

# Bennett Beacon

published in conjunction with Mr. Lange's Leadership Class

## Bennett High School

SUMMER 2013

Vol. 16/ISSUE No. 1

Bennett High School • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 • (716) 816-4250 • [www.bennettalumni.com](http://www.bennettalumni.com)

### From Our President

**A**s our school year ends we are already preparing for the coming year, with many changes having taken place in the administration. Acting Principal Teena Jackson and Buffalo Promise Neighborhood have been working hard to ensure that Bennett students receive the fine education they deserve.



**Irene Greene  
President**

Your gifts and your dues have made it possible for the Alumni Board to sponsor several scholarships that were presented at Class Day. We also have awarded special grants requested by the Principal and teachers. These grants have provided art supplies; extra materials for new projects; uniforms and trips for students.

Our new dues year has started, and we hope everyone will renew. (Our membership year corresponds to the school calendar - September through June). If you have never been a dues paying member before, I encourage you to join. Not only do your dues pay for the cost of the *Alumni Beacon*, but they support all of the wonderful initiatives that directly benefit our students. With your support, we can continue doing all of the wonder-

*see President's Message  
Page 5*

### Principal's Message

#### Bennett High School - School Transformations

**O**ver the past six months, I have been blessed to have been appointed the Acting Principal of Bennett High School. The 2012-13 school year has been a most enjoyable experience. It has been a pleasure to observe the young men and women of the Bennett community develop and mature in so many intellectual, social, and spiritual ways. The students have collectively embraced the rigor of the academic program, developed and enriched relationships with classmates, teachers and the school, and have seized upon opportunities to strengthen their relationship with family. While awards and citations, which were plentiful this year, are wonderful measurements of a healthy and successful scholastic experience, more appropriate indicators were evidenced through the students' commitment



**Ms. Teena  
Jackson  
Principal**

to the Bennett High *community* as well as their regular affirmation of their peers. Bennett High School is truly a remarkable school thanks to the efforts and caring of all its students.

On Friday, June 21, 2013, the 88th Commencement Exercises were held. This graduation ceremony provided the school community and families with the opportunity to celebrate and honor the Class of 2013. Awards and honors were presented to many seniors but most poignant were the comments made by Ryan Montgomery and Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin who spoke on behalf of the class. The Class of 2013 leaves behind an impressive legacy of academic achievement, friendship, service and, most impressively, commitment to one another, to their families and to Bennett High School

which will resonate throughout the hallways of our school for generations to come. They have left an indelible imprint on the culture of our school, which will serve as a measuring stick for all future classes. Students earned well over a million dollars in scholarships; there is an expected 7% increase in graduation rate for this cohort, and college acceptances increased by 3% from last year.

#### **New Academic Beginnings:**

I am happy to note that our curriculum has grown more robust

*see Message from Our Principal  
Page 2*

## **Bennett Beacon**

Summer 2013 Vol. 16/Issue 1

## **2012 - 2013 Officers**

### **BAA President**

Irene McLeish Greene, '57

### **Vice President**

Carol Newman Caserta, '60

### **Treasurer**

Larry Levin, '57

### **Recording Secretary**

Deby Fox-Hahn, '60

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53

### **BHS Principal**

Ms. Teena Jackson, '86

### **Directors**

#### **Class of 2013:**

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53  
Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty  
Deby Fox-Hahn, '60  
Neil Lange, Faculty  
Barbara Lewis Lewis, '59  
Teena Jackson, '86  
Irene McLeish Greene, '57  
Rosalie Brothman Rosenband, '55  
Bert Stevenson, '86

#### **Class of 2014:**

Phillip Brothman, '56  
Cecilia Henderson, Faculty  
Lawrence Levin, '57  
Wayne Reilly, '47  
Jeff Schapiro, '67  
Allen Yasgur, '60

#### **Class of 2015:**

Linda Barker Moore, '68  
Alan J. Bozer, '71  
Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
Adam Dzimian, Faculty  
Kenya K. Hobbs, '91  
Marsha Jadd, '58  
Leonard Katz, MD, '53  
Roshelle L. Lewis, '72  
Teresa Nash, Bennett Friend

## **Mission Statement**

We believe in the power of education to transform lives and society. To that end, as graduates of Bennett High School, we are committed to promoting equity and social justice through service and reaching out to students and faculty at our Alma Mater. We recognize the value of our support in assisting them in reaching their educational goals. The Bennett High School Alumni Association's contribution will be substantive and creative in order to achieve those goals.

## ***Principal's Message***

*continued from Page 1*

once again this school year. AP Geography, Forensics and Criminal Justice expansion and a Special Education Business Center will be offered for the first time. Additionally, AP Government and AP Literature have been reintroduced for the upcoming school year. The 2013-14 school year will also bring with it the wonderful opportunity for our school community to engage in the Common Core Learning Standards. With the new Common Core Standards, teachers will be working to emphasize greater depth of knowledge. Lessons will be more focused on the most important ideas and students will be asked to think more critically about those ideas. Further, instruction will move beyond memorizing factual information and the application of what has been learned will be emphasized. Among other steps forward, this may mean more project-based learning, hands-on activities; as well as writing that allows students to synthesize information from across subject areas.

## **Partnerships:**

Buffalo Promise Neighborhood continues to partner and support the Bennett High School community and brings a wealth of support for students related to academics, social-emotional, family and community. Some of our service providers are Hillside, Closing the Gap, Buffalo Urban League, United Way, and the Food Pantry.

