVID was to our Bennett, but I'm also thankful that we were able to launch initiatives to provide mental health resources for our students and staff. Thanks to your continued generosity, we are able to fund our BestSelf, and Compeer training and our NAMI programs.

We provided thousands of dollars to support special opportunities for our students through the Mini-Grants program. We continued to support the administration by providing funds to be used for incentives to help motivate our young people. I'm proud to say that most of the spirit clothing (hats, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc...) is produced by our Differentiated Instruction classes. What a win, not only for our school, but also for those Special Education students who are learning a real-life skill.

I reflect warmly on the opportunities we've had to motivate our staff. We had a wonderful luncheon for them in April (organized with staff member **Amy Visniesky's** expertise), and a teacher appreciation gift bag celebration in May.

Over the course of the year, I've met with many students. I love to listen to their enthusiasm and their appreciation of the wonderful school they attend. At one gathering, after a Site Based Management Team meeting, I heard about many of the exciting opportunities our young people have in the computer field. They are aware of all that they are afforded at Bennett High School. You are making this happen!!!

And, finally, one of my greatest joys is meeting with you. Whether by phone or in person, I love to hear from you. We had a fantastic inaugural All Class Reunion in June, with **Alice Boersma Haberly, '37** in attendance. She's 101 years old! I am thankful for our Alumni Honor Roll Induction that recognizes YOU! I loved giving tours to reunion classes and hearing your memories. Thank-you! Keep those bonds tight!!!

Neil Lange

The History of Bennett High School

This installment is the continuation of the History of Bennett that we have been publishing in the Beacon. The full version can be found at www.bennettalumni.com.

INSTALLMENT FIVE - THE 1950S

ROCK & ROLL IS HERE TO STAY THE FUN TIMES ACCOMPANIED BY THE SERIOUS

The 1950s marked the beginning of space exploration. This had a huge impact on the educational system. Sputnik, launched by the USSR (Russia), forced the US into a game of catch up. Through the National Defense Education Act, teachers were better trained in the arts, math, and science. Honors classes were introduced to better prepare students and make them more competitive.

It isn't possible to look through a *Beacon* of the 1950s and not see crowds of students attending every club, activity, sporting event, and yes, even studying in the library together. This excitement for learning carried over into excitement for everything happening in the 50s.

The landmark desegregation order of Brown vs. The Board of Education in 1954 started the impetus for redistricting Buffalo schools. Also, many houses were torn down in North Buffalo to make way for the Kensington Expressway. These all changed the demographics of students attending Bennett.

But the changes made for new challenges. As the increase of technology took hold in America and the realization of the Cold War, a new emphasis was placed on being ready.

The Bennett Community Association took part in making changes. They raised money to seed and level the practice field. They sponsored a get-acquainted dance for the freshmen and a Halloween Hop for 1000. They worked to reduce freshman hazing and established a Sunshine Fund for members. Most importantly, the group raised money to help support activities at the school. A Pop Concert at Kleinhans Music Hall netted \$1050.

These post-war years were a time of growth and change in our country and at Bennett.



Thanks for the Mini-Grant

Thank-you, Bennett Alumni Association, for awarding me the Mini-Grant this year to use in my science classroom. It has been wonderful coming back to the classroom with my students (as opposed to virtual instruction during COVID). It was even more exciting giving the students opportunities to do hands-on work. With the Mini-Grant money, the students were able to learn all about their senses. Their favorite part was identifying the taste receptors on their tongues!

With appreciation,
Rebecca Poremba
Science Teacher



Thanks for the Mini-Grant

Thank-you very much for your generous donation to the Boys Swim Team. With your help, we were able to purchase team sweatshirts that were designed by the team and printed by our own Bennett students.

Our record for the season was six wins and four losses and we are working to get our team even stronger for the next season.

Something to celebrate... We have two scholar athletes who will be awarded for their academic achievements by NYSPHAA - Jakai Toliver (freshman) with a 94.7 average and Jazz Carson (senior) with a 91.2 average. The award is given to those with a 90 or above average up through the 2nd marking period. The rest of the team earned grades in the 80s.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ann Crittenden
Swim Coach

Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund

We welcome the following individuals into the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund's **Founders' Circle**. Those who make a contribution of \$1000.00 or more by December 31, 2022 to the Endowment Fund will have their names listed on a plaque in the Front Hall of Bennett High School.

