



# Bennett Beacon

published in conjunction with Mr. Lange's Leadership Class

## Bennett High School

SUMMER 2014

Vol. 17/ISSUE No. 1

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

### From Our President

As we come to the end of this school year, we reflect on the many challenges we have faced together. We want to let all of our alumni know that we are working very hard with the Buffalo Board of Education and elected officials to keep our beloved Bennett alive.



**Irene Greene  
President**

Believe me, we will not let Bennett die. Please keep informed about what is happening and, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Together we can make a huge difference!

Because of the challenges we continue to face, we are asking for your help. We need you to help us save our beloved Bennett. We want the Board of Education and the State of New York officials to know how important Bennett is to all of us. Please write to your New York State senator and your New York State Representatives. Write to the Buffalo Board of Education and let them know how instrumental Bennett was in your life and how relevant Bennett can be in today's world, especially as we continue to support the education of Buffalo's youth.

*see President's Message  
Page 5*

### Bennett Closing? The Real Story!

*...from the Bennett Alumni Board of Directors*

As a Bennett High School alum, you are keenly aware that a spotlight has always shone brightly on our school. Bennett has been observed with interest by students, graduates and the community for decades. Many have watched with a bit of envy for those who wore the orange and blue. Recently, there has been a great deal of talk about our school, most of it dire and disturbing.

Like issues faced by many urban schools, Bennett's problems are complex, but far from hopeless. While the media seizes on headlines about closing (based on the failed plan submitted by the District), there are many supporters who are working hard to re-design Bennett to meet the standards of education set by the State of New York. Your Alumni Association played a huge part in the effort that convinced Albany to grant an extension to develop a new plan for Bennett. The thrust of the argument was that constituent groups (students, parents, community, alumni and administrators) needed to be involved in the planning process. Together we could plan a strategy for success far more developed than one designed by a single person working alone. We needed more time and a leader. The State Education Department listened. The District was directed to name a facilitator and to submit a new

#### Trending at Bennett

##### OUT

- What *they* want you to believe:
- closing
- failure
- dissent
- egos
- adult interests
- disorder

##### IN

- What your alumni are working for:
- redesign
- hope
- respect
- teamwork
- student interests
- organization

redesign plan by September 1.

With the selection of a consultant, Dr. Constance Moss, much hard work has already taken place. Dr. Moss held an open meeting at Bennett on July 1. During that meeting, all interested parties were given a chance for input and focus groups were formed. There are groups that represent all the stakeholders interested in the future of the school. Under Dr. Moss's direction, multiple meetings have taken place each week. An educational plan is being developed touching on all areas of the school day for students, teachers and administrators. Bold new initiatives are being ana-

*see The Real Story  
Page 2*

## Bennett Beacon

Summer 2014 Vol. 17/Issue 1

# 2013 - 2014 Officers

### BAA President

Irene McLeish Greene, '57

### Vice Presidents

Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
Kenya Hobbs, '91

### Treasurer

Larry Levin, '57

### Recording Secretary

Deby Fox-Hahn, '60

### Corresponding Secretary

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53

### BHS Principal

Dr. Terry Ross

### Directors

#### 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

#### Class of 2016:

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53  
Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty  
Deby Fox-Hahn, '60  
Neil Lange, Faculty  
Barbara Lewis Lewis, '59  
Irene McLeish Greene, '57  
Marilyn Wittman, Faculty  
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

## 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.

## The Real Story

continued from Page 1

lyzed for their relevance to the success of students beyond graduation. Support from within and without the school is a key component as the students' skills are brought up to the standard. Innovative programs will prepare them for futures in relevant growth areas.

Dr. Moss is synthesizing the best ideas from each constituent group. Later in the summer, she will bring the draft plan back to the whole group for more discussion. It is expected that the final plan will go to the Buffalo Board of Education and the State Education Department by the September 1 deadline. Upon approval, the new plan will begin in September 2015.

*You make a difference!*



**Mini Grants**  
...your dues at work!



*You make a difference!*



**Mini Grants**  
...your dues at work!



I would just like to express my sincere gratitude and thank you this year for your Alumni Grant. This year the art club students were able to participate in many community projects and contests because of your generosity. Because of your hard work and dedication to the students of Bennett High School, you helped create so many great memories and smiles in the art room. Attached to this letter are photos of some of the great projects students created and of contests in which they participated.