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank the entire school staff who worked so diligently to provide a scholastic experience of rigor and value. I would also like to thank the alumni and the parents and guardians who worked with the school in so many ways to provide a supportive and valued environment.

# **Welcome Dr. Terry Ross**

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce our new building Principal, Dr. Terry Ross who will be relocating in mid-July 2013 to Buffalo, NY with his family. Dr. Ross has served as a leader in urban schools at all levels. He served as an elementary school principal, middle school principal, and associate superintendent and, most of all, a teacher and coach. Dr. Ross is an EPIC award winning principal who specializes in systems that create thriving urban literacy environments. He also specializes in structures and processes that engage learning communities at an organizational level so as to aid in building the capacities of staff to share and learn at an authentic level which ultimately leads to schoolwide change and high levels of student achievement.

Dr. Ross has started schools as well as turned schools around. His focus on urban literacy deals with teachers and schools creating language rich environments as well as print rich environments. His background in teaching students with learning disabilities has equipped him with a *you can* attitude for all children. He has worked with schools and administrators all over the country in areas such as, building PLCs, Urban Literacy, Vocabulary Development and Early Literacy for beginning readers.

The entire Bennett community welcomes Dr. Terry Ross.

**Our new  
Membership Year  
starts in August!**

**Have you renewed your  
Membership?**

# Alumni Honor Roll 2013 Nomination Form

*please use this form to make your nomination*

## Check Category:

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

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
(include maiden name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Name and address of person submitting 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 be able to recognize all those Bennett Alumni who have done so much for our community. Please submit your nominations before August 30, 2013!*

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

## Bennett Alumni Honor Roll

*by Allen Yasgur, '60*

Who of Bennett's thousands of alumni do you think deserves to receive a place on the Alumni Honor Roll? Now, don't tell me that you don't know of anyone who deserves this recognition for his or her outstanding contributions to our alma mater, one's chosen profession, the community or just for being an exceptionally good person.

Rather than selecting new categories or deliberately repeating previous ones, your Alumni Association has opted to open the field to all alumni including those who wish to nominate themselves. In addition, our deceased brothers and sisters may also receive recognition posthumously for their achievements.

You are never far from a Bennett alum. I am constantly amazed that wherever my wife and I travel in and away from Buffalo, somebody, somewhere, has a Bennett connection. What better way to honor that connection than by nominating that special someone for the Honor Roll? You must know someone that the active Alumni Association can recognize.

The Association will formally recognize all Honor Roll inductees at its annual meeting and brunch on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at Noon at the Westwood Country Club. Honorees will be the Association's guests and their families and friends are welcome to attend at their own expense.

Please complete and return the Honor Roll form in this edition of the *Alumni Beacon*. I look forward to hearing from you and greeting you and your honoree in October.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1930s

**Clarence Bauer**, '38, lives in Titusville, FL and writes that he still is driving at age 92. He remembers that as a senior at Bennett, he purchased a 1929 Ford Model A for \$25.00, when gasoline was eight to ten cents per gallon! He has fond memories of Bennett and Buffalo.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1940s

**Ethel E. Marshall**, '41, died in June after a remarkable career as a national badminton champion. She was the first woman athlete inducted into the Bennett Sports Hall of Fame.



*Class Notes...*

## The 1950s

**Joe Voskerichian**, '51, of Tampa, FL, recently received the 2013 Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Joe is the executive director of the Gold Shield Foundation which provides financial assistance and college scholarships to children and spouses of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.



**Norma J. Hipwell**, '53, who died recently, had been stricken with polio in the mid-50s. Refusing to

accept defeat, she set a record in javelin competition in the 13th annual National Wheelchair Games in New York City and was a leading competitor in archery, table tennis and bowling in the 1960s.



**Lance Fogan, M.D.**, '58, of Valencia, CA, has a new epilepsy novel, DINGS, which was published in March 2013, and is available at Amazon.com.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1960s

**Sharon Anne Webb**, '60, writes: "I always remember how much I valued my high school education at Bennett."

**Bruce Volat**, '60, of Silver Spring, MD, writes in hopes of a 55th reunion. "Let's plan on it."

*Class Notes...*

## The 1970s

**Theresa Harris-Tigg**, '72, is an Assistant Professor of English education at SUNY Buffalo State. She recently was elected to the Buffalo Board of Education where she hopes to "make a difference in the classroom, in instruction and curriculum."



*Class Notes...*

## The 1990s

**Kenya Hobbs**, '90, is the community engagement specialist for Buffalo Promise Neighborhood and a member of the Bennett Alumni Board. He will be inducted into the Bennett Sports Hall of Fame in October.



## Can we write about YOU???

With all the great things Bennett Alumni are doing, where is your news? It really is okay to "toot your own horn!" People like to hear what others are doing. Retirements, children, grandchildren, weddings, anniversaries, etc.. are all great news which keeps us connected!

## Alumni Update

**We'd love to be able to report about you and your life since Bennett!**

Tell us what you've accomplished: honors, recognitions? Got some great memories? Send them along to tell all our Alumni about your Bennett High School!

☐ Check for address change! Please print! • Please print!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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ful projects and scholarship programs!

I was able to accompany a group of teachers and students to Attica Correctional Facility last month. This was conducted in conjunction with our Forensic Science classes we are now offering. This trip will be a part of my memory for many years to come. We are offering our students experiences that they would not have without your support. Thank you.

