



Bennett Beacon

Alumni Edition

Bennett High School

WINTER 2017

Vol. 19/ISSUE No. 2

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

Passionate Alumni Keep Bennett Alive

Buffalo News Features Bennett Alumni Association on Front Page

On August 23, 2016, the front page of the *Buffalo News* featured the story of how the Alumni Association worked to keep Bennett open. It described the Association in this way in the sub-headline: "Self-appointed guardians work with city School Board to ensure its rich legacy lives on."

All those who are involved with the Bennett Redesign were delighted. So many people believed that Bennett was closing. The headline and positive article has gone a long way to dispel those rumors once and for all. The tremen-

dous work of your Alumni representatives was finally acknowledged in a most public way.

To read the full article, please go to the Bennett Alumni Association's web site: www.bennettalumni.com



Mini Grants

by Neil J. Lange, Retired Faculty

Through the generous support of our Alumni who contribute to the Bennett Alumni fund at the Community Foundation, we were able to award nine Mini-Grants to deserving faculty and staff at Bennett, totaling \$3725.00. In addition, our Alumni Association was able to provide \$1000 to help provide funds necessary to help develop the Innovative Technology program.

The following initiatives will be supported:

- Book Club Books
- Tennis Table Club Equipment
- Spanish Class Field Trip
- Chess Team Supplies
- Food for Master Mind and Chess Team Matches
- Color Printer for Technology Department
- National History Day Competition Materials
- Transportation for Students Attending Buffalo Board Meeting
- Funding to Repair Original BHS Podium.

In addition, our Assistant Principal Lizzy Crispin will use the Alumni Funds to develop recruitment materials for the Innovative Technology program. Funds will also be used for incentives for all Bennett students.

Your contributions at work!

News From Our President

The Computer Academy of Technological Sciences at Bennett is making great strides in meeting the needs and interests of our students and in



Irene Greene
President

motivating them to succeed. Bennett now provides the courses which will enable our students either to obtain high paying jobs and satisfying careers following their graduation or to continue their education in college or other post-secondary training.

This new direction in programming for our alma mater was achieved by the hard work of many people from our Alumni Association and the continued support of our dues paying members!

Our Alumni Association continues to provide mini-grants to teachers for field trips, art supplies, attendance at conferences and more! Special in-house events also receive Alumni grants and, of course, we always award scholarships at graduation.

Have you paid your dues? If you are not sure, call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451 to find out! Please continue to give us your generous support and renew your membership! As always, ***The best is yet to be!***

Bennett Beacon
Winter 2017 Vol. 19/Issue 2
2016 - 2017 Officers

BAA President

Irene McLeish Greene, '57

Vice Presidents

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Kenya Hobbs, '91

Treasurer

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Recording Secretary

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Class of 2017:

- Cecilia Henderson, Faculty
- Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68
- Lawrence Levin, '57
- Ryan Montgomery, '13
- Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48

Class of 2018:

- Linda Barker Moore, '68
- Carol Newman Caserta, '60
- Nicholas Costantino, '62
- Kenya K. Hobbs, '91
- Marsha Jadd, '58
- Leonard Katz, MD, '53
- John Vella, Faculty

Class of 2019:

- 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.

Bennett Sports Hall of Fame Induction Held on Saturday, October 15, 2016

by Ken Parr, '57

On Saturday, October 15, 2016, a class of nine outstanding athletes and honorees received induction into the Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame. This marks the fourteenth year of the annual event. An enthusiastic gathering of one of the larger crowds in recent years witnessed the ceremony, much to the delight of the recipients' families and friends.

This years inductees included the following new members:

- Gerald Carp (1956)
- Christine Catalfamo-Sperrazza (1985)
- Tom Cechini (1956) Earle Y. Hannel Memorial Award
- David Gibson (1974)
- Aaron Hayes (2002)
- Derrick Jones (1981)
- Gerald "Kelly" Rosenbaum (1951) Career Achievement
- Victor Sorrento (1974)
- Aaron Young (1991)

A segment of the event paid both spoken and written tributes to the

late Jeffrey "Ricky" McCarley, a former and cherished member of The BHS Hall of Fame Committee. The souvenir program featured numerous messages in memory of our longtime friend and colleague.

Thank you to all who made this event special, including the Bennett administration, custodians, volunteers, video coordinator David White, and retired teacher, Neil (*Mr. Bennett*) Lange. Hail to thee our alma mater, for the best is yet to be!



