

# Bennett Beacon



Summer 2020 • Volume 22/Issue 2

Alumni Edition

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

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Irene McLeish Greene, '57

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Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
Neil Lange, Faculty

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Lawrence Levin, '57

### Recording Secretary

Deby Fox-Hahn, '60

### Corresponding Secretary

Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

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Wayne Reilly, '47  
Dr. Leonard Katz, '53

### LJBHS Principal

Carlos Alvarez, Jr.

### Faculty Liaison

Richard Rittling

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### Class of 2020

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

### Class of 2021

-Linda Barker Moore, '68  
-Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
-Marsha Jadd, '58  
-Mark Overall, '03  
-Vacant  
-Vacant

### Class of 2022

-Deby Fox-Hahn, '60  
-Christopher Hough, '73  
-Neil Lange, Faculty  
-Irene McLeish Greene, '57  
-Marilyn Wittman, Faculty  
-Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72



## Principal's Update

BY CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.

When our school officially closed on March 17, 2020, we did not realize how the COVID-19 pandemic would impact the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a truly unprecedented time that has affected us all in many ways, especially education.

From the moment we were shut down, we began to develop strategies that would allow for continuous opportunities for our students to learn. Due to our school having a focus on innovative technology, our staff immediately started virtual instruction. Our staff utilized a plethora of instructional strategies, including conducting lessons to students via Zoom, assigning schoolwork and providing feedback to students via the Schoology software, and conducting virtual class organizational meetings.

Our students maintained their focus on academic achievement during the remote instructional period and continued to earn credits towards graduation. Our students **Demanded More, Expected More and Achieved More** during this challenging time.

Due to the dedication and persistence of our staff and students, we continued to meet school-wide performance goals.

I am excited to share the following points regarding the **Class of 2020**:

- our scholarship dollars awarded reached **\$1,427,740**;
- our students will be attending **19 different colleges** across the nation;
- our unofficial graduation rate reached **89.3%**!

As we begin to plan for next school year, we are excited to increase our **Advanced Placement** course offerings to six. This will continue to allow our students to be enrolled in college-level courses as we look to challenge our students in class, each and every day.

See... *Principal's Message*  
...continued on page 2



Mr. Jamie Barden and Mr. Carlos Alvarez, Jr. prepare to graduate students of the Class of 2020 in individual ceremonies at the 50-yard line of All High Stadium!!

**Principal's Message**

...continued from page 1

Our school has been awarded a P-TECH grant, which in total will surpass \$2,300,000 over a six-year period. Although we have been awarded the grant, the total amount of the grant may change due to the economic impact of COVID - 19. We will have a planning year during the 2020 - 2021 academic school year, with implementation beginning during the 2021 - 2022 academic school year.

This grant will allow us to implement an Early College High School Program. The P-TECH grant integrates high school and college coursework, enabling students to begin college courses while in high school. Students will also participate in a range of workplace opportunities that include mentoring, site visits and paid internships, which are designed to support students' academic and professional growth.

We will be welcoming over 100 new Freshmen to our school as we continue to increase student enrollment and our school becomes a destination for students throughout the City of Buffalo.

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

**Optima Futura!**  
**The Best is Yet to Be**

## Esteemed Alumni of Bennett High School:

What a school year! As we were planning for the opening of school in September, 2019, we had no idea that this was how the school year would play out. Mr. Barden and I even had a slogan for the Class of 2020: **The Year of Perfect Vision**. However, no one saw this coming! In all seriousness, the year was unexpected, but we still had a tremendous job to do.

Students took their laptops home, teachers taught from their kitchen tables and our seniors rose to the challenge. We ended our school year with an 89.3% unofficial graduation rate. We are so proud of the work everyone put in. It truly takes a team to build what we have with Lewis J. Bennett High School - adding to your rich legacy.

This year's graduation took place on the 50-yard line at All High Stadium. It was an emotional experience as each student had his/her own ten-minute ceremony. The field was beautifully decorated with a runway, a sound system for "Pomp and Circumstance", and blue and orange balloon archways. Mr. Barden and I were able to make graduation personalized for each student. With the direct support of our Alumni, we were able to financially make these beautiful ceremonies a reality. As a parting gift, each student even received a gift card to Amazon and wonderful cards of congratulations - all from our Alumni!