As alumni, you are very important to Bennett and to all that we do. Please remember that our students need mentors—it only takes one hour a week. You can work with a student and help them realize their potential. Contact Jeff Schapiro or Len Katz and get involved with the students!

Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see many of you in the fall.

**Why Might Your Mailing Label Say: *or occupant?***

Postal regulations require us to use this on our labels to avoid paying First Class postage. We hope you understand!

## 2013 Outstanding Alumni Award

by Jennie DePerro Brummer

At Graduation Ceremonies on June 21, 2013, Bennett honored Professor Gary Earl Ross, '69, with its 2013 Outstanding Alumni Award for his contributions in the fields of Education and Writing.

Born in Buffalo, Gary graduated from Woodlawn Junior High School in 1966 and Bennett High School in 1969. While at Bennett he was an active member of the Drama Club and served as Senior Class President. After earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University at Buffalo, Professor Ross taught for 40 years. He retired this year from the UB Educational Opportunity Center.

Gary has authored more than 200 published short stories, articles, op-ed articles, scholarly papers and public radio essays. His works include the books, *The Wheel of Desire*, *Shimmerville* and *Blackbird Rising*. Professor Ross's plays have been staged throughout the U.S., Canada, England and China. In 2005, *The Matter of Intent* won the Edgar Allen Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America. Some of the numerous awards Dr. Ross has received include: The

Emanuel Fried Outstanding New Play Award, A LIFT Fiction Fellowship, as well as a Saltonstall Foundation Playwriting Fellowship. He also has received Public Radio Commentary Awards from the New York Associated Press and the New York Broadcasters' Association.

Professor Ross is a member of the Just Buffalo Literary Center, The Dramatics Guild of America, The Mystery Guild of America and Buffalo's Ujima Theatre Company where he is Resident Playwright and an occasional actor.

In his retirement Dr. Ross plans to continue writing. His latest short story, *Good Neighbors*, will appear in the Mystery Anthology, *Buffalo Noir*, scheduled for release August 6, 2013. He also plans to spend more time traveling with the woman he calls: **My Better Half, Really**, Dr. Tamara Alsace. He is the father of five adult children and grandfather of three.

With much pleasure and pride, the Alumni Association congratulates you, Professor Ross, on your distinguished career and on receiving this award.

## Helping Students Prepare for College and the Future

by Dr. Leonard Katz, '53

Your Bennett Alumni Association undertook a new initiative this year, The College Advisor Program. Working with the school administration, initially, Dr. David Mauricio, a plan emerged which would match promising junior students with a single advisor for each student. This first year which began in February, we turned to members of the Bennett Alumni Honor Roll. The students needed parental approval for possible off-site experiences. Sixteen alumni stepped forward and were matched with twelve students.

As we all know, getting our Bennett students to college has been a major challenge. Fortunately, Bennett is getting major support from the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Community, from the new UB College Success Center lead by Dr. Nate Daun-Barnett and from talented volunteers from the AmeriCorps programs, plus more. Rachel Stern of AmeriCorps VISTA is Parent and Guidance Liaison at the College Success Center. She has served as our main contact point and has helped greatly in getting advisors and students to-

gether and guiding all of us.

The program started with a meeting of the advisors with the principal, guidance counselors and students. Now, as the school year is coming to a close, a meeting is planned to bring advisors, students, and school personnel together to share experiences of this year in order to make next year even better.

If you would like to help in this great initiative contact Len Katz at (716) 688-7264, Carol Caserta at (716) 873-2836 or Allen Yasgur at (716) 881-9794.