Anonymous (2)

Phillip Brothman, '56

Philip Celniker, '54

Dr. Joseph Chazan, '52

Frank G. Emerling, '60

Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65

Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61

Scott W. Gehl, '70

Linda J. Greenberg Shohet, '68

Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72 &

Faculty

Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64

Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68

Neil J. Lange, Faculty

John C. Lanz, '67

Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 &

Faculty

Sally Laurie Murphy, '51

Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter, '53

Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60

Helen Nelson Gibson, Faculty

Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70

Nancy Preston Broderick, '36

Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48

Bruce R. Thielking, '66

Nils A. Vigeland, '68

Christopher H. Wende, '68

Marilyn Wittman, Faculty

Your Alumni Association is forever grateful for those who make contributions in honor of or in memory of or in thanks for Bennett Alumni. Here are some more contributions that we have received!

Please see the Scholarship Donation Form on the insert to make your recognition award!

•Gifts Received in Honor of...

- **James M. Kern, '67.** ...by Mary Jane Kern Bednar, '62
- **Mark Overall, '03** ...by anonymous
- **Decatur Crumpley, '67** ... by Jennifer Crumpley, '68
- **Christina Passanisi, '03** ... by Joan Feinstein Simon, '55

•Gifts Received in Memory of...

- **Kathy Schweizer Tiffany, '56** ... by Colleen Lambros, '56
... by Carol Liberatore
... by Patricia Cochrane
- **Lance Fertig, '69** ... by Janet Barnes, '69
- **Paul Feinstein, '60** ... by Joan Feinstein Simon, '55
- **Gary Cohen, '61** ... by Jerry Obstein, '61
- **Richard Leous, '46** ... by his wife, Mary Leous
- **Dan Zelasko, Faculty** ... by Julie Christiano, Faculty
- **Irwin Woldman, '51.** ... by Sandi Logan, daughter
- **Marlene Altman Cohen, '49** ... by Laurence Cohen, '49
- **Dr. Harry Ausprich, '50** ... by his wife, Lorraine Ausprich
- **Elizabeth Bernbeck O'Sullivan, '58** ...Judith Bernbeck Kiley, '56
- **Byron Vickery, Former Faculty** ... by Tom Jost, '80
- **Betty Feuchter Dettmer, '39** ... by Helen O'Brien, daughter
- **Sissy Lehman VanSlyke, '49** ... by Gene Garrison, '49
- **Sue Braun Leman, '48** ... by Gene Garrison, '49

Class of 1970 Reunion

The Bennett Class of 1970 celebrated its 52nd reunion the weekend of July 8 and 9. We had a tour of Bennett led by Neil Lange on Saturday July 9th. Neil shared the history of our high school and the transitions it has made over 98 years. We went from the first floor auditorium, which has been renewed and refreshed and is looking as good as it did when we were students, all the way to the fourth floor cafeteria. Richard Shaw shared that he liked the Bennett apple crisp so much he would have it every day. We also toured the gym, the pool, the library and various classrooms. We were all impressed by the makeover of All High Stadium and the new collegiate level track being constructed around the field. Neil emphasized the role of the Alumni Association in helping Bennett maintain its high standards. It was an interesting, eye opening tour and I would suggest it to anyone planning an upcoming reunion.

Front: Richard Shaw, Valerie Shaw, Dave Brownstein, Becky Spevock Fletcher, Janice Spector, Renee Alexander, Scott Gehl, Danis Norman Gehl, Phil Bronstein. **Back:** Harold Schnitzer, Dave Braunstein.



Mission Statement

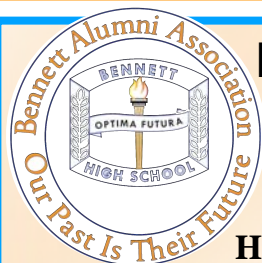
of the
Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.

We, the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc., believe in the power of education to transform lives. We are committed to educational equity, dignity and social justice for all. We will strive to remain mindful of our ever-changing society and its effect on our students.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. supports students, parents, staff, and administrators in their work toward graduation for all. It endorses the creation of an atmosphere of affirmative problem-solving to create and maintain positive relationships among students, faculty, administrators and the community.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. is committed to being substantive and creative and to continually evaluate the fulfillment of our mission. We are proactive as well as preventative in establishing and maintaining the belief system and values of our Alma Mater.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. respects the traditions of the past, is engaged in the issues of the present, and has aspirations for a great future for we know "The Best Is Yet To Be."



Bennett Alumni Association Annual Meeting

Friday, September 23, 2022 at 5:00pm

Help your Alumni Association!