Mrs. Kathie L. Eisinger

## Recycling Crew - Reducing and Reusing

Here we are at the close of another school year and what a year it has been! Our Bennett High School Recycling Crew has continued forward with its aggressive objective of recycling, reducing and reusing all items collected by the crew. It has been another successful year with the crew recycling an additional four tons of paper and cardboard and over 975 cans and plastic beverage containers, both returnable and non-returnable; dozens of batteries, scrap metal and electronics.

Even more impressive than our totals is our image while we are working diligently to save our small corner of our planet. Thanks to the generosity of the Bennett High School Alumni, our crew was able to purchase updated Recycling uniform shirts, this time with the added logo: ***We all have the ability to make a difference!*** These uniform shirts significantly enhance the vocational training aspect of our recycling initiative, thus indirectly increasing our self-confidence and eventual independence.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support and belief in our abilities to contribute to our school and world! Without your generosity and commitment, Bennett would not be home to the most aggressive recycling program in any of the Buffalo Public Schools.

With more appreciation than words could ever express,

Your Bennett High School Recycling Crew  
and teacher, Ms. Anna Klapakis

# 2014 Sports Hall of Fame - October 18th

by Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty

The Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee is delighted to announce that the 2014 Induction Ceremony will be held at the school on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with a reception in our front hall. Hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, salads, desserts, soft drinks and coffee will be offered. The Induction Ceremony commences at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

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

- Dan Conley, '77 (**Career Achievement Award**)
- Jim Gardon, '72 (**Football**)
- Jimmy Graves, '69 (**Basketball**)
- Herb Hasan, '72 (**Track, Cross Country**)
- Darnell Kimble, '04 (**Basketball**)
- Virginia (Ginger) Kuhlmann, '73 (**Tennis**)
- Jeffrey Rick McCarley, '62 (**Basketball**)
- John Nwachukwu, '81 (**Tennis**)
- Steve Samson, '87 (**Baseball**)
- Jennifer Whissel Simpson, '86 (**Cross Country, Swimming & Track**)

Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Please make checks payable to: Sports Hall of Fame Committee, 3842 Harlem Rd., 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 18, 2014!

*You make a difference!*

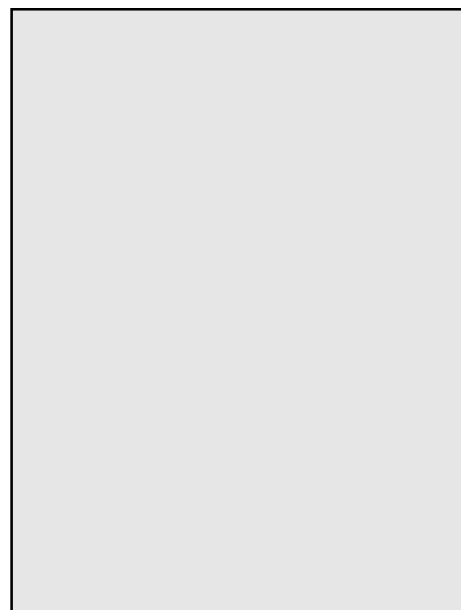


**Mini Grants**  
...your dues at work!



On behalf of the Physical Education Department at Bennett, we would like to thank you for all you do. We especially thank you for the \$800.00 that we received from the Alumni Mini Grant program which was used to purchase T-shirts. These were used as an incentive for the students: Any student who received a 100% in Physical Education was given a shirt.

Ms. Mary DelSignore  
Mr. Randy Rakowski  
Ms. Debra Stanczyk



*You make a difference!*



**Mini Grants**  
...your dues at work!

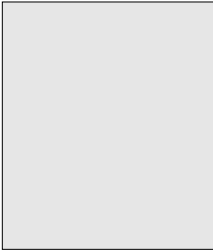


Thank you so much for your generous funding for the Clay Artist Workshop with Carol Bell that my art students attended. We studied the Asian Carp Invasion and made a large scale sculpture. I have included some photos!