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support from our Alumni Association. Thank you so much for helping to reinvent our beloved school and inspiring the future generations through your venerable examples.

Thank you,

Mr. Carlos R. Alvarez, Jr.  
Principal



What a difficult year this has been, not only for the students, but for the administrators and staff. Since March, the focus of your Bennett Alumni Association has been, "How can we meet not only Bennett's educational goals, but also to meet any social and emotional needs our students, faculty and staff have?"

This effort was run by our never tiring Principal Carlos Alvarez, Jr. and his trusted, and also never tiring Assistant Principal Jamie Barden. On behalf of every graduate of Lewis J. Bennett, your Alumni Association bestowed honors and accolades upon them.

We also honored our teachers for their ability to educate our students in such trying times. What a team we have that makes Bennett great!!!

BY MARILYN WITTMAN  
RETIRED PRINCIPAL

## Working to Support Our Students

**Just like every other** endeavor around the world, the Redesign Team has been impacted by the COVID-19 Virus. The goal of our work is to support the academic program. Because there were no formal, in-school classes taking place, our spring focus was on working with the Alumni Association to rally around the Class of 2020. We wanted them to have the best possible senior experience. Here is how it looked:

- The Alumni Association rounded up all scholarships to a minimum of \$1000. Each graduate received an Amazon gift card from the Alumni Association.

- Each graduate received a personal note congratulating them and welcoming them to the Bennett Alumni Association.

Individual graduations were held at the 50-yard line of All High during the last three days in June. Students could bring two family members only. Principal Alvarez and Assistant Principal Barden presented diplomas and awards and prepared something individual to say about each graduate. Teacher Jackie Albarella filmed each event and took still pictures as a remembrance.

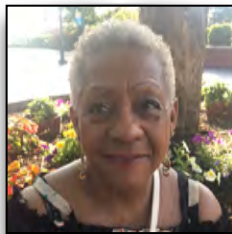
### Looking ahead ---

Now we begin to look toward the “unknown” of September.

Will school open or won't it? The Redesign Team looks forward to helping Principal Alvarez in any way we can. Teaching students successfully in the middle of a pandemic is a challenge and a test of ingenuity. School may look very different. We will help to make it work.

**THE CLASS OF 1970 REUNION  
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL  
AUGUST 2021...**

## News From Our President



**I want to share** with you the reason for my passion for Bennett High School...

In 1953, my twin sister and I graduated from Public School #74. At that time we resided at 27 Hamlin Road. All of our classmates who were white were told their high school would be Bennett. Any student of color would be sent to East High School. Because my sister and I are Black, we were to go to East. Needless to say, we were very, very disappointed. All of our friends who lived in our neighborhood and were white got to go to Bennett.

“This was not acceptable for us. It was not fair. They can't do this to us,” were our cries.

But what could we do about it? There had to be a way for us to attend Bennett! Bennett High School was the best high school that the city had to offer. We knew many accomplished people had graduated from there.

So, we put together a plan! My mother would go to AM&A's and buy a housedress and pretend she cleaned homes of some of her wealthy friends that lived in the Hertel Avenue area. She would claim she needed to drop her twin daughters off at school before she went to work and that she would need to be able to pick them up on her way back home.

At that time, Dr. Benjamin Willis was the Superintendent of the Buffalo Schools. Some of my mother's friends knew him and suggested that this would work. It was important that she begged for his help because she was so poor and needed these jobs to feed her family.

It worked! My sister and I loved our high school years at Bennett and we made many friends that we still communicate with today!

BY IRENE MCLEISH GREENE, '57



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

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

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

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

# The History of Bennett High School

INSTALLMENT ONE - THE BEGINNING

**Lewis Jackson Bennett** was an entrepreneur who moved to Buffalo and founded a cement company. As his business grew, he needed to access more raw materials. The location he found to excavate the stone for his cement was on E. Amherst Street. The Amherst Street Quarry was used to exhaustion and has since been converted to McCarthy Park.