Your former Bennett High Classmates would love to know what you're doing, what you have done and where you live and just how you are. Send a note about yourself and keep in touch with old friends.

What are you
doing???



Mail to:

Bennett Alumni Beacon
Attention: Class Notes
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214

Inspirational Bennett Football

by Nicholas Costantino, '62

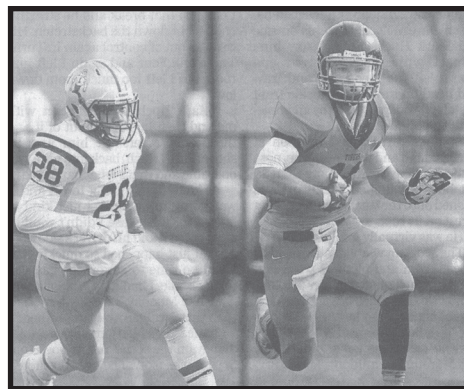
The 2016 Bennett Tigers Football Team, led by Coach Steve McDuffie and an outstanding group of assistants and football players went 8 - 2 this year. This team once again has inspired alumni, teachers, and students as they played at New Era Field for the championship for the third consecutive year. This time we were victorious in winning at the Class A level and participated in the state championships thereafter.

Senior Isaiah McDuffie led the team both on offense and on defense. He was chosen by the *Buffalo News* as the player of the year. For the third consecutive year, Isaiah was one of ten finalists for the Connolly Cup, which he won. We wish him well as he moves on to Boston College on a full athletic scholarship next year.

This team had seventeen Bennett High School seniors on it. All seventeen are on a path to graduate. All seventeen have plans to attend college. All seventeen have plans to play college football. How good is that?

The Sports Hall of Fame Committee invited the coaches and players to attend this year's induction ceremony and were honored by their presence.

The greatness continues for our Bennett Tigers!



Isaiah McDuffie runs for a touchdown in last year's game against Lackawanna.



Isaiah McDuffie receives the Connolly Cup.

• Loud Our Voices Raise •



Bennett running back Jamel Lofton breaks away from a Starpoint tackler for a 30-yard touchdown in the first half of the Tigers' 28-13 victory in the Section VI Class A championship.

The 2016 Bennett Tigers take to the field at New Era Field in Orchard Park prior to the Section VI Class A Championship game.

19th Annual Alumni Brunch and Honor Roll Ceremony

by Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48

A record crowd of alumni attended the annual meeting of the Bennett High School Alumni Association at noon on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at Milo's Restaurant. Following the delicious brunch and business meeting, ten people were inducted into the Alumni Honor Roll. All but three of the honorees were present and each spoke briefly and movingly about how their Alma Mater influenced their lives and careers. The awardees were:

- **Crystal R. Austin, '78**, a founder of Westminister Community Charter School Parent Advisory Board. She also volunteers in the Kwanzaa Youth program and the Cancer Awareness Gina's Walk for Hope Planning Committee.



- **Sheila I. Brown, '83**, is the Principal owner of WUFO, which is located in the Broadway Historic District. She plans to expand in television and print. In 2015, she released her first book: *29 Years of Preparation: A Blueprint to Success*.

- **Allan S. Carrel, '60**, in charge of development for 37 years at SUNY Buffalo Law School.

- **Leslie Kwasman Garfinkel, '61**, head of Temple Beth Zion's Caring Community Program and volunteer with Friends of the Night People.

- **Linda Hinds Deitchman, '57**, writer for educational journals, medical magazines and local newspapers.

- **Linda Barker Moore, '68**, Alumni Board member, teacher and volunteer at Bennett High School.

- **Selma Sunshine Morris, '48**,

community volunteer with the Buffalo Public Library, the Museum of Science and the Buffalo Philharmonic.

- **Allan Harris Rosenblitt, '65**, reporter at WBEN AM and media personality.

- **Joseph Scheff, '53**, leading insurance agent at Lawley Insurance Services.

- **Sandra Markham Skaine, '56**, extraordinary volunteer. Sandy was a longtime Alumni Board member and is active in church organizations.

It's always great to recognize the accomplishments of our fellow alumni. Please nominate candidates for next fall's awards using the form in this *Beacon*. We have so many alumni deserving of recognition! We need every one of you readers to think of a nominee!

The Annual Brunch will take place on September 24, 2017 at Milos. Save the date and come!