It won't cost you a penny

It will cost you about 30 minutes of your time!

The by-laws of the Association require that an annual membership meeting be held to give organization reports and updates as well as elect Board Members. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

You are most cordially invited to attend and can receive your invitation by emailing bennetalumniassociation@gmail.com. Please put RSVP in the subject line.

Proposed Revisions to our By-Laws

- T**he By-Laws were last amended in 2010. Here are a few of the changes that the Committee recommends:
- Reduce minimum number of board members to 15 from the current 21.
 - One third of the Board members shall be elected every year.
 - The Nominating Committee shall consist of 3 members, not 5.
 - A simple majority of the Board constitutes a quorum.
 - Nominations and election for officers are made at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting.
 - By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors where a quorum is present and by a 2/3 vote.

Bennett's 100th Anniversary in 2025

It's time to start thinking about the Lewis J. Bennett High School 100th Anniversary in 2025. If you're like me, that seems so far away. In reality, it isn't. There is a whole lot of planning that needs to be done to guarantee the year of celebration our beloved school deserves.

To that end, we have starting a planning committee. Areas that will need leadership are as follows:

- Anniversary Yearbook & Ad Book Committee
- Video Presentation
- Alumni Brunch
- Entertainment
- Former Faculty Contacts
- Class Gathering Committee
- Mailing Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Gala Committee
- Historical Assembly
- Bennett Tour Committee

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to celebrate Bennett. We need people who want to make this the best party that the city has ever seen.

If you can be part of our planning, please let us know.

We will be meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future, so everyone from around the world can be part of the planning.

We can only do this together!
Neil Lange

CLASS



PROM AND GRADUATION MEMORIES

Time Sensitive Publication
AUGUST 5, 2022

Bennett Beacon
Bennett High School
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214



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2021 - 2022 Major Alumni Donors

**As of June 30, 2022. We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

Platinum Club - \$200 - \$499

Phillip Brothman, '56
Elaine Diring, Faculty
Dale Eddols Goodyear, '65 & Faculty
Frank G. Emerling, '60
John P. Emerling, '64
Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61
Gwendolyn Garr, '66
John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
Stuart A. Gellman, '54
Jerome M. Giordano, '54
Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59
Margaret Harris Hartley, '64

Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64
Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68
Merle Katz Goldstein, '55
Sally Laurie Murphy, '51
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty
Dr. Cantor Leon S. Lissek, '56
Dr. James D. MacLowery, '53
Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter, '53
Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60
Robin McNallie, '56
Andrew G. Mesches, '64
Dr. Robert Allen Nover, '57
Eva Roeder MacLowery, '53

Leslie Ann Sapecky Gray, '69
Linda M. Scheffer, '61
Owen W. Schultz, '92
Rex W. Seitz, '66
Ruth Seitz Cleary, '63
Robert L. Sloan, '53
Rhoda Stein Greenwald, '59
Robert C. Sugarman, Ph.D., '57
Bruce R. Thielking, '66
Thomas S. Wallsten, '60
Deirdre L. Webb, '89
Anonymous (2)

Gold Club - \$101 - \$199

John Adinolf, '77
Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53
Nancy Becker Kuhn, '59
Judith Bernbeck Kiley, '56
Lucille A. Buell, Faculty
Pat Burke Young, '55
Peter M. Cammarata, '75
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55
Barbara C. Chamberlain Lyons, '57
Carol Cicarell Ottaviani, '60
Robert Curthoys, '61
Beverly Davis Blue, '61
Harvey Davis, '61
Hon. Crystal Davis Peoples-Stokes, '69
Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80
Roger E. Dayer, '82
Thomas J. Dixon, '64
Ronald K. Dollmann, '60
Leah Dukes Ingram, '68
Laurence D. Edelman, '57
Robert P. Fine, '61

Larry Fink (River), '68
Linda Franklin Harris, '60
Leah Freedman Theune, '66
Terrence Gamble, '65
Scott W. Gehl, '70
James S. Gehring, '64
Seymour Gitin, '52
David S. Goodman, '60
Maxine Y. Herring Hall, '62
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72
Christopher J. Hough, '73
Paul J. Jacobs, Jr., '67
Elaine Kaiser Kellick, '59
Dr. Leonard Katz, '53
Mary Jane Kern Bednar, '62
Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64
Peter S. Kristall, '57
Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil, '60
Douglas A. Lang, '56
Harold S. Leader, '57
Lawrence H. Levin, '57
Kenneth J. Munro, Jr., '57