Beyond his business, Lewis J. Bennett wanted to build a community. He purchased acres of land, which became and is still known as Central Park. The street boundaries are Hertel, Main, East Amherst, and Starin.

Main Street was a dividing line between Mr. Bennett's cement company and the community he was developing. He was a shrewd businessman. Any home buyer wanting to build west of Main Street would use stone from the quarry east of Main St-- both of which were purchased from Mr. Bennett.

Another mark left by this visionary was the naming of area streets. Woodbridge and Benwood are tributes to Mr. Bennett's son-in-law, who died at an early age.

There was a threat to Mr. Bennett's vision, however. There was talk of the railroad cutting right through his Central Park land. He had an idea. Give a large parcel of land on Main Street to the City to have the Board of Education build a school and, eventually, a stadium.

It was no surprise that there was a controversy between the City and the School District. The Mayor did not want to build a stadium. He thought that the parcel of land was too small. His alternate site was near Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital. Overcrowding at Hutchinson Technical and Lafayette made the need to accept the property more urgent than the Mayor's objection. To tip the balance in favor of the Main Street site, the local businessmen's association, The Mercer Club, lobbied and prevailed. The stage, then, was set for the building of a high school and the future All High Stadium. The Mercer Club would continue to support the school and its students until its dissolution close to the end of the 20th century.

With the land in place, a design had to be made. The Board of Education hired Buffalo Associate Architects, of which E. B. Green was a partner. Ernest Cremi developed the design. The style of the building is Georgian Revival. It is modeled after London's Buckingham Palace. (*to be continued in the next Beacon*).

*Class Notes*

# The 1940s

**Marland Berdick, '49**, asked his wife, Ruth, to let everyone know about his fond memories of Bennett where he was a cheerleader, on the Debate Team and played the lead in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, directed by our beloved John L. Stamp. They both loved the 50th reunion and touring the beautiful campus. "Thanks for making the Dues Form so easy for us. We're regular contributors!"

*Class Notes*

# The 1950s

**Mary Gordon Perkin, '52**, reminisces about being the President of WAMs (Without a Man) Club in 1952. She went on to graduate from Shimer College, University of Chicago. She is an EMT and EVOG, nationally and Florida State certified and continues to serve!

**Roy Sanders, '53**, sends greetings to all his classmates. Following graduation, he served two years in the Army, and then went to UB and Brooklyn Law School. After 30+ years at a NY based law firm, he retired and lived in Budapest, Bogota and Belize before returning to Florida. He has written 25 mystery novels!

**Sanford (Sandy) D. Greenberg, '58**, was featured in *People* magazine on July 15, 2020 as he releases his memoir, **Hello Darkness, My Old Friend**. If that sounds familiar, it's because Sandy is best friends with Art Garfunkel, who was his college roommate. Sandy went blind in his Junior year at Columbia and Garfunkel, his best friend since freshman year, became his eyes.

Sandy went on to become a public servant and inventor. He married his high school sweetheart, **Sue Roseno, '58**.

*Class Notes*

# The 1960s

**David Lazerson, '68**, remembers, "Luv Bennett HS always. Gr8 times... gr8 lifelong memories... super gr8 memories!"



**Alfred D. Price, '65**, associate professor of urban planning, retired from UB after 42 years. Price dedicated his farewell lecture on May 10

to his own teachers, from grammar school to graduate school and into his professional life.

**Beverly Johnson, '69**, was featured in *People* magazine on July 17, 2020 in an article about her experiences with racism and inequality and injustice. The fashion model superstar, related how at 12 years old, when she was riding through a



"white" neighborhood, she had bottles thrown at her and she was called the 'n' word. Even in her career, she had to change agencies, because she was told, by the first, she would never get on *Vogue* because she was Black. On one photo shoot, she related, the pool was drained after she went swimming. She was later told it was because of her being Black.

*Class Notes*

# The 1970s

**Rev. Geoffrey Hord, '77**, was recently featured in a pre-Easter *Buffalo News* article about the COVID-19 pandemic and his role in offering pastoral care. After retiring from a career at General Motors, he attended seminary school. Hord is currently pastor of the Prince of Peace Temple COGIC. He volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital, ministering to those affected by the pandemic.