Linda Moore was unable to make the ceremony (She was in France!) so her daughters Tai Blewitt and Brittney Barnes accepted her award!



Alumni Board member Deby Fox-Hahn introduces Allan Harris Rosenblitt at the Annual Brunch. Allan was recognized for his contributions in the field of media.

class reunions

Class of 1956

by Marge Koontz Verrico, '56

60th Class Reunion Held in September

The Class of 1956 had their 60th reunion in September at the Buffalo Yacht Club. Nearly 80 classmates were in attendance. A great time was had by all - in fact, such a good time that no one thought to take photos - too busy catching up with one another!

Steve Greenberg did a great job as our master of ceremonies! A poem written and read by Edith Rogovin and various amusing anecdotes shared by classmates made the evening! The venue, with beautiful views of Lake Erie and a beautiful sunset, provided the perfect setting. All decided to plan another get together and are hoping to find contacts we do not have.

Those that are interested need to send current email addresses and other updated information to Don Kohnstamm at donkohn@roadrunner.com. We are hoping for another wonderful turnout! Looking forward to our next event. Please help us collect the information and spread the word.

Classes of 1966 & 1967

by Sam Messler, '67

Joint Class Reunion - August 4 - 6, 2017

On August 4, 5, and 6, 2017, Bennett High School will host a combined Reunion for the classes of 1966 and 1967. Friday night will be an informal gathering with details to be announced. Saturday evening will be a dinner dance at the Foundry Suites, 1738 Elmwood Avenue, with music from the 1960s. Rooms are being held for those wishing to make reservations at 716-240-9693. Be sure to mention the special event. A tour of the renovated Bennett will take place on Saturday, August 5, at 10:00 a.m. When registering, you will receive a "menu" of possible activities available in the resurgence of Buffalo.

If you know of any interested classmates, please provide their contact information, including phone numbers, home and work email addresses. Please join us for this exciting half-century event to share old memories and make new ones!

For further information, please contact our chairperson: Sam Messler at teachersamm@roadrunner.com or 760-799-3790.

You may also contact Barbara Goldfarb Schwimmer at: allie6335@gmail.com.



What's
Happening
Bennett?



Class of 1961

55th Class Reunion Held in August 2016

by Marian Kretschmer Kaplan, '61

Ninety-three classmates, guests and spouses participated in the Class of 1961's 55th Reunion. The best part of our reunion was seeing everyone again and learning about their lives. We are doing our best to stay connected with monthly updates until our 60th reunion in 2021!

If you are a member of our Class and not receiving these updates, please email Marian Kretschmer Kaplan at mk61reunion@gmail.com or call 913-642-5242, We also are on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Bennett1961Reunion>.

Members of the Planning Committee voted to purchase a brick in the Bennett Alumni Honor Garden and Memorial Walkway with left-over funds from the Reunion, in honor of the Class of 1961.

Class of 1965

70th Birthday Party

by Carole Weingarten, '65

The Class of 1965 is planning a 70th Birthday Celebration weekend for July 28-30, 2017.

Information will be posted on our class Facebook page or classmates can send an email to: 1965bennett@gmail.com.

2017 Community Foundation Donors

*As of January 15, 2017. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

\$500+ - Diamond Club Donors

**Julie Horn, Faculty
The Class of 1956**

\$200 - \$499 - Platinum Club Donors

Joan Broderick Mooney, '64	Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64
Philip Celniker, '54	Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64
James Douglas Crawford, '46	Sally Laurie Murphy, '51
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65	Colleen Mastoris Lambros, '56
Dr. Robert M. Green, '67	George W. Munschauer, '49
Thomas J. Guttuso, MD, '53	Anne Osborn Krueger, '50
Rhoda Stein Greenwald, '59	