Mrs. Nancy Davies

*Class Notes...*

## The 1940s



**Larry Beahan, MD, '48**, writes that he and his son, Nick, went to Cuba on a people-to-people trip. He won a bottle of rum at a Guinea Pig coaxing contest.

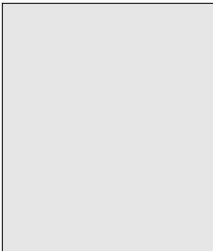
He races his sailboat, a venerable C&C29 with his other son, Teck, in the Wednesday night Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club races. "We don't always come in last." Dr. Beahan's latest book is Adirondack Sasquatch, which is listed at [www.amazon.com/Adirondack-Sasquatch-Larry-Beahan/dp/0970310463](http://www.amazon.com/Adirondack-Sasquatch-Larry-Beahan/dp/0970310463).

*Class Notes...*

## The 1950s

**Nancy Bohn, '50**, lives in Hopkins, Maine where she still plays tennis at 81 years old. She and her husband, Dick, who was with Ford Motor Co. Export, traveled to 92 countries and all 7 continents.

**Larry Levin, '57**, rode 32 miles in the Ride for Roswell Park on June 28th in memory of loved ones and personally raised \$6,500 for cancer research. The 8000 participants raised a total of \$4.3 million! Larry is the able Treasurer of the Bennett Alumni Association.



**Dr. Jeffrey Carrel, '59**, warned about the health dangers of obesity in the Buffalo News. He rode in his 20th Tour de Cure to benefit

diabetes research.

**Robert C. Yost, '59**, relocated back to WNY in 2013 after retiring from the US Marine Corps and as a teacher. He is involved in animal rescue.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1960s

**Cookie Kulick Weil, '60** lives in Boca Raton, FL., where she and her late husband Bill "had a beautiful 50th anniversary party on Dec. 29, 2013".

**Terrence (Terry) Gamble, '65**, remembers having a difficult time at Bennett until he found rooms 199 and 499 (music dept). Many thanks (posthumously) to Mrs. Seeger and Mr. Nowak for being excellent teachers. Also to the myriad other excellent teachers who there were at the time. Terry has been retired from teaching music in the public schools of WNY for 12 years. Six grandchildren later!

**June Calabrese, '68**, who lives in Tampa FL, thanks the Alumni for "sharing the news of our Alma Mater" and asks you to visit her website, [www.junekittay.com](http://www.junekittay.com) to see what one of your seniors is up to! *Keep on Movin'!*

*Class Notes...*

## The 1970s

**Ada Hopson, '70**, is the Program Director of the Masten Block Club Coalition, Inc. and Vice-President of the Board of Block Clubs of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc. She is a certified trainer in Neighborhood Crime Watch & Prevention and Disaster preparedness. Through her community involvement, she works closely with City Hall, elected officials and law enforcement.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1980s

**Simon T. Bailey, '86**, a former sales director of the Disney Institute and founder of the Brilliance Institute, has written seven books, including Release Your Brilliance. A motivational speaker, he was invited to give the keynote speech in April at the annual meeting of the National School Boards Association.

**Kimberly Chatmon Aldridge, '88**, resides in Charlotte, NC with her husband Vincent and her daughter Porsche Marie who is a sophomore at Howard University's School of Communication. Kimberly works as a senior project manager and is also a student at Charlotte School of Law.

*Class Notes...*

## The 1990s

**Ross Nwachukwu, '90**, was inducted into the Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2014 on Jan. 5, 2014 at the Transit Valley Country Club. Ross was a former Bennett High School star who excelled at Drake University and captured four MUNY championships.

*Class Notes...*

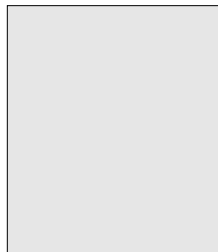
## The 2000s

**Delmar Evans, '06**, who lives in Mint Hill, North Carolina, comments: "B.E. double N.E double T! Miss you, Mr. Lange".