*Class Notes*

**Continued on page 8...**

## Fun in 1955!

A June 1955 Slumber Party. **Front.** Jane Schick, Gail Chanell, Judy Seyse, Ethel Ward. **Back.** Nancy Paull, Linda Fried, Judy Miller, Liz Platz.



The 1955 Bennett Variety Show with Judy Seyse Oehler, '57 (left) and Judy Schular (right).



*Thanks to Judy Seyse Oehler for the GREAT photos!*

Lucille Miller Weitz, '45

Kerby Spicer, '46

Doris Howe Fisher, '47

Herbert Benatovich, '54

Marjorie G. Hoffman, '62

Warren Darrick Epps, '69, age 68,  
September 3, 2019

Ednabel Greene Penfold, '47, age 90,  
November 5, 2019

Edward "Spike" Hellman, '61, age 77,  
December 25, 2019

Edward H. Fischman, '56, age 81,  
January 13, 2020

George Morse, '66, January 17, 2020

Henry "Zipp" Lang, Jr., '45, age 91,  
January 23, 2020

Clayton Claxton, '51,  
February 18, 2020

Allen Lazar, '60, age 77,  
February 19, 2020

Richard Sperling, '60, age 77,  
February 22, 2020

## • In Memoriam •

Donald Burghardt, '50, age 88,  
March 29, 2020

Lorraine Chertoff Dweck, '54, age 84,  
April 4, 2020

Eli H. Maslekoff, '64, April 6, 2020

Lois Neuman Garten, '52,  
April 30, 2020

Fraser (Mitch) Mooney, '46, age 91,  
April 30, 2020

James E. Graves, '69, age 68,  
May 1, 2020

Sheldon (Shelly) Ginsberg, '60, age 77,  
May 5, 2020

David Little, age 71, May 6, 2020

Ronald Dozoretz, MD, '53, age 85,  
May 8, 2020

Judith Parry Gregorio, age 74,  
May 16, 2020

Susan Rothenberg, '62, age 75,  
May 18, 2020

Joan Abzug Sugarman, '59,  
May 29, 2020

Joyce Elsner Slepian, age 93,  
June 7, 2020

Eugene J. McAllister (Geno), '02,  
age 36, June 9, 2020

Clifford T. Elwood, '60, July 9, 2020

William (Bill) Anthony, '60, age 77,  
July 2020

Ted Henry, '53, July 24, 2020

Dr. Hanley Horwitz, '60, age 78  
July 24, 2020

Joseph Wolfe, '70, age 68, July 25,  
2020

### Faculty:

Nicholas J. Mogavero, age 88,  
February 17, 2020

Mr. Mogavero began his career in 1960, teaching Physical Education and coaching football, baseball and basketball. He coached a 1968 Harvard Cup winner in Football and a Yale Cup winner in Basketball.

*(Reported since Winter 2020 Bennett Beacon)*

*Your additions or corrections are requested. Please forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.*

## Nicole Baker, Our First Enrolled Student

In August 2016, **Nicole Baker, '20** registered as the **first student** at the new Bennett School of Innovative Technology. At that time, she certainly didn't foresee that her senior Prom Dress would still be hanging in her closet, unused because COVID-19 canceled half of her Senior Year!

Nicole chose the technology program because it was the most interesting and demanding out of all the programs offered in Buffalo. She thought there would be real challenges at Bennett.

Nicole also explained, "Bennett gave everyone the opportunity to get to personally know students and staff. That's why I'm attending Daemen, because of the smaller class sizes.

Nicole gained many computer skills, including coding in her-

sophomore year, and, in her junior and senior year, Adobe Suite that included Photoshop, Premiere, Acrobat, and Illustrator.

Beside academics, Nicole immersed herself in fun by joining volleyball, bowling, and tennis in her sophomore year. She continued those sports until graduation. Yearbook club during junior and senior year and the Critical Thinking Club in senior year, also filled her time.

Sadly, Nicole's senior year wasn't one of great memories. She explained, "I was impacted by COVID-19 by not having a senior breakfast, prom, the senior trip and tennis season."