\$101 - \$199 - Gold Club Donors

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53	Sanford Horwitz, '69
Janice Atwood Anderson, '48	Dr. Russell F. Houseman, '45
Herbert Benatovich, '54	Robert F. Kreinheder, '53
Richard M. Bender, '46	Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty
Marleen Bengel Varner, '49	Leah Loonsk Mendelsohn, '49
Herbert A. Berkoff, M.D., '55	Kenneth W. Matasar, M. D., '60
Judith Bernbeck Kiley, '56	Bruce A. McNallie, '56
Phillip Brothman, '56	Donald H. Meyncke, Jr., '49
Rosalie Brothman Rosenband, '55	Carolyn Milius Weber, '55
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55	Carol Newman Caserta, '60
Frederick Clarke, '58	Dolores Paul Rogers, '47
Judith Clarke, '59	Carolyn Price Singletary PhD, '66
Robert E. Cook, '60	Herman Rodenberg, '44
Beverly Davis Blue, '61	Robert A. Russell, '63
Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80	Betty Ann Saltzman Cohen, '44
Dale Eddols Goodyear, '65	Natalie Shupe Abramson, '57
Dr. Richard S. Elman, '70	Susan Silverman Carrel, '60
Frank G. Emerling, '60	Alvin Spector, '71
John M. Garrity, Atty., '48	Judy Stecker Kugel, '60
Stuart A. Gellman, '54	Theodore Sullivan, '50
Seymour Gitin, '52	Selma Sunshine Morris, '48
Judith Goldstein Henry, '57	Elaine Thier Schweitzer, '47
Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59	Edward J. Willett, Jr., '56
Gwendolyn Hanes Daugherty, '47	Bernard E. Wills, '48
Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell, '55	Marilyn Wittman, Faculty

\$100 - Century Club Donors

Marilyn Bass Buxbaum, '54	Sandra Krape Cryst, '65
Marland L. Berdick, '49	Neil J. Lange, Faculty
Dr. Melvin M. Brothman, '50	Lawrence H. Levin, '57
Priscilla Craw, '62	Leonard Ludwig, '55
Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty	Valerie Propeck McClimon, '91
Gene Garrison, '49	Nancy Rice Hunt, '45
Scott W. Gehl, '70	Patricia Schlehr Frizelle, '55
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty	Elaine Schruett Brothman, '53
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72 & Faculty	Louise Seereiter, Faculty
Marion L. Howe Jansen, '40	Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48
Ana M. Hurd, Faculty	Gloria Van Riper Webster, '56



You make a difference!



Dear Bennett Alumni,
I hope this email finds you in time. I just wanted to share with you some of the photos from our Masterminds/Chess matches. We are growing as a team. In Masterminds the students are doing much better. We are competing against older students and we believe that if we keep our team intact, we will be really strong in the next few years. The students really enjoy competing and getting the chance to travel to other schools.

In chess, our team is very competitive. We are currently in second place in our division, trying to make a push to win it!!

I want to thank the Alumni Association for allowing our students to compete in these competitions!! Bennett will be hosting our first Masterminds/Chess meet soon. I will keep you posted!!

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Barrett
Social Studies Teacher



2016 - 2017 Dues Statement

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

Please check your MAILING LABEL to see if you have already paid your dues!

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* -

(A **separate** check must be made 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.

Honor Garden and Memorial Walkway Ceremony

by Neil J. Lange, Retired Faculty

It was a glorious fall afternoon on Friday, September 23, 2016 as over 50 alumni and their guests and families gathered to celebrate and dedicate our Memorial Walkway, located in front of the building.

Paver bricks and a bench, engraved with names and dates of many special people and events, had memorial candles placed next to them. Trees, replete with memorial plaques, gently swayed in the abundant breeze, reminding us of the people memorialized in their care.

After a brief ceremony hallowing the space and thanking those who donated the initial funds, the engravings on each stone, tree and bench were read. The outdoor ceremony concluded with the singing of the alma mater.

After the ceremony, the guests moved inside to a reception and a time to share special memories.

One of those memories was shared by André and Diane Martinelli, who sponsored a paver in memory of their classmate, Donnie Dray. Here's what Diane shared:

"Donnie was a 1965 graduate that I met at a cookout at my friend André's house. André is now my husband! All three of us went to Bennett. André graduated in 1962 and went to the Marine Corps. Donnie and I both belonged to the Drill Team. Donnie was the head of the Drill Team and I marched with a baton. The girls marched behind him at every football game.

"After graduation, Donnie joined the Marines, following in the footsteps of his good friend André. Sadly, shortly after deployment to Viet Nam, Donnie was killed in action, just six days shy of his 20th birthday.

"Donnie was short in stature, but big in heart. He had a great caring

personality. We still miss him!

"We decided to keep his memory alive for generations by dedicating a paver in his name at his high school. Semper Fi, Donnie!"

This is just one of the countless stories that are now memorialized in front of our alma mater. There are over 1000 pavers still available to be sponsored with your memories and dedications.

Each year, on the Friday of Alumni Weekend, we will be dedicating and memorializing the new pavers, benches and trees. We will gather on September 22, 2017 to pay homage to our Bennett family!