**Our new  
Membership Year has  
started!**

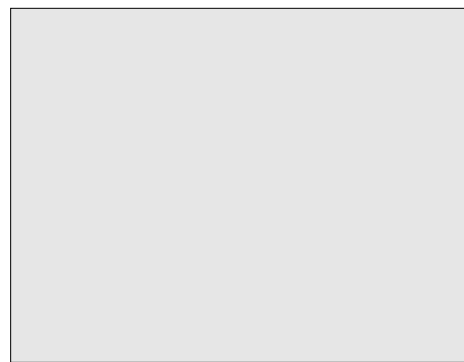
Your membership dollars  
support our students!

**Thomas P. Sheehan**, '47, paraphrases the poet Peter St. John. Attending Bennett in the 1940s was one of the Rare Ould Times for me as a teenager. It was a great time to be alive!



**Teachers taught me stories  
Of heroes of renown  
The tales of passing glories  
That once was Buffalo town.  
I walked the hallowed halls  
listened to musical rhymes  
Danced at Downtown balls  
In the Rare Ould Times.**

Now, 67 years later, I smile and propose a toast to all those wonderful students and teachers who made my teenage years a joy to remember!



**A**rt Club students created over 110 Holiday Cards for Veteran's and Children's Hospitals.

Mailing costs are  
→ **GOING UP!**  
Your Alumni Dues are  
important!

President's Message  
*continued from Page 1*

As always, a huge thanks to all of our alumni members who have made a financial commitment on behalf of the students. More than ever, your contributions make a difference. We were able to grant almost \$4000 in scholarships and almost \$5000 in Mini Grants (Please see the articles contained in this issue about how your dues impact students!)

The students, parents, teachers and staff are so grateful for all that you do to make a difference.

Please pay you dues for the 2014 - 2015 school year. Remember, our membership year coincides with the school calendar, so it is time to renew for the next school year. If possible, please include an additional amount to help us continue helping the students.

We have worked hard, on your behalf, to be at the table for all discussions and as decisions are being made for the future of our school. Being involved is more important than ever. Everyone counts! Together the best is yet to be.

## Alumni Association Privacy Policy

**T**he Bennett Alumni Association respects the privacy of all visitors to our website and for all information received from our members from all sources. We will NOT make information collected available to any outside parties. The only time we release information is for class reunions. The only information we release to class reunion committees is addresses, phone numbers and email addresses and only for specific graduation years. **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION TO RE-UNION CLASSES.**

All information gathered will only be with your knowledge and consent. If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Policy, please contact us.

## Alumni Mentoring Program Growth

*by Jackie Hillary Jordan, '72*

**I**t is difficult to believe that a year has passed and even more difficult to fathom my retirement as a Special Education teacher at Bennett. My monthly treks to Bennett for the Alumni Board meetings helped with the transition from employee to service member, particularly my involvement with the mentoring program. Becoming actively involved in recruiting and establishing connections between mentors and mentees afforded me the opportunity to remain connected to the place that has played a monumental role in my life. After a year, I'm even more convinced that mentoring does matter.

This year we had a small but significant crew. Two recent graduates, Raydale Thomas and Jerrell Mason, joined our ranks. With their addition, our mentors collectively spanned 56 years of Bennett Alumni representation. How awesome is that? We still have room for more volunteers. Our goal is to have 35 or more mentors. Please consider becoming a mentor for the 2015 academic year. Now is your time to make a difference: Mentor a student today!

**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!

# 2014 Community Foundation Donors\*

## \$500+ - Diamond Club Donors

**Julie Horn Fac.** **Class of 1963**  
**Wayne R. Reilly '47** **Marilyn Wittman Fac.**

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

Kenneth L. Barley '50	Peter J. Lang, Ph. D. '47
John Bienko '88	Gloria Lawrence Baxter '43
Philip Celniker '54	Harold Leader '57
James Douglas Crawford '46	Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter '53
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D. '65	Danis J. Norman Gehl '70
Scott W. Gehl '70	Anne Osborn Krueger '50
Thomas J. Guttuso, MD '53	Robert C. Rettke '60
Marjorie G. Hoffman '62	Herman Rodenberg '44
Dr. Russell F. Houseman '45	Alan Snitzer '70
Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D. '64	Frederick J. Wallace '50
Richard A. Killinger Jr. '64	Paul F. Werler '42
Edward James Lane, Jr. '53	Barbara Young Coles '57