# 2013 Community Foundation Donors\*

## \$500+ - Diamond Club Donors

**The Allbert Family Trust**

**Julie Horn, Faculty**

**The Long Firm LLP**

**Marilyn Wittman, Faculty**

## \$200 - \$499 - Platinum Club Donors

**Douglas H. Baker, '60**

**Geraldine Bewley Hobika, '52**

**Philip Celniker, '54**

**James Douglas Crawford, '46**

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

**Scott W. Gehl, '70**

**Thomas J. Guttuso, MD, '53**

**Marjorie G. Hoffman, '62**

**Dr. Russell F. Houseman, '45**

**Myron M. Hunt, '44**

**Salvatore J. Illuzzi, '64**

**Charles G. Inman, '47**

**Marsha Jean Kaiser Shendell, '62**

**Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64**

**Gary R. Klump, Friend**

**Edward James Lane, Jr., '53**

**Sally Laurie Murphy, '51**

**Gloria Lawrence Baxter, '43**

**Harold Leader, '57**

**Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter, '53**

**Carol Newman Caserta, '60**

**Anne Osborn Krueger, '50**

**Wayne R. Reilly, '47**

**H. Leigh Severance, '56**

**Theodore Sullivan, '50**

**Frederick J. Wallace, '50**

**Donna Weber Wattman, '59**

**Paul F. Werler, '42**

**Marlene West Helfrich, '51**

**Edward J. Willett, Jr., '56**

**Barbara Young Coles, '57**

**Clarence (Tony) Zeigler, '59**

## \$101 - \$199 - Gold Club Donors

Donald S. Blanke, '57

Robert S. Brock, '60

Joan Broderick Mooney, '64

Dr. Melvin M. Brothman, '50

Richard F. Carver, MD, '55

Robert E. Cook, '60

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Charles H. Garfinkel, '56

Don A. Gilbert, '60 & Faculty

David P. Goldstein, '49

Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell, '55

Jack Heims, '54

Sanford Horwitz, '69

Robert F. Kreinheder, '53

Rona Lichtman Tananbaum, '60

Leonard Ludwig, '55

Gerald F. Lupejkis, '50

Robin McNallie, '56

George W. Munschauer, '49

Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53

Sue A. O'Connor Idleman, '51

Dr. Carolyn Price Singletary, '66

Robert C. Rettke, '60

Josephine J. Riso, '55

Herman Rodenberg, '44

Elaine Schrutts Brothman, '53

Bruce Volat, '60

Bernard E. Wills, '48

## \$100 - Century Club Donors

Richard J. Adams, '58

Robert M. Alt, '40

Jack C. Anthony, '48

Kenneth L. Barley, '50

Marilyn Bass Buxbaum, '54

Richard M. Bender, '46

Dr. Al B. Benson, '68

Marland L. Berdick, '49

Sheldon Berlow, '50

Judith Bernbeck Kiley, '56

Phillip Brothman, '56

Frederick Clarke, '58

Richard Dattner, '55

Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80

Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty

Hugh J. Devine, '55

Jacqueline Engel Irwin, '59

Lance Fogan, MD, '58

Anne Fonzi Linehan, '67

David J. Franko, '62

Jeffrey M. Freedman, '68

Dennis N. Frey, '53

John M. Garrity, Atty., '48

Marilyn George Meyers, '74

Lynn Gilmore Canton, '66

Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59

Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty

Dr. Hanley M. Horwitz, '60

Pamela J. Hough Alvarez, '68

Ana M. Hurd, Faculty

Elaine Kaiser Kellick, '59

Mary Jane Kern Bednar, '62

N. Richard Kinsman, '54

Carol Klein Baker, '62

Betty Lang Kuhn, '42

Marjorie Leff Scheff, '53

Lawrence H. Levin, '57

William D. Mackolin, '50

Robert Maclin, '61

Hon. Sam Maislin, '64

Suzanne Marble Sykes, '56

Colleen Matoris Lambros, '56

Joyce McMahon Scherer, '51

Bruce A. McNallie, '56

Gerald C. Meyers, '46

Robert B. Mooney, '48

Beth Niblack Thorpe, '64

Dr. William E. O'Connor, '56

Dolores Paul Rogers, '47

Nancy Paull McKeever, '57

Harry L. Powazek, '73

Lauren Rachlin, '45

Don W. Rappold, '63

Nancy Rice Hunt, '45

Myron M. Siegel, Atty., '47

Rhoda Stein Greenwald, '59

Elaine Thier Schweitzer, '47

E. Gary Toffolo, '54

Gloria Van Riper Webster, '56

Quinnette Westbrook Mathias, '61

Rev. Msgr. John W. Zeitler, '50

# Welcome New Board Members

Alan J. Bozer, '71

After graduating from Bennett in 1971 as an All-High Swimmer, Alan proceeded to Harvard University where he received his B.A., Magna Cum Laude in 1975 and then earned his law degree, cum laude in 1984 from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law.

He is a partner with Phillips Lytle LLP. In addition to his busy law practice, Alan has been an active volunteer in the community, serving on many boards, including the Olmstead Parks Conservancy. He has been recognized by the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers' Project for Pro Bono work in immigration law. Alan is a Bennett Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

## MINI GRANTS...

Your membership dues at work!

# Extra Experiences

Mrs. Elizabeth Williams

To Bennett Alumni: Hello and many thanks to the Bennett Alumni Association for the 2012-2013 Mini-Grant. Here is a list of the educational experiences my students participated in:

- Twelve week curriculum in Peer Mentoring for Employment Support Program at the Western New York Independent Living Center;
  - ACCES-VR (Adult Career and Continuing Educational Services-Vocational Rehabilitation);
  - Darien Lake field trip (lunch and transportation);
  - Graduation portfolios.
- Your support helped make a difference in our Special Education students' lives!

*Thanks to all of our members for their continued support!*

\*As of July 15, 2013. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

## Website Activity Increasing - Check it Out

by Deby Fox-Hahn, '60

**H**i everyone!!! The Bennett Alumni Association website has been pretty active lately. I have received requests to join the message board and post a reunion for the Class of 1963 for this summer. If you log on the website and click on the link for **Upcoming Reunions**, you can see what is posted.

We started something new in April. They are called **blasts** and contain small amounts of information. I am preparing to do another one for August. These are sent to our email list. **Are you on our email list?**

There have also been requests

from some to receive the *Bennett Beacon* via email only. *Is that an option YOU would like to utilize?* Many people are concerned about the amount of paper that is being used.

I also want to warn everyone about a website that may appear to be Bennett High School's, but is not. It states that you can pay \$20.00 for lifetime membership. **This is a social network, not our website.** We do not have anything like this. I am told that people are being contacted via email. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [www.hahnmom1@gmail.com](mailto:www.hahnmom1@gmail.com).

## Over \$1,000,000 in Scholarship Monies Earned

by Rachel Stern, College Success Center

**S**tudents in the Class of 2013 have received a significant amount of scholarship money that will help cover tuition and living expenses in college. The majority of students will begin their higher education at community colleges, with many expressing interest in transferring to a four-year school after receiving their Associate's Degree. About 25 students will be attending Medaille College, which in addition to their substantial scholarships and financial aid packages is also a partner with the Say Yes to Education program - ensuring that any remaining tuition payments are covered by Say Yes scholarships. Class valedictorian Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin will be attending University at Buffalo, one of the first students from Bennett to attend in several years. A handful of students will be serving in the Armed Forces, either in active duty or with ROTC programs that provide a free college education.