If you need more information about the Alumni Walkway, please contact Neil Lange at 716-308-5451. Bricks range from \$75 to \$200 depending on size and placement. Tree sponsorship is \$850 and granite benches start at \$3750.

"Bennett, Bennet, Thine Forever!"

Class Notes...

The 1940s

Sue Marvin Flynn, '44, remembers the graduation of 1944, as a “very grim time”, with so many classmates away serving in WWII. Nevertheless, “we left the auditorium on a very bright note. They started playing *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree With Anyone Else But Me* and we all joined in singing. The class rented the Canadiana for the graduates to go to Crystal Beach!”

Gwen Hanes Daugherty, '47, “My pleasure in hearing about Bennett continuing as an active school is beyond words.” She volunteers in the gift shop at De Graff Hospital and in the North Tonawanda Meals on Wheels program.



Captain Tom Sheehan, USN Reserve, Retired, '47, reminds his classmates that in 2017, it will be 70 years since they

said good-bye to our Alma Mater. He will toast you all in June.

Gene Garrison, '49, has contributed to the Alumni Association in memory of Sissy Leman Van Slyke and Smitty (Donny E. Smith), *the brother I never had*. Smitty, along with Art Reynolds and Fritz Shelren, were all KIA-Korea. I will never forget.

Class Notes...

The 1950s

Dick Hirsch, '50, has written a new book: *A New Bathtub in the White House*, which is an anthology of approximately 100 of his favorite articles, which he has writ-

ten for *Business First*. The book is available at Talking Leaves in Buffalo.

Roberta F. Handel, '51, a retired Medical School administrator and board member of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, grew up on Wellington Road. She shared her many happy memories of the Hertel Ave. neighborhood in “My View” in the Buffalo News on Jan. 10, 2017. In North Buffalo community, she grew up feeling that she “truly belonged.”

Sally Laurie Murphy, '51, reports that her beloved husband, **William Murphy, '51**, died on Nov. 26, 2016. “He went to PS 81 with my first husband, Bill Drake, and spent two years at Bennett with us both. Two good men!”

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53, has edited her parents papers as: *Gene & Dorothy: A 70 Year Love Story*. The book is available at Amazon.com and Talking Leaves Book Stores. She and her husband, Dr. Roger Dayer, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Their three children, **Larry Dayer, '81; Cynthia Erb, '83** and **Roger E., '86**, all are proud Bennett alumni.

Carolyn Milius Weber, '55, writes: “It was a very encouraging article in the *Buffalo News* about Bennett. It is always good to see a positive position about the schools and education.”

Sandy Skaine, '56, writes that the Class of 1956 recently held its 60th Reunion. “It was both a celebratory and a humbling event. The Class gave a gift of \$640 to the Bennett Alumni Association for its efforts to enhance the educational experience of today’s Bennett students.” She also thanks the alumni for contributions of “time,

talents and treasures” to ensure the continuance of Bennett’s legacy.

Peter Silverberg, '56, was elected to Chair the Philadelphia Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. This section includes eight counties and 3600 members. Mr. Silverberg, who lives in Delanco, is a 1961 graduate of MIT.

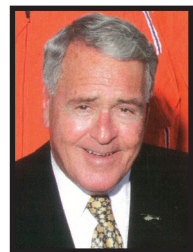


Ken Parr, '57, and his wife, Eloise, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August, 2016. Ken, a former Physical Education teacher and Coach

in the Buffalo and Kenmore schools for 35 years, was inducted into Bennett’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Class Notes...

The 1960s



Doug Baker, '60, Founding President of MercyFlight of Western New York, deserves our congratulations as Mercy Flight celebrates 35 years of

operations, during which it has grown to include five helicopters and more than 200 elite staff people. Doug is a BHS Alumni of the Year recipient.

Carol Newman Caserta, '60, and the Reunion Committee of the Class of 1960, held their annual summer dinner, including the following members:

Don Brusky, Barbara Schwartz Krigstin, Carol Newman Caserta, Carl Johnson, Tim O'Brien, Deby Fox-Hahn, Myra Chertoff Horowitz, Don Gilbert, Dave Grant and Doug Baker. Bev Valvo Lo Tempio and Allan Coo-

per were unable to attend.

