



Bennett Beacon

published in conjunction with Mr. Lange's Leadership Class

Bennett High School

WINTER 2015

Vol. 17/ISSUE No. 2

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

From Our President

I hope your Holidays were safe and wonderful. We have been working very hard to keep our beloved Bennett High open. Marilyn Wittman will give you an update on our progress in this issue.



Irene Greene
President

I am very pleased with all of the support our alumni give to the school every day!

Our **Mentoring Program** connects alumni with current students to help them in their day-to-day pursuits. We also have a group of dedicated alumni who are staffing the **College Success Center**. They meet with our seniors to help them apply for college, complete scholarship applications and plan for their futures. If you want to help, please call the school! We can always use more volunteers!

Because of your generosity in paying dues and making contributions to our fund at the Community Foundation, we were able to award \$3500 in mini-grants to the school. Music equipment, videos for our Forensics program, iPad technology for Algebra classes and an artist in residence are just a few of the exciting programs our teachers have planned.

We are so grateful for your support, so please continue to help us.

Alumni Association Makes Big Decision; Future of Bennett Hangs in the Balance

Your Alumni Association made a big decision this fall. Prompted by all the talk of closing Bennett, Irene Greene, President, invited Buffalo School's Superintendent Donald Ogilvie to meet with representatives of the Alumni Association. She asked him to explain the future options for Bennett. He explained that it could become a Charter School and cease to exist as a Buffalo Public School. He also said that the Alumni Association could submit a proposal to radically change the program at the school. The new program had to be so innovative that it would change the culture of the school from failing to achieving. It would, however, remain a Buffalo Public School.

Proposal: Now

The Alumni Board of Directors chose to take on the formidable task of writing a proposal for a new Bennett. A Redesign Team of alumni educators was formed. They were given a broad vision by the Alumni Board. With a deadline of December 12, the group expanded to include teachers, parents, community and students. After many meetings and weeks of work and a well-attended Public

...from the Bennett Alumni Board of Directors

Meeting at the school, the proposal was submitted to Buffalo School District administrators for review. The goal is the operation of Bennett under the terms of the proposal by September 2015.

Proposal: Future

With the completion of the proposal, new challenges face the Alumni Association. First, the plan is being evaluated by a panel of judges appointed by the Buffalo School District. Having met the criteria of the judges, the proposal is passed on to the elected members of the Buffalo Board of Education. It needs the approval of the Board to advance to the State Education Department.

Here's where politics become an issue. The majority on the Buffalo Board of Education is known to favor Charter Schools. Members of the Bennett Alumni Association, parents and community members who favor retaining Bennett as a Buffalo Public School will need to exercise their influence to persuade individual members of the Board to vote for the proposal. The vote is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28. Should the effort be successful, the proposal advances to the

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Bennett Beacon

Winter 2015 Vol. 17/Issue 2

2014 - 2015 Officers

BAA President

Irene McLeish Greene, '57

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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. Bert Stevenson, '86

Directors

Class of 2015:

-Linda Barker Moore, '68
-Carol Newman Caserta, '60
-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

Class of 2017:

-Cecilia Henderson, Faculty
-Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68
-Lawrence Levin, '57
-Robert Maclin, '61
-Ryan Montgomery, '13
-Jeff Schapiro, '67
-Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48

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.

You make a difference!



Mini Grants

...your dues at work!



We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Alumni Mini grants. As you know, we provide grants (typically up to \$500) for teachers to provide enrichment for their students. We receive a wide variety of submissions and award monies to those projects that we feel will best provide an enhanced education for our students.

This year grants were given to:

- Mr. Pullins for instrumental equipment;
- Mrs. Moses for videos for her advanced Forensics Class;
- Mrs. Davies to bring in an artist in residence to provide silk painting experience for her classes;
- Mr. McVerby to provide iPad technology for his Algebra students;
- Mrs. Salamone for field trips and newspapers for her Participation in Government classes;
- Ms. Henderson to provide attendance incentives for the building.

At the conclusion of the year, our teachers provide detailed reports about the effect of the mini grants on their classes. Those stories are then published in the Summer edition of the *Alumni Beacon*!

All because of your dues!!!!



An editorial

...from the Buffalo News

Bennett High task force has developed great plan

Kudos to the Bennett High School stakeholders who are proactive in developing a plan to raise performance standards. There is a recipe for success in public schools throughout the country and the Bennett planners are right on target.