In addition, smaller scholarship awards were handed out at the Class Day ceremony held on May 17th. The senior recipient of the Bennett High School Alumni Award was Ruby Medina-Rivera, honored for her cooperation, leadership, and good citizenship. School-sponsored and local, state, and federal government awards were presented to many deserving seniors.

We are all very proud of the seniors' accomplishments and look forward to hearing about their future successes.

## Annual Brunch Set for October 6, 2013

by Carol Newman Caserta, '60

**Y**ou all are cordially invited to attend our Annual Alumni Brunch on Sunday, October 6 at 12:00 noon at the Westwood Country Club, 772 North Forest Road (at Sheridan) in Williamsville. This event always is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with your classmates as well as to meet and converse with our new Principal, Dr. Terry Ross. We will honor the recipients of the 2013 Alumni Honor Roll awards and enjoy delicious food.

While we cannot reserve tables in advance, you may save seats for your friends if you arrive early. Please make your check for \$25.00 per person to the Bennett Alumni Association and mail to: Bennett Alumni Brunch, 2885 Main Street, Buffalo, NY, 14214. Be sure to include your name, complete address, graduation year and the names of people in your group. Please use the form below. We look forward to seeing you!

### Annual Alumni Brunch

We'd love to attend the Alumni Brunch on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 12 noon at the Westwood Country Club! **\$25<sup>00</sup><sub>per person</sub>**

**Please print! • Please print! • Please print!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach Additional Names to this form and mail to:**

Bennett Alumni Brunch • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214



# What are Alumni Mini Grants?

Each September, teachers and staff are encouraged to submit proposals to the principal and the Alumni Association for various projects they would like to carry out during the school year. These proposals are meant to enrich classroom instruction or provide opportunities that students would not normally be afforded during the regular school year.

Each Mini Grant can be up to \$500. The response from the faculty is tremendous, but, unfortunately, we are unable to fund every request. This school year, almost \$6000 was awarded.

Projects range from class sets of books to field trips to special science materials to club funds for art, music and others.

Your DUES are vital to these projects!!! Following (and on other page in this publication) are some reports from students and faculty.

## MINI GRANTS...

Your membership dues at work!

## Art Clay Project

*Mrs. Nancy Davies*

Dear Bennett Alumni:

Please enjoy these pictures of the clay project that your generous grant allowed my students to experience. You are the Best!



Sports Hall of Fame Committee member Mrs. Jennie DePerro Brummer addressed the guests at the Annual Sports Hall of Fame recognition evening in October 2012. The tenth anniversary was celebrated with a gathering of all previous inductees and their guests.

## MINI GRANTS...

Your membership dues at work!

## Art Club Materials

*Mrs. Kathie Eisinger*

Dear Bennett Alumni:

I would just like to express my greatest appreciation this year for your alumni grant. This year, with the grant, we were able to continue to have an Art Club. Its purpose was to bring an art experience in which students could express their creative ideas in other mediums that were not financially feasible for me to do in my regular classes.

Because of you, students created a large mural that will be gifted to the entire school in the fall; enter and create artwork for several contests in the community; and have a great time in the process.





# class reunions

*Class of 1973*

*by Paul Strauss, '73*

## 40th Class Reunion Planned for August 17<sup>th</sup>

**Y**ou are cordially invited to attend our 40th Class Reunion on the 17th of August, 2013 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Rd., Depew, New York.

ICEBREAKER: Friday, August 16:

**Open to all Bennett Alumni, 1969-1974**

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Buffet, Cash Bar

Banchetti's by Rizzo's Grove

550 N. French Rd., Amherst, NY

SCHOOL TOUR: Saturday, August 17

**Bennett High School and All High Stadium**

11:00 a.m. - Meet at front center doors!

REUNION: Saturday, August 17

**1973 Graduates and Guests Only**

6:00 -7:00 - Hors d'oeuvres

7:30 promptly - Sit down dinner - cash bar

Victorian Ballroom

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

6461 Transit Rd., Depew, NY

RESERVATIONS: Paul Straus - (716) 875-9480  
Kim (Wannemacher) Kane - (716) 930-7756  
(By August 1)

PRICE: Icebreaker: \$30.00  
Reunion dinner: \$40.00

**The Alumni Beacon and the Alumni Website are great ways to tell everyone about your reunion plans. Let us know your plans (well in advance) and we will publish the details. Also, we have many names and addresses which might help in contacting classmates!**

*Bennett  
reunion  
notes*



*Class of 1963*

## 50th Class Reunion

**T**he Class of 1963's 50th reunion weekend will start on Friday, Aug. 2 from 6:00 to 11:00 with a casual get together and buffet with cash bar at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 2702 North Forest Road, Getzville, New York. The cost of the evening is \$30.00.

On Saturday, August 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Neil Lange will guide us on a tour of the school. This will be a great time for memories and photos.

On Saturday evening our Reunion Celebration will take place at:

Orazio's Banquet Facility

9415 Main Street

Clarence, New York

We will have an open - cash bar from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. with appetizers, followed by dinner food stations. We will have Galaxy Sound System and their Souvenir Photo Booth. The cost of the evening is \$40.00.