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

Roberta Allbert Dayer '53	Marsha Jean Kaiser Shendell '62	Margaret Naish Brass-Heidger '60
Marleen Bengel Varner '49	William L. Kasting, Jr. '49	Dr. William E. O'Connor '56
Geraldine Bewley Hobika '52	Dr. Leonard Katz '53	Bernice Ortenberg Manello '47
Richard F. Carver, M.D. '55	Merle Katz Goldstein '55	Jean Parrott O'Connor '56
Beverly Davis Blue '61	Linda Konrad Byers '60	Nancy Paull McKeever '57
Cynthia Dayer Erb '80	Sally Laurie Murphy '51	Oliver L. Poppenberg '55
Jennie DePerro Brummer Fac.	Marjorie Leff Scheff '53	Carolyn Price Singletary PhD '66
Thomas J. Dixon '64	Mary Louise Leman Van Slyke '49	Sylvia Rosen Dimet '47
Jacqueline Engel Irwin '59	Rona Lichtman Tananbaum '60	Robert A. Russell '63
Rev. Bernard F. Engelhardt '47	Leonard Ludwig '55	Shelly Satuloff Hirshberg '67
David J. Franko '62	Gerald F. Lupekis '50	Molly Scully Cloutier '40
Jeffrey M. Freedman '68	Colleen Mastoris Lambros '56	Sandra Selig Applebaum '54
Gene Garrison '49	Bruce A. McNallie '56	Mary Speck Reimer '54
Elaine Goldstein Neuman '56	Gerald C. Meyers '46	Tamiko Thompson Stumpe '73
Morris Himmel '47	W. Graham Millar '51	Richard Van Slyke '49
Dr. Keith Howard '58	George W. Munschauer '49	Donna Weber Wattman '59
Carmen J. Iannaccone '57		Bernard E. Wills '48

## \$100 - Century Club Donors

Richard J. Adams '58	Marilyn George Meyers '74	Robert B. Mooney '48
Jack C. Anthony '48	Judith Lynn Green Brothman '59	Donna Moslow Lawler '60
Marilyn Bass Buxbaum '54	Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell '55	Carol Newman Caserta '60
Richard M. Bender '46	Suzanne Herman Himmel '49	Harry L. Powazek '73
Alan J. Bozer '71	Pamela J. Hough Alvarez '68	Nancy Rice Hunt '45
Dr. Melvin M. Brothman '50	Ana M. Hurd Faculty	Elaine Schruttt Brothman '53
Phillip Brothman '56	Ruth King Balchunas '40	Herbert Siegel '54
Rosalie Brothman Rosenband '55	Peter S. Kristall '57	Myron M. Siegel, Atty. '47
Dr. Joseph Chazan '52	Neil J. Lange Faculty	Rhoda Stein Greenwald '59
Priscilla Craw '62	Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro Faculty	Theodore Sullivan '50
Richard Dattner '55	Lawrence H. Levin '57	Jean Travis Boccuti '57
Hugh J. Devine '55	Hon. Sam Maislin '64	Edward J. Willett, Jr. '56
John M. Garrity, Atty. '48	Ruth H. Marshall Barth '45	Judith Zent Deck '59
	Joyce McMahon Scherer '51	

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

\*As of June 30, 2014. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

# Reflections of a College Frosh

by Ryan Montgomery, '13

My first day of high school seemed to be the longest day of my life. After walking around the long narrow hallways of Bennett, knowing no one, I thought the next four years would never end.

Those four years have ended and boy do I miss them! What I didn't realize was how much I would gain in that short amount of time; how much the faculty and staff really cared for the students and how they reflected their passion for teaching through their energetic and creative minds.

Like any transition, smoother is better. After experiencing an atypical four years at Bennett, I was better prepared to take the next step, but it did not come without fear of the unknown and a little hesitation.

Knowing there was always a place for me to return and after forming some close relationships with the Bennett family, these feelings of uncertainty would begin to pass. I can't begin to thank everyone who has entered my life because of Bennett High School for all the wonderful things they have contributed to my life.

I have just finished my freshman year at Medaille. I have a 3.0 average and I am applying to George Washington University. I hope to pursue a future in political science. Bennett and the Bennett family have been and continue to be such an important part of my life.