We are delighted to congratulate Nicole on her scholarships and her acceptance at Daemen! We will always fondly remember our NUMBER ONE!

## Annual Meeting

In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, our **Annual Meeting** will take place via **Zoom**. We need you to join us! According to our by-laws we need **at least 30 members** to participate.

Our 30 - 40 minute **Annual Meeting** will take place on **Friday, September 25, 2020** at **1:30pm**.

**You must RSVP.** To get the link for the Zoom Meeting, please send an email to [ben-nettalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ben-nettalumniassociation@gmail.com). Please put **RSVP** on the subject line! Thanks!

# New Membership Year - Your Dues are Important

Our alumni membership year officially begins on September 1, 2020. As the person that maintains the database and reports each month to the Board and our alumni, I am dismayed that we had over 100 fewer alumni pay their membership dues. I'm sure a lot of this was due to Covid-19. I'm sure a lot of this is because we didn't

have one of our dedicated alumni making follow-up phone calls. But, a reality is we haven't had the younger alumni starting to pay dues as our older members are no longer able.

What I can tell you, we need to continue this Alumni Association's strength. The school needs all of us to help. Without our sup-

port, many of the activities and programs that we have instituted will go away.

We can't afford that. We have a school that is replicating the greatness of our past! Please consider contributing. Membership starts at \$20. See the form on **page 10**.

*With Tiger Pride! Neil Lange*

## A Gift that Lets Someone Know How Much You Care!



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

We are starting a new feature in our efforts to augment our **scholarship fund**. This past year, we were able to assist seniors with almost \$10,000.00 in monies for college. We'd love to be able to do more!

### Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. Scholarship Fund

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ on the occasion of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In thanks for: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify: Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

CARING

**Our apologies to Mary Gordon Perkins, '52 for omitting her name in Winter Beacon 2020. She sent an additional contribution of \$152 recognizing her graduation year in that donation. We love those clever ways of helping our students.**

Thanks again, Mary!

**Your Alumni Association** is forever grateful for those who make contributions in honor of or in memory of Bennett Alumni. Here are some that were recently received. Please see our new form (above) for honoring our classmates!

- **Glenn Kraemer, '68, in honor of Carol Newman Caserta, '60**
- **Sally Murphy, '51, in memory of Janet O'Brien Thornton, '51**
- **Leslie Daugherty, in memory of Joan Abzug Sugarman, '59**
- **Phillip Brothman, '56, in memory of:**  
**Dr. Melvin Brothman, '50**  
**Jerome (Jay) Schiller, '56**  
**Edward Wischmann, '56**

*Class Notes*

**...continued from page 5**

*Class Notes*

# The 1990s

**Melodie Baker, '99** has been busy since graduation. Graduating with a degree from Buff State



in public relations and a Masters in 2008 in executive leadership, she is now the Director of Education at the

United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. She received the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Young Leader Award. Asked about Bennett she said, "It was a melting pot. You could be whoever you wanted to be. So every day you could choose what path you wanted, you could choose a very erudite direction or you could hang out... The law program was like a school within a school. The kids there completely changed my direction in life and gave me a clear perspective on where I should go. I absolutely loved it." Recently, she was selected to be part of NYS Governor Cuomo's Covid-19 Education Task Force.

**Jamil Crews, '99**, worked as Mayor Byron Brown's Social Media Director. Currently, he serves as the Digital Communications Manager at Say Yes Buffalo. He's the owner and founder of Crews Control Media, a full service digital media consulting agency that helps brands tell their stories and connect with multicultural consumers. Jamil credits his



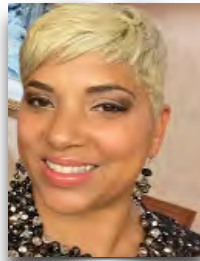
faith and the love and support of his wife, Salley, as essential elements of his success.