Hope to see you there!

## Are you planning a reunion?

*If so, we want to know about it!*

**E**veryone is interested in knowing details of your reunions. Many alumni call us for information and, too often, we cannot help them. So, please drop us a line about what you're planning. You can send information to our website or use the form below to keep us posted!

### Bennett High School Reunion Information Sheet

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Reunion \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Location and details \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach any additional information to this form!**

• Bennett Alumni Beacon • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 •

## •In Memoriam•

Maybelle Frawley Finn, '54	(Reported since <i>Winter 1013 Bennett Beacon</i> )	Marcus Richard (Dick) Mabee, '54, age 77, March 12, 2013
Gary Becker, '57	Bess Mae Greenberger Jones, '55, age 75, Dec. 12, 2012	Eva Klein Boucai, '60, March 16, 2013
John Buckley, '55, Jan. 4, 2001	Ellen Pickeral Augustine, '49, age 81, Dec. 17, 2012	James W. Malone, '64, age 68, March 26, 2013
Gene Lewis Zoller, '49, April 25, 2009	Dr. Howard Baetzhoid, Ph. D. '40, 2013	Donald V. Miller, age 93, March 26, 2013
Edward H. Rankin, '38, Sept. 18, 2010	Lawrence Reed, '52, Jan. 2013	Paul W. Jeter, Sr., age 77, March 28, 2013
Helen Sarikas Bloomendahl, Jan. 9, 2011	Linda D. Woodson, '66, Jan. 2013	Martin (Buddy) Rein, '51, age 79, April 7, 2013
Roswell F. Vasbinder, '47, June 5, 2011	Roland Rogers, '66, Jan. 2013	Decatur W. Crumpley, '67, age 65, April 18, 2013
Evelyn Fisher Clegg, '40, 2012	Rev. Charles F. Schwartz, '40, age 89, Jan. 6, 2013	Marcia Nissenson, '60, age 70, April 13, 2013
David Simon, '71, Jan. 2012	Marilyn Embs Houlihan, '56, Jan. 11, 2013	Thomas J. McMahon, '39, age 91, May 28, 2013
Charlotte Gros Denig, '51, Jan. 11, 2012	Norma J. Hippwell, '53, age 77, Jan. 13, 2013	Stuart M. Nadel, May 29, 2013
Michael S. Evanco, '75, age 54, June 21, 2012	Bernard (Bernie) Tuchman, age 85, Jan. 23, 2013	Ethel E. Marshall, age 89, June 12, 2013
Stuart F. Kaufman, '40, age 90, Sept. 22, 2012	William R. Hamilton III, age 63, Feb. 27, 2013	Rhoda Simon Simon, '53, June 25, 2013
Robert Limburg, '44, age 86, Oct. 15, 2012	Irene Cunat Mathien, '43, March 5, 2013	Harvey Mandelkern, '50, age 81, June 30, 2013
Betty Bloss Kreuger, '37, Sept. 30, 2012	Laurel Joan Harrison Cammarata, '44, age 85, March 7, 2013	
Janice Schiller Felsen, '48, age 81, Dec. 3, 2012		

• Your additions or corrections are needed. Forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.

## 2013 Bennett Sports Hall of Fame - October 5, 2013

by Carol Newman Caserta, '60

The Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee is delighted to announce that the 2013 Induction Ceremony will be held at school on Saturday, October 5, 2013. The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with a reception in our main lobby. Hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, salads, desserts, soft drinks and coffee will be served. The Induction Ceremony commences at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

This year's Induction Class includes the following outstanding individuals:

- Tom Angelo, '53 (football)
- Al Berke, '58 (basketball)
- Peter Cammarata, '75 (Earle Y. Hannel Memorial Award)
- Randy Clay, '71 (baseball)
- Annulett Dillon, '94 (volleyball, basketball and tennis)

- Kenya Hobbs, '90 (track)
- Tom McClain, '64 (cross country)
- Richard Mieth (Career Achievement Award)
- Valerie Propek, '91 (cross country, swimming and tennis)
- Frank Ralabate, '59 (cross country)
- Owen Tober, '69 (*deceased*) (football)

Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Please make checks payable to: Bennett Sports Hall of Fame Committee and mail to:

**Sports Hall of Fame Committee  
3842 Harlem Road, Suite 400, #290  
Cheektowaga, NY, 14215.**

Please remember to include your name, return address and the names of those attending.

We hope to see you on Saturday, October 5 for a wonderful event!

# Senior Reflections on Class Day

by Ryan Montgomery, '13 - May 17, 2013

*Certainly we have all grown wiser in one way or another from our time spent together*

Although each of us has had our own personal experiences during our years here at Bennett High School, certainly we all have grown wiser in one way or another from our time spent together. Whether directly or indirectly, we have all been able to teach and learn from one another. Again, I cannot pretend to know each of your personal reflections. However, I am confident that we all share some common experiences.

I bet we each can recall freshman year, when Dr. Mauricio was telling us just how fast the years would go by, and we all were thinking, "yeah right". How many of us remember sitting where the underclassmen now sit thinking of how much we could not wait for this assembly to be over. Thinking how exciting it would be when our time came; while dreading the four years we would have to spend here, to get to our time. BUT, you know what? It's our time!