Elbert (Cootie) Blanks, '60, died Oct. 13. As a senior at Bennett, where he was a member of the Sports Hall of Fame, he was credited with developing a special move in which he would pin the ball to the backboard, blocking opponents' shots, a maneuver later made famous by LeBron James. He was a founding member of the BUILD organization.

Kevin O'Connell '67, chief meteorologist at WGRZ-TV in Buffalo, has announced he will be retiring in July, 2018. He has been with the station for 24 years.

Class Notes...

The 1970s



Helene Gayle, MD, MPH, '73, was a featured commencement speaker at the University at Buffalo in May, 2016. She presently is the CEO of the McKinsey Social Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing complex global and social challenges. Dr. Gayle also received an honorary degree at U.B.'s

College of Arts and Sciences commencement ceremony.

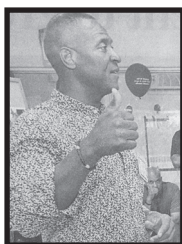
Michelle Ramsden Arnold, '76 was wondering if any Class of 1976 members are interested in a reunion.

Crystal Austin, '78, who was honored at the Bennett Annual Meeting in September, currently is a Case Manager with the Advantage After-School Program at Health Sciences Charter School. She volunteers with many community groups in Buffalo, including her church and the Black Chamber of Commerce of WNY.

James J. Setlock, '79, writes: "To all Bennett High Alumni who have not paid their annual dues yet (because they erroneously heard Bennett is closing): Don't worry, Bennett High School is alive and well."

Class Notes...

The 1980s



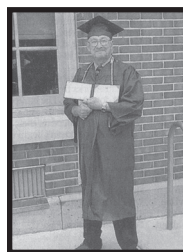
Curtis Aiken, '83, a 2002 inductee into the Bennett Sports Hall of Fame, spearheaded efforts to raise \$20,000 to build a new outdoor

basketball court at the Masten Boys and Girls Club.

Sheila L. Brown, '83, a 2016 Alumni Honor Roll inductee, is a majority owner of AM Radio Station WUFO in Buffalo. She recently announced the station's plans to add a simulcast to FM radio within 45 days after clearance from the FCC.

Class Notes...

The 2010s



Frederick J. Fanaro, Jr., '16, led the Pledge of Allegiance in military uniform at graduation on June 23 and then belatedly, received his diploma

in Cap and Gown. Fred had entered Bennett in 1960, but left Bennett in his sophomore year to join the Marines. His daughter, Lisa LoVullo, shared Fred's story with the Buffalo News on July 2nd. Congratulations Fred!

Class Notes...

Faculty

Marilyn Wittman, Principal of Bennett from 1984 to 2004, and Alumni Board Member received the Christus Super Omnia Distinguished Alumna Award from Sacred Heart Academy on November 3, 2016.

Neil Lange, Bennett Faculty 1981 - 2015, and Alumni Board member also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda. He proudly announces that the theater celebrated its 90th birthday at the end of 2016. The entire Board is asking the community to help preserve and spread awareness of this gem that has brought movies, shows and also has maintained the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ.



•In Memoriam•

(Reported since *Winter 2016 Bennett Beacon*)

Lois Chassin Davis, '45

Edmond Cohen, '42, August 21, 2012

Phyllis Stafford Haverer, '47, 2012

Rev. Bertram Cropp, age 90, April 21, 2013

Diane Popper Pachman, '53, Oct. 24, 2014

Esther Sutor Schutt, '54, June, 2015

George A. Jackman, '50, August 19, 2015

Joel (Jumpy) Goodrich, '55, Oct. 17, 2015

Dorothy Heinemann, '48, March 30, 2016

Marlene W. Helfrich, May 13, 2016

Harold W. Bright, '51, age 83, May 13, 2016

William Kean, '45, May 15, 2016

Joseph V. Doino, age 81, June 1, 2016

Mr. Kelly Marion, age 61, July 9, 2016

Seymour Sunshine, July 16, 2016

Charles F. Parks, '47, age 87, July 23, 2016

Sandra Vanacour Cohen, age 71, July 30, 2016

Donald R. Pallas, age 87, August 4, 2016

Jean Eagle McRae, '47, August 17, 2016

Michael Abeles, age 66, August 24, 2016

Marjorie Leber Dickman, '50, Sept. 2016

Elizabeth Scofield Hughes, age 93, September 8, 2016

Norman J. Kraus, '60, age 73, September 17, 2016

William A. Battle, Jr., '66, age 68, September 25, 2016.