## CORRECTIONS

**Herman Rodenberg was not listed as a Century Club Donor and Philip Celniker was not listed as a Platinum Donor in the Winter 2014 Alumni Beacon. We deeply regret these omissions! Our deepest apologies!**

# Bennett Outstanding Alumni Award

by Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty

One of the highlights of this year's Commencement Ceremony was the presentation of the 2014 Bennett High School Outstanding Alumni Award.

This year's recipient, Dr. Laurence T. Beahan, graduated Bennett in 1948, the University of Buffalo in 1952, and UB Medical School in 1955.

Dr. Beahan served four years as a Captain in the US Air Force, during which he was Chief of the Psychiatric Service at the Tachikawa Air Base Hospital in Japan. Upon returning to Buffalo, he worked at ECMC, where he developed the Emergency Psychiatric Service called EMPATH.

In 1970, he began his private practice of Psychiatry and served on the staffs of several Buffalo Hospitals. From 1963 to present, Dr. Beahan has been a member of the WNY District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association, serving as President in 1976.

In retirement, Dr. Beahan has been very active in the Environmental Movement, as an Officer and member of the Boards of The Sierra Club and The Adirondack Mountain Club. In 2007, he received The Conservationist of the Year Award from the ADK and the following year he was given The Bruce Kershner Conservationist Award by The Sierra Club.

Our multi-talented Honoree has written many articles on the Environment which have been published in The Buffalo News, as well as in several magazines. Dr. Beahan has written eight books, the latest, Beyond the Adirondacks, was published in June.

Currently, Dr. Beahan is working to promote the switch from fossil fuels, like coal and gas, to Clean Energy. He is urging the installation of Solar Panels on all Buffalo Schools, and the restoration of 9,000 acres of Allegany State Park that have been leased to National Fuel Gas for the past 50 years.

Dr. Beahan and his wife Lyn, reside in the Buffalo area. They have three sons, and four grandchildren.

With much pleasure we congratulate Dr. Beahan on receiving this Award!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

BENNETT BEACON - Summer 2014

*You make a difference!*



**Mini Grants**  
...your dues at work!



The Virtual Enterprise Class of 2014 would like to thank you for your continued support of our curriculum and offering us the ability to make a difference in this program. The Mini Grant that you so graciously awarded us enabled us to go to the Regional Trade Fair in March as a whole class where we took home three awards. These awards were in Impact Marketing, Best Trade Fair Booth and Most Sales. Your generosity gave us an edge in the competition and the ability to perform above and beyond our expectations. This is the first year that we have taken three awards home, the most so far in the eight years of this program.

By utilizing the Mini Grant funds to provide transportation to and from the event as a school, we were able to demonstrate to the underclassmen what they will need to do to set-up for their competitions, what activities will be required, as well as giving them a taste of what it will be like to be seniors.

Without your generosity, we would have only been able to take five students. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Mrs. Tracie Batcho

## CLASS OF 1960

**If you are interested in attending a casual one night 55th Reunion in July, 2015, please contact one of the following within the next 30 days:**

• Carol Newman Caserta, 716-873-2836

• Deby Fox Hahn 716-689-0252 or hahnmom1@gmail.com.

**Hope to hear from you!**



# Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon

by Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53

For the past several years, the Bennett Alumni Association has sponsored a Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon which includes a student essay contest on the topic: "Why I appreciate my teacher(s)". The students are instructed not to name the teacher. The essay submissions always are very moving and it is difficult to select three cash prize winners. But this year was the most difficult of all and the judges felt compelled to award four honorable mentions! The top three essays were read at the luncheon, bringing tears to more than one person's eyes. A brief sample follows, as well as a letter from a faculty member.

• **Jedidah Gallagher**, First Prize Winner:

"For me there is one teacher who goes above and beyond his job title as a science teacher. Science is the hardest subject for me and rarely captures my interest. However, through the use of interactive assignments, lively class sessions, and creative projects, he was able to break down my barriers and really help me enjoy and see science in a different light.

My relationship with this teacher also extends far beyond the classroom however. Regardless if it is a serious issue or something trivial that I need to vent about, I know I can always talk with him and our conversations can put my restless mind to ease for the time being."