We went from being lost freshmen to comfortable sophomores to confident juniors and now we are thinking young adults. And boy, do we have a lot to think about! As young adults we need to honestly look back at the challenges that we individually have gone through to get here. I stress honestly because if we do not acknowledge the bad times and bad events that have affected our characters and personalities, perhaps causing us to be bitter or without compassion, no doubt we will carry these traits into adulthood, perhaps preventing us from achieving our potential. We need to find forgiveness, closure or some means of putting our past behind us and moving forward, without anything weighing us down. We need to recognize that today we share a ceremony others never will. We have achieved a milestone that many before us were unable to reach.

We must not take this accomplishment lightly, but enjoy it and realize the responsibilities involved: Responsibility to ourselves, to not stop here. We must go forward and work toward our next academic or trade certification; responsibility to our families and to those who care about us, who have been there for us. We need to make them proud and to show them that all their efforts will not end upon graduating from high school. We will show them we learned right from wrong, we want better, we can go further and when it comes time for those family gatherings, we will make our families proud. Finally we have a responsibility to our communities, all communities, church, school and various groups. We need to understand that as a member of any of these communi-

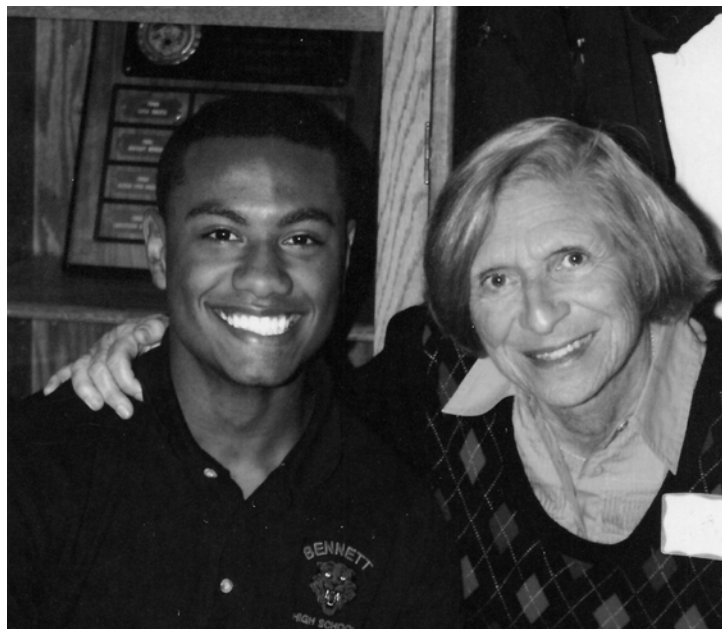
ties, we, as individuals, want only to contribute positively.

Thank you to all of the parents, relatives, building staff and special friends who over the years have given words of encouragement and extended helping hands in time of need. This journey called high school would have been much more difficult without you. Our hearts have shared sorrow with the loss of Mrs. Knauff. Our spirits have shared excitement and many opportunities through the dedication of Mr. Lange. We greatly appreciate the wonderful job which Ms. Jackson, Mr. Bass, Dr. Stevenson and Mr. Rittling are doing. Keep up the great work!

To our teachers, thank you for unselfishly sharing your time, talents and knowledge with us. You displayed great patience in explaining assignments, sometimes repeatedly, because we were not paying attention. You allowed us to come to your classroom late (Don't tell Mrs. Busshart), you came to work already knowing how your day would end . . . with a headache! You stressed that we put all our effort into our work because just settling was not good enough. If it were not for your belief and patience with us, we would not have the confidence we enjoy today.

Your paycheck may never truly reflect what you have given to us, but our respect for you is priceless.

May we grow from your nurturing and take advantage of all opportunities ahead of us, starting with SAY YES TO EDUCATION. To the Class of 2013, may we all live healthy and prosperous lives; and not make this the end, but the beginning of a new start, looking back at our past mishaps and working to change them.



# Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Includes Bennett Alumni

by Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53

In June, Dr. Leonard Katz and I were invited to an all-day program organized by Buffalo Promise Neighborhood as representatives of the Bennett Alumni Association. The goal of this program was to ensure that all Buffalo Promise partners understand “the entire pipeline of services and supports” as well as understand their own contribution.

As Bennett Alumni, we are pleased that Buffalo Promise Neighborhood has launched this collaborative effort, led by the Westminster Foundation to improve the educational and developmental outcomes of our children and to transform our community.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a planning grant to Buffalo Promise Neighborhood to develop a feasible plan of solutions for children in three target schools—two elementary and Bennett High School. This grant funds a continuum of cradle through college to career solutions aimed at “transforming distressed neighborhoods into healthy and vibrant communities of opportunity.” It is an ambitious, long-term program which recognizes and addresses the complexities of the problems which Bennett students face. We alumni are proud to be included in this program.

## MINI GRANTS...

Your membership dues at work!

## Attica Prison

Mr. Jamie Barden

Dear Bennett Alumni,

Thank you for giving us money to go to Attica. It was a learning experience. It was nice to hear these different life stories. If we ever see them on the street we would not know that they were criminals. One thing we learned was that if you make one bad decision, it can affect you for the rest of your life. We appreciate your doing this for us. With your support over the years, we have been able to bring over 100 students to Attica. I have included a couple of student notes to inmates for validation of enlightenment. We hope we will be able to go again next year.