Major Anthony M. Nash, '06
Teresa R. Nash, Mother
Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty
Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53
Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70
Nancy Paul McKeever, '57
Carolyn Price Singletary PhD, '66
Don W. Rappold, '63
Melvin L. Reinheimer, '62
Roslyn M. Righetti, '74
David A. Rosen, '71
Allan H. Rosenblatt, '65
Ann Rynne Lozeau, '60
Rebecca Savage Jones, '63
Peter M. Silverberg, '56
Barry L. Singer, '65
Frances Siskar Dickman, '57
Donald R. Smith, '57
Joanne Tedesco Ulrey, '55
Jean Travis Boccuti, '57
Peter D. Trooboff, '60

Century Club - \$100

Barbara Aaron Snyder, '57
Linda Barker Moore, '68 & Faculty
Kenneth L. Barley, '50
Charles D. Bayless, '60
Alice Boersma Haberly, '37
Judith A. Brown Morris, '65
Julie Christiano, Faculty
Harold I. Cohen, '51
Tony Cox, '71
Richard Dattner, '55
Elsie Desenroth Colwell, '61
Hugh J. Devine, '55
Betty Jane Feuchter Dettmer, '39
Lance Fogan, M.D., '58
Thomas L. Freudenheim, '55
Margaret A. Galvin Premus, '72
Charles Guardalibene, '56
Jeannette Guardalibene Rodak, '59
Gwendolyn Hanes Daugherty, '47

Phyllis Hanes Vogt, '53
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty
Sanford Horwitz, '69
Philip H. Hubbell, '56
Thomas Jost, '80
Joanne Kaplan VanDerveer, '71
Bruce Kramer, '56
Kenneth A. Kreinheder, '57
Robert F. Kreinheder, '53
Neil J. Lange, Faculty
Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 & Faculty
Leonard Ludwig, '55
David E. Manch, '60
Irene McLeish Greene, '57
Donna Moslow Lawler, '60
Kim Nablo Jordan, '84
Margaret J. Nash Carestia, '08
Suzanne O'Neil Snyder, '60

Cheryl I. Pleskow, '69
Harry L. Powazek, '73
Judith Richardson Taetz, '54
Charles E. Rush, Jr., '57
Roy Sanders, '53
Joyce A. Savasta, '57
Patricia Schlehr Frizelle, '55
Barbara Schwartz Krigstin, '60
Diane Selby Bayless, '62
Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48
James Shanks, '50
Peter Simon, '67
Patricia Timm Zaleski, '56
Gloria Van Riper Askren, '56
Lawrence A. Veronica, Faculty
Florence L. Vizzi Rosse, '56
Gary L. Wolfe, '68
Leslie Wright Jones, '60
Judith Zent Deck, '59

Please let us know if there are omissions or errors in our records. We'd be happy to check!

A Gift that Lets Someone Know How Much You Care!



Do you know someone who is celebrating a **special occasion** and you can't find that perfect gift? Have you ever thought that it might be nice to **honor the memory** of a departed classmate? How about sending a **thank-you** for all that someone has done for you or a classmate?

In our efforts to augment our **scholarship fund**, we have created this opportunity. This past year, we were able to assist graduates with almost \$10,000.00 in monies for college. We'd love to be able to do more!

Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. Scholarship Fund

In honor of _____ on the occasion of _____

In memory of _____

In thanks for: _____

Please notify: Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to: **Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.**

Your Gift of \$ _____ will be placed in the Scholarship Fund. (A \$10.00 minimum would be appreciated.)

Your Name _____ Class _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ email _____

Mail to: Bennett Alumni Association, Inc • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, NY 14214

CARING



It's Time to Invest in Our Bennett Students!

Bennett Alumni Dues

Membership runs from September 1, 2022 until August 31, 2023.

Dues to the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. make such a huge impact. Through your generous contributions, you have helped level the playing field for our students. If you haven't joined before, we hope you will consider adding to our growing membership! This is the start of our new membership year! We thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to **Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.**

If you prefer, use PayPal! Visit us at www.bennettalumni.com

Basic Dues • \$20 **\$25** **\$50** **Other _____**

Century • \$100 **Gold • \$101 - \$199** **Platinum \$200 - \$499** **Diamond \$500+**

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Please Mail to: Bennett Alumni Membership
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214

*** For any questions about your DUES, to make additional contributions, or to find out about our legacy program, call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451!