**Landrum Beard, '98**, served as Director of the Communities of Giving Legacy Initiative in Buffalo. Currently, he is the Director of Philanthropy for

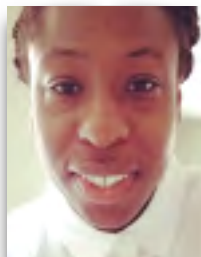
the Greater Washington Urban League. Landrum has over 15 years of experience fundraising with nonprofits, educational institutions, and foundations and is an advocate for equity, equality, and generational wealth building in Black communities.

**Elizabeth Badger, '98**, Liz is a dynamic hair stylist and the proud owner of Salon Eden LLC. She is also an educator at the Buffalo Cosmetology and Barbering Training Center. Liz empowers women to look and feel better about themselves by providing a fully transformative experience. Her motto is, "experience the empowerment of a whole new you".



*Class Notes*

# The 2000s



**Catherine Ejimadu, '05**. After graduating the Law Program, Catherine kept her sights set on accomplishing her goal of entering

the legal profession. Today, Catherine is a Criminal Defense Attorney with the Monroe County Public Defender's Office. If you ask her about her life at this mo-

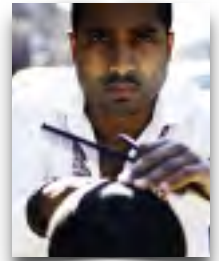
ment, Catherine will energetically tell you, "I'm living my dream!"



**Darnell J. Haywood, Jr., '05** After the Law Program, Darnell went on to earn a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Bryant and Strat-

ton. Today, he is the Community Office Assistant Manager at Bank on Buffalo. Darnell is also an active community member, serving as the Treasurer of the Buffalo Urban League Young Professionals and serving on several nonprofit and community organization boards.

**Justin Barker, '05**, exemplifies dedication, creativity, and professionalism. A successful entrepreneur for over 14 years, Justin's hard work and dedication to



his craft culminated with him opening The Standard in 2019, an upscale barbershop and grooming studio located in the heart of Buffalo's Allentown District. You can find and follow his handle, Cuts-ByJay, on all social media platforms.



**Kyle Olden, '03**, obtained a B.A. in Political Science from the historic Norfolk State University, one of the nation's leading Historically Black Colleges

and Universities. Today, Kyle serves as a Senior Program Consultant for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services.

*Class Notes*

**Continued on page 11...**



# 2020 Major Alumni Donors

*\* As of June 30, 2020. We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

## Diamond Club - \$500+

Marland L. Berdick '49      Julie Horn, Faculty      Sally Laurie Murphy '51  
Richard Berkson, M.D. '64      Sanford Horwitz '69      Bruce R. Thielking '66  
Jack Heims '54      InfoTech Niagara, Inc.      Marilyn Wittman, Faculty

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

Class of 1964      Seymour Gitin '52      Colleen Mastoris Lambros '56  
Sheldon Berlow '50      Mary Gordon Perkins '52      Dr. Susan C. McCurdy Hendricks '59  
Joan Broderick Mooney '64      Linda J. Greenberg Shohet '68      Robin McNallie '56  
Philip Celniker '54      Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D. '64      Andrew G. Mesches '64  
James Douglas Crawford '46      N. Richard Kinsman '54      Dr. Robert Allen Nover '57  
Elaine Diringler, Faculty      Neil J. Lange, Faculty      Anne Osborn Krueger '50  
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D. '65      Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty      Robert A. Russell '63  
Jeffrey M. Freedman '68      Harold Leader '57      Linda M. Scheffer '61  
Terrence Gamble '65      Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter '53      Rhoda Stein Greenwald '59  
John E. (Gene) Garrison '49      Leslie Wright Jones '60