**Thanks to the 763 alumni who paid membership dues for the last school year. Your financial support has helped our Bennett in so many ways. If you haven't become a member yet, please consider joining. If you are a loyal membership supporter, please renew your membership today!**

### 2013 - 2014 Dues Statement

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please Check One:

#### Regular Dues - (checks payable to Bennett Alumni Association)

☐ Basic Dues • \$20      ☐ \$25      ☐ \$50      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Tax Deductible Contributions - (checks payable to Bennett Alumni Community Foundation)

☐ \$100      ☐ \$150      ☐ \$200      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **Bennett High Membership**  
**2885 Main Street**  
**Buffalo, New York 14214**

☐ I am requesting that future copies of the *Bennett Beacon* are sent only to my email address.

**This begins our NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR. Please continue to support OUR STUDENTS by becoming a member!**

# Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and Student Essay Contest

by Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53

For the past four years the Bennett Alumni Association has sponsored a Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the spring to show our faculty and staff how much their hard work and dedication is valued. As part of the event we sponsor a student essay contest where students are asked to write a short essay relating specific ways in which they have been helped, without naming a teacher by name. We award three small prizes and a certificate and the winning essays are read at the luncheon. This

year we had the largest number of entries and they were so moving that it was difficult to select only three winners. What follows is excerpts from winner, Jean Carlos Rios:

*"I've always hated reading since the first time I tried it and I never figured how to make it fun. But when I got to the "Big" room I heard one of the most potent and inspirational readers of all time which has done what I thought would be impossible: She made reading fun!*

*When she read with such passion, love and vigor I felt every type of emotion. She read with such animation that it even made me want to do the same. And ever since I've heard such passion, I've said to myself: 'Let me give this reading thing a try'. And when I did, it was one of the best things that I have ever done in my life.*

*... Thanks to this teacher I am a better scholar, but most importantly, a better person who will never forget what he has been taught!"*

## MINI GRANTS...

Your membership dues at work!

Dear Bennett Alumni:

I'm so grateful for what you done for me. It's been really hard, both emotionally and financially, since my mom died. There have been times where I did not know how I was going to pay for Senior Dues, Prom and my \$200 deposit for dorms.

Fortunately, God has blessed me with such good friends and family and teachers who really care about me and my future. The Bennett Alumni fits in this category and I just want to say thank you for all your love and support.

Without you I would not have had a chance to pay for the deposit which meant I would not have had a dorm. So I thank you and I am grateful for all you have done.

Breone Boles

Dear Alumni Association members:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the **Eye of the Tiger Foundation**. The funds helped to support our attendance initiatives throughout the year. Because of your support, we were recognized as one of the schools in the district with 80% or higher attendance!

Mrs. Sheila Busshart

## *This Little Light of Mine; I'm going to Let It Shine* Alzena Wright's Giving Spirit Inspires Scholarship for BHS Student

by Marilyn Wittman, Retired Principal

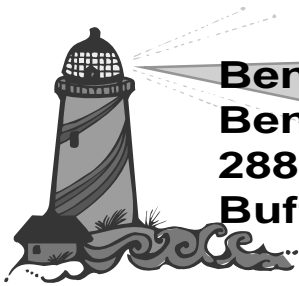
- Imagine working joyfully for 70 years of your adult life.
- Imagine taking a stand for your civil rights and winning.
- Imagine being a professional in your sport.
- Imagine singing in a gospel choir.
- Imagine being a small business owner.
- Imagine being inducted into a sports hall of fame.
- Imagine having perfect attendance in college.
- Imagine being on the dean's list.
- Imagine rescuing someone from a burning building.

Alzena Wright did all of these things while working full-time (until she was 90), being a wife to Junior Wright and a mother to Nathaniel (Yogi) and Carolzena. Her career was one of service to others working with pediatric cancer patients, school children and clients in community care. Finally, Mrs. Wright was the person countless people sought when they needed help. She never let them down.

The students and staff at Bennett were fortunate that Mrs. Wright spent part of her career with the Buffalo Schools as teacher assistant there. Through individual attention and concern, she taught students to come to school, to follow the rules and to make the most of their opportunity for an education.

Mrs. Wright was in a position to emphasize attendance because, in spite of her age, she never missed a day of school.

Upon her passing last year, many of those whose lives she touched were inspired to establish a scholarship fund in her name. The scholarship is awarded annually at graduation. It goes to a student who will be attending Erie Community College and who has had the best attendance during four years at Bennett. The first scholarship was awarded this year to TyQuasia Clark.



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

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**Time Sensitive Publication**

**July 29, 2013**

**As a follow-up reflection, the students who went on the trip to Attica wrote letters to the inmates. Several of our Board members went on the trip and talked with the students about their feelings and experiences. It was agreed by all that this was an important educational opportunity for both students and adults!**

Dear Fellas:  
I appreciate how the program taught me that all it takes is one day for your life to be taken away and you are in jail. Also how it taught that school plays an important part in your life more than just getting an education. Keep up the good work.  
Anthony Brooks

Dear Jose,  
As I left Attica, I continued to think about all the things you spoke about. Every night when I go to bed I pray and ask God to bless yourself, Jacob Sosa and Thomas. If you pray, God will forgive you for all of the wrongs you've done in your past. . . . Thanks for giving your time and talking to the group and me.  
Alex Willis

Dear Wink,  
Talking to you all was a real beneficial experience. Throughout our conversations you made me realize that there are many opportunities that we have that are not taken advantage of. You don't know what you have until it is gone. . . . Hearing from a person that has been there and done that makes it more understandable. . . . I thank you all.  
Angel Santiago

**LETTERS FROM  
OUR STUDENTS**