• **David Hall**, Second Prize Winner:

"Dear My Favorite Counselor: This is a thank you letter from me to you. I have spent three years in Bennett High School wondering who I am, what will I be in life, and what the future holds for me: Questions that I still have yet to answer. But there were moments where as a person I just gave up and you kept me on track. . . .

Three years in and you are not my Counselor, but you still make time, never turning your back on me even when you know the pain is not real. . . . This is a letter to you to thank you for everything you have done for me. Not for all of the secrets you kept and not for letting me into your life, but for crafting me into

the bright person I am today and making my future look prominent."

• **Dear Wonderful and Supportive Alumni,**

The luncheon was delicious,  
The company was first-rate!  
I went for three helpings to fill up  
my plate!

Your caring is the best,  
Your applause means so much,  
Especially this year!  
We loved the lunch!

Very, very, very few schools are blessed with friends from the past who develop, hold close and help the present. Thank you all! I appreciate your support and care!

Miss Julie Christiano  
English Teacher

Over 30 children's book covers were recreated on canvas and donated to the Dudley Library in South Buffalo. Art Club students wanted to inspire the younger generation to read more!

Another project that was completed by the Art Club was a rain barrel for the Erie County Environmental Planning Board. Thanks to the Alumni Mini Grant, new paints and "desperately needed" new paint brushes were purchased.

We Cordially Invite You!

## Annual Alumni Brunch

We'd love to attend the Alumni Brunch on Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 12 noon at the Westwood Country Club! **\$25<sup>00</sup>** *per person*

**Please print! • Please respond by September 12, 2014!**

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



# class reunions

Class of 1964

by Alan B. Linsky, '64

## 50th Class Reunion - September 19th - 21<sup>st</sup>

All of us planning the reunion are looking forward to the fun of being with classmates we may not have seen in 50 years. The following is a schedule of events for the week-end:

- **Friday, Sept. 19** — **5:00 p.m.** - Adams Mark Hotel: Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and conversation. Parking is free.
- **Saturday, Sept. 20** — **1:00 p.m.** - Guided tour of Bennett High.  
**5:00 p.m.** - Ramada Hotel and Conference Center: Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing to music from the 1960s.
- **Sunday, Sept. 21** — **12:00 p.m.:** Bennett High Alumni Annual Meeting and Reunion Brunch at the Westwood Country Club.

For further information or to make a reservation, please contact: Sharon (Witkin) Frommann, [mommafro457@gmail.com](mailto:mommafro457@gmail.com), Pamela (Stecker) Weinrieb [prsw@man.com](mailto:prsw@man.com), John Emerling [jemerling@emerfood.com](mailto:jemerling@emerfood.com). Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Class of 1965

by Carol & Norm Weingarten, '65

## 50th Class Reunion - August 28 - 29, 2015

The Class of 1965 has plans well under way for our 50th reunion to take place on August 28 & 29, 2015. On August 28 we will be at Aqua Restaurant on Niagara Street. On August 29th we will have a dinner dance at the Adams Mark Hotel. Allan Rosenblitt has created a wonderful website with all the information and details which is being constantly updated. To view the website go to <http://www.bennett1965.com/home.html>. If you are in the Buffalo area and would like to help with the planning, please contact Carole Wolkind Weingarten at [weincsw@verizon.net](mailto:weincsw@verizon.net) or 688-6432. Send contact information to Bette Silverman Davidson at [1965bennett@gmail.com](mailto:1965bennett@gmail.com). Our planning committee rocks and we are having a great time planning! Please share this information with classmates.

Class of 1974

## 40th Class Reunion August 9 and 10

by Jay Neubecker, '74

The Class of 1974 will hold its 40th reunion on the weekend of Aug. 8, 2014 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Ohm Ultra Lounge, 948 Main Street. On Aug. 9 there will be a tour of the school at 1:00 p.m. and a sunset cruise at 8:00 p.m. aboard the Miss Buffalo, followed by an evening at Templeton Landing, 2 Templeton Terrace. For more information, visit the Bennett High School Class of 1974 Facebook page.