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

Roberta Allbert Dayer '53      John M. Garrity, Atty. '48      Katherine A. Phillies '54  
Charles D. Bayless '60      Judith Lynn Green Brothman '59      Harry L. Powazek '73  
Dr. Al B. Benson III '68      Philip H. Hubbell '56      Nancy Preston Broderick '36  
Phillip Brothman '56      Paul J. Jacobs, Jr. '67      Carolyn Price Singletary PhD '66  
Pat Burke Young '55      Janet Kellner '61      Melvin L. Reinheimer '62  
Peter M. Cammarata '75      Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil '60      Louise Seereiter, Faculty  
Richard F. Carver, M.D. '55      Douglas Lang '56      Natalie Shupe Abramson '57  
Barbara C. Chamberlain Lyons '57      Lawrence H. Levin '57      Frances Siskar Dickman '57  
Beverly Davis Blue '61      Rona Lichtman Tananbaum '60      Alvin H. Spector '71  
Thomas J. Dixon '64      Hazzan Leon S. Lissek '56      Duane A. Tananbaum '67  
Dale Eddols Goodyear '65 & Faculty      David E. Manch '60      Jean Travis Boccuti '57  
Frank G. Emerling '60      Kenneth W. Matasar, MD '60      Gloria Van Riper Askren '56  
Larry Fink (River) '68      Carol Newman Caserta '60 & Faculty      Gordon T. Warme '66  
Lance Fogan, M.D. '58

## Century Club - \$100

Arlene (Susie) Alt Hogan '58      Phyllis Hanes Vogt '53      Mario Nunez '66  
Marilyn Bass Buxbaum '54      Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty      Margie Redstone Rosenstock '65  
Charles Breinin '51      Jacqueline Hillary Jordan '72      Jacquelyn D. Rettke Parkinson '67  
Anthony Cox, Friend      Gretchen Himmele Munroe '56      Nancy Rice Hunt '45  
Hugh J. Devine '55      Elaine Kaiser Kellick '59      Charles E. Rush, Jr. '57  
Francis J. DeYoung '57      Kathleen Lappin Calabrese, Ph.D. '65      Joyce A. Savasta '57  
Sonya L. Dozoretz Rhodes '60      Leonard Ludwig '55      Iris E. Segal '58  
Thomas L. Freudenheim '55      Robert B. Mooney '48      Sue Shaffer Gardner '48  
Hon. Paul L. Friedman '61      Donna Moslow Lawler '60      Nils A. Vigeland '68  
Lynn Gilmore Canton '66      Kenneth J. Munro, Jr '57      Peter Wyatt '69  
James F. Guderian '51      Marilyn Newman Walsdorf '53      Donna Wyglon '65

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

# A Time to Get Involved in Your Bennett



**For me, Bennett High School** was a time of fun, laughter, memories, and growing pains. We had a lot of people supporting us through that time. However, most of my friends and classmates who attended Bennett during the years I was there, are not that involved in the current affairs of the school. Bennett has gone through a lot of changes. Thankfully, our beloved school is still standing strong on Main Street and we should do

what we can to ensure that the next generation gets to enjoy the same memorable experiences that we did, if not a better one.

This is why I tell people that becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Bennett Alumni Association was one of the best decisions that I have made as an adult, both personally and professionally. Serving on a board is never an easy task, but I serve with a group of men and women who are dedicated to doing what they can to enhance the educational experience of the students of Bennett TODAY and to support the alumni who have passed through those halls.

I strongly encourage, as a matter of fact, I challenge, more of our younger alumni (c/o 1990-2020) to join the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. and give back to the school that poured so much into our lives. We can achieve so much more together and we can pass on our knowledge, experiences, and wisdom to the current generation.

The Class of 1965 has rescheduled our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion for NEXT summer (so it will be our 56<sup>th</sup> reunion!). The new dates are July 10 & 11, 2021.

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our class email address if anyone has questions: [1965bennett@gmail.com](mailto:1965bennett@gmail.com)

Carole Weingarten  
BHS Class of 1965



## It's Time to Invest in Our Bennett Students!

## Bennett Alumni Dues

Membership runs from September 1, 2020 until August 31, 2021

Our **Bennett Administration and Faculty** are working hard to return our dear **Alma Mater** to a school of excellence! June data shows an almost 90% graduation rate. With a pending NYS P-TECH technology grant and a partnership with IBM, 2885 Main Street is buzzing! Your Alumni Dues are needed more than ever to help our students succeed!