Jerome H. Robbins, '54, age 80, Oct. 1, 2016

Joan Nehin Burns, '40, Oct. 3, 2016

David Tiftickjian, '43, age 90, Oct. 1, 2016

Anthony P. Marino, age 79, Oct. 4, 2016

Edward J. McMahon, age 87, Oct. 10, 2016

Elbert (Cootie) A. Banks, Jr., '60, age 75, Oct. 13, 2016

Dr. Harold R. Ortman, DDS, age 98, Oct. 14, 2016

Dr. Bernie Davis, age 90, Oct. 28, 2016

Jean Roach Graham-Bradley, '40, Nov. 4, 2016

Charles (Gary) Jones, age 88, Nov. 5, 2016

Ronald Joseph, '54, Nov. 14, 2016

Philip J. Ablove, '58, age 76, Nov. 18, 2016

Charles T. Kane, '53, Nov. 24, 2016

William Murphy, '51, Nov. 26, 2016

Donald J. Barnett, '44, age 90, Nov. 27, 2016

Frederick Ressel, '49, Dec. 12, 2016

Martha O'Connor Porter, age 97, Dec. 11, 2016

Harriet Austin Geiger, age 98, Dec. 15, 2016

Laverne (Lee) Fasel, '53, age 80, Dec. 20, 2016

Albert (Goldie) Gold, Dec. 22, 2016

Peter Scholl, '60, age 73, Jan. 2, 2017

Ralph Monkarsh, '57, age 76, Jan. 4, 2017

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

Saturday Academy at BHS

Twice a month, Bennett hosts Saturday Academy for our students and families as well as anyone from our neighborhood who are interested in the programs. The sessions run from 9:00am until 12:00pm.

January's focus was "Creating a Healthy You." Presenters from Body of Wealth Fitness led participants in exercise. Workshop on making Stress Balls and Calming Jars and Healthy Hair with Sherry Robinson were also popular.

February 4th's theme will be a Black History Celebration!

Call the school for more details!

We Cordially Invite You! Annual Alumni Brunch

Save the Date!

We'd love to have you attend the
Alumni Brunch and Honor Roll Induction!

Sunday, September 24, 2017
12 noon

• • • • •

Milos Restaurant
5877 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-810-9489

Details and more information will follow in the *Summer 2017 Beacon*

Alumni Honor Roll 2016 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/
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.

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, 2016!

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

Your Alumni Dues Are Important

by Neil J. Lange, Retired Faculty

Did you ever wonder how important your Alumni Association dues are? Have you ever simply thought to yourself, "It won't matter if I don't contribute to my Alumni Association because there are many others who will!"? I can tell you it DOES make a huge difference!

Last year, many of our "regular" dues paying members stopped paying dues because (erroneously) they thought Bennett was closing! Selective listening hogwash! Bennett was not going away, but they thought they heard differently and stopped sending in dues!

Our membership fell drastically - below 400 dues paying members! We almost couldn't send out a *Summer Beacon* last year because the funds were not available! We were wondering how we were going to keep doing all the good things we do for our beloved alma mater!

Thankfully, the word is out that Bennett is here, simply with a change in the program offering for our students!

Thankfully, our membership numbers are going up! We have about 450 members at this time! Let's get 1000! We can do it! Simply complete the dues form in this edition of the Beacon.

To see if your dues are current, please check your mailing label or the list of members in this edition!

www.bennettalumni.com

This is our official website!!!

There are several other websites that claim they are Bennett alumni sites! Be aware that we have no affiliation with these sites. Dues they collect go to private companies!



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

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**Time Sensitive Publication
January 30, 2017**

Students Have a Remarkable Year - Principal's Message

by Dr. Bert Stevenson, '86 & Principal

Happy New Year to all of the

alumni members of Bennett High School. We are very pleased to ring in the New Year, and to continue with what has thus far been a very successful

2016 - 2017 school year. As we members, along with members of our student support team, enter January, we are continually promoting good attendance and academics. We cannot teach the student who is not here. The direct connection between regular attendance and success in school is very easy to see. Our partnership with the Bennett Alumni Association continues to pay great dividends to all of the



dents. They are providing support to our students by mentoring, tutoring and contacting students who require additional support with school attendance. Several BHS Alumni have several of our student-athletes receiving four (4) year college scholarships to major college football programs. We are inviting all Bennett High School Community members to come and support our college bound Tigers on this very special day. We are looking forward to seeing you soon! Thanks for all you do to support our students!