*... a regular  
feature of the  
Alumni Beacon  
to keep you up-  
to-date on Class  
Reunions*

## Are you planning a reunion?

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

Everyone 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 •

**Bennett**  
reunion  
notes

## •In Memoriam•

Lt. Cmd. (USN Ret.) Murray A. Moyce, '39 (Reported since <i>Winter 2014 Bennett Beacon</i> ) Gary Kenneth Hughes, '61, April 2, 2014		
Shirley Kreinik, '45	Jannell Davis Robinson, '99, age 34, Feb. 16, 2014	Richard R. Gibbons, Sr., age 82, April 18, 2014
Betty Betts, '49	Catherine Wright Jones, age 57, Feb. 19, 2014	Mary Jane Uhrhan Sisson, age 88, April 19, 2014
Helen Bickel, '51	Nancy Garretson Schumacher, '52, Feb. 23, 2014	Robert Alan Hendricks, age 87, April 27, 2014
Ruth Green Fox, '36, Aug. 7, 2012	Harry Mesches, age 92, March 4, 2014	Marjorie (Margie) Gail Hoffman, '62, April 29, 2014
Harry Radloff, '52, September 27, 2012	Ralph A. Franchini, age 77, March 12, 2014	Margaret (Peg) Grannis Spittler, age 91, May 8, 2014
Calvin Flett, 2013	Ann Herman Schrutt, '53, March 12, 2014	Irving B. Mink, age 86, June 3, 2014
Martin Rein, '51, April, 2013	Doris P. Cart, '39, age 93, March 13, 2014	Sam Maislin, '64, age 68, July 12, 2014
Warren J. Simpson, '56, October 4, 2013	Rena Estray Reisman, '52, age 78, March 18, 2014	Wayne R. Reilly, '47, age 85, July 14, 2014
Mildred (Honey) Weinstein Snitzer, '43, age 88, November 6, 2013	Geraldine Uebelhoer Brinkworth, age 90, March 23, 2014	<u>Faculty</u>
Neil A. Gowans, age 89, Jan. 1, 2014	John (Jack) Fahey, age 93, March 29, 2014	Thaddeus (Teddy) Wojick, teacher of Polish at Bennett in the '60s, '70s and '80s.
Richard Smolev, '66, age 65, Jan. 25, 2014		
Ann Wilson Lawrence, age 62, Feb. 4, 2014		

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

## Are your DUES PAID? Check your address label to find out!

### 2014 - 2015 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 \_\_\_\_\_



### After you've paid your MEMBERSHIP DUES...

please consider an *additional Tax Deductible Contribution* -



(checks payable to **Bennett Alumni Community Foundation**)

☐ Century Club: \$100    ☐ Gold Club: \$101 - \$199    ☐ Platinum Club: \$200 - \$499    ☐ Diamond Club: \$500+

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.

# Alumni Honor Roll 2014 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, 2014!*

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

## Honoree Reunion and Induction Brunch Set for September 21st

*by Allen Yasgur, '60*

Who do you know that deserves to join over 150 fellow alumni on the Alumni Honor Roll? Maybe that person is you! Have you ever made a list of all of your achievements and said to yourself, "Bennett helped me to become the person I am today"? How many other Bennett alumni do you know who deserve this honor?

Your Alumni Association welcomes nominees for its Alumni Honor Roll. A nominating form appears right next to this article. Make a few copies and nominate as many people as you like or just nominate one person.

All alumni are invited to the Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Brunch at which new Honor Roll inductees will receive their awards.

New this year - all previous Honor Roll inductees are invited to an informal reunion during the Annual Meeting and Brunch festivities. What a great time to renew high school friendships; reminisce about our fair alma mater and to hear about how young you look! A response card is found on page 8 of this edition. Please save the date!

•Sunday, September 21, 2014 at Noon at the Westwood Country Club., corner of Sheridan and North Forest drives, Williamsville, NY 14221. The cost is \$25. Please RSVP by September 12!

Don't wait - Nominate and join your friends at the gala event. We hope to see you there!



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

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Time Sensitive Publication

August 1, 2014

Remember when...

As a rite of passage,  
each Graduating  
Class formed the  
Bennett "B" in front  
of the school. Here  
the Class of 1964,  
in finest dress,  
carried out the  
tradition. Join the  
Class of 1964 as  
they hold their 50th  
Reunion  
September 19th,  
20th and 21st!