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

*If you prefer, use PayPal! Visit us at [www.bennettalumni.com](http://www.bennettalumni.com)*

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Basic Dues • \$20</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25</b>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$50</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other _____</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Century • \$100</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold • \$101 - \$199</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Platinum \$200 - \$499</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Diamond \$500+</b> |

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Class Notes

...continued from page 8



**Lancia "LaLa" Woods, '05**, LaLa is the owner of La'Movement Fitness, founded on the belief that people can improve their overall health and well-

ness and have fun doing it! Whether working with a private group or teaching free fitness classes at Canalside, you will catch her smiling because she truly loves helping people become their best selves.

**Shana Moses, '03**, is a Queen who wears many crowns! Shana serves as the Manager of Patient Transport at Buffalo General Medical Center.



Shana is also the proud owner of Sealed Le Baiser, a luxury cosmetics, skin care, and beauty supply company dedicated to helping a woman look and feel her best.



**Tashauna Bagwell, '02**, started her lifelong career of service to the people of Western New York after BHS. She recently celebrated her 15 year anniversary with the

New York State Thruway Authority. Tashauna is also an employee of the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

**Eugene McAlister, '02**. Sadly, we said goodbye to our beloved friend, brother, and alumnus, Eugene, after a hard-fought, 26 year, battle with cancer. Eugene graduated from the Law Program at Bennett and was always fun,

energetic, and an overall great person to be around. Eugene was always there to help. He was affectionately known as Uncle Geno to many fortunate children. He will be missed by many friends and family.



**Anthony "Tony" Nash, '06** was promoted to the rank of Major in the US Army on July 1. He married Captain Lindsey Kozuch on January 19, 2019. He is presently completing his Master's Degree in Urban Planning at Cornell University. His wife, Lindsey is a ROTC instructor, completing her Master's Degree at Ithaca.

**Margaret Nash, '08** married Alex Carestia on February 16, 2020 in Buffalo, NY, in a Winter Wonderland wedding. Margaret and Alex received their Bachelor's Degrees from Buffalo State College in May 2013. Margaret is a Forensic Engineer and Alex is a Software Developer. They work and reside in New York City.

## Class Notes

# The 2010s

**Tameera Williams, '15**, earned her Associate's in Criminal Justice and is working on her Bachelor's with aspirations of attending law school. Currently, she is a CNA for Kaleida Health. She wants to use her hard work and values to someday open her own practice and make a difference in the community she grew up in.

**Jayla Hillie, '15**, after cosmetology school in 2017, she started working for SuperCuts. Her goal is to use the knowledge she has gained to open up her own beauty shop. She is also certified in nails and makeup.

**Michael Ortiz, '15**, reported, "After Bennett, I started at Medaille and was working part-time at Dollar Tree. In 2017, I left college due to financial issues and my mother's passing. Now, I work full-time as a blackjack dealer at Seneca-Buffalo Creek Casino. I am attending Trocaire for general studies."

**Alauna Debose, '15**, went to school for two years, and now works in health care as a CNA. She's proud to have her own car and apartment. She plans to return to school in the fall.

## Notes About

# Our Friends

**Sabatino Cimato, Associate Superintendent of School Leadership**, was appointed to the Superintendent of Schools of the Kenmore-Tonawanda Schools. Tino was instrumental in working in partnership with our Bennett Redesign Team. He advised us as we worked to make Bennett a school of choice. We will miss his great insights and accessibility! Thanks, Tino, for all you've done!

**Sharon Belton-Cottman, Buffalo School Board President**, was selected as the 65th most influential woman in the Buffalo Business First poll. Always a willing helper to promote good for our Bennett Family, Sharon is only a call away when we need her advice!

**Susan Doyle, Principal of Middle Early College**, retired from her position as of August 1. She developed the program from its inception, and it is currently housed on the Bennett campus. Mrs. Doyle, a passionate leader, expected the best from her students, with many earning college credits while still in high school. Congratulations, and happy retirement, Sue.

Nicole Baker the first student registered for the NEW program, as Bennett is officially opened!



Aye Aye Win and Elisha Rivera in class.



The Future is Now  
with Our Alumni.  
Bennett Alumni Association

B  
H  
S



Makayla Barber graduates.

Nicole Baker, graduate of the Class of 2020!

A proud Moe'neya Mitchell with Mr. Alvarez!

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