A clear set of achievement goals and actions to meet these goals is part of their plan. Setting high expectations, being somewhat selective for honors programs and establishing a clear vocational and career track for non-college bound students addresses everyone's needs.

The final ingredient to success is the parents buying into this and the teachers being willing to give a little extra help to those who can't measure up.

I applaud the task force for coming up with a program, not a protest. With a little encouragement and further community support, the plan has a lot of potential and can serve as a model for districts across the state in similar predicaments. Lets hope it doesn't fall on deaf ears!

Calvin Deyermond
Buffalo

MAILING INFORMATION!

- We are required by postal regulations to put "or Current Occupant" on each address label in order to use our bulk mailing permit. We hope you understand!
- If you are away for an extended period of time and have your mail stopped, be aware that the US Postal Service returns your newsletter to us and charges us for each piece returned (ALMOST \$1.00 per copy!!)
- Give us your winter/summer address or ask to have all your mail forwarded or retained by the Post Office.
- Let us know if you have any problems receiving the *Beacon*! You should get it twice a year!

A Eulogy for Two Friends

by Phillip Brothman, '56

I lost two good friends this past July and both friendships were forged as a result of our membership in the **Bennett Alumni Association**. Both of these men were graduates of BHS; they loved the school and they were staunch supporters of our Alumni Association.

Judge Sam Maislin, '64, died on July 12, 2014. Sam was a member of the Committee that planned the formation of our Alumni Association and in 1997, he served as Chair of the meeting of Alumni who adopted a resolution to form the Association. A full slate of interim officers was elected at that meeting, including me as President and Sam as Vice-President. Sam's counsel was invaluable during our formative years and he served faithfully and with distinction on the Board of Directors as Vice-President for 5 years.

Wayne Reilly, '47, died on July 14, 2014. The year 2000 was the 75th anniversary of the opening of our school and shortly after our Association was officially formed. At the urging of Principal Marilyn Wittman, we began plans for a gala gathering of all Alums to celebrate that milestone anniversary. Wayne quickly became the leading procurer of advertisements for the "yearbook" commemorating that event and when asked, he gladly accepted chairmanship of that committee, which provided much needed funding for the various programs planned for the anniversary weekend. The event was a huge success and was attended by over 1000 alumni and their guests. Shortly thereafter, Wayne succeeded me as President of the Alumni Association and served in that capacity for three years. Under his leadership the Association continued to grow and flourish. Wayne served on the Alumni Board until the time of his death.

As we mourn the loss of our two friends, we are grateful for having had the opportunity to know and work with them for the betterment of our alma mater. Our deepest condolences go out to Karen Maislin and Helen Reilly and their families in this time of loss. I have made a donation to the Community Foundation /Bennett Alumni Association in memory of Sam and Wayne. If you are so inclined, I encourage you to do the same.

Remembering Joseph Cardina, '39

In addition to remembering Wayne Reilly and Sam Maislin as Founders, we also lost Joe Cardina, who died on Dec. 22, 2014 at the age of 94. Joe was one of the most active members of the Alumni Board, for many years editing the *Alumni Beacon*. We honored him at our Annual Meeting and Brunch a few years ago which was attended by a full table of family members.

Joe had a long career in the newspaper business, first with the *Courier Express*, (1951-1960); then with the *Buffalo News*. He also was active in the Buffalo community, volunteering with many organizations, including the Buffalo Philharmonic. His attention to detail and his great passion for his alma mater endeared him to all who had the pleasure of working with him.

BENNETT BEACON - Winter 2015

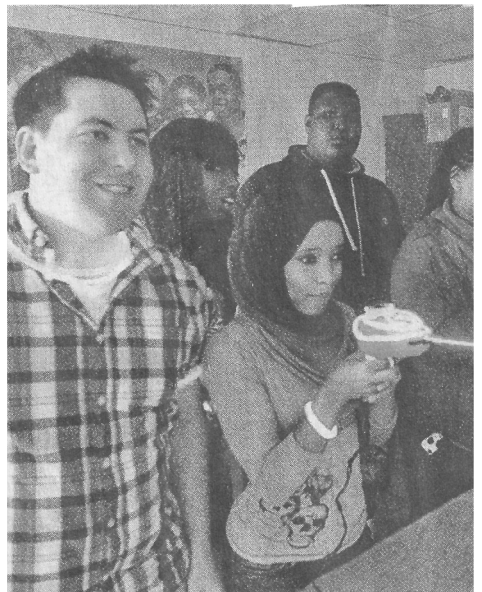
Our Future
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State Education Department in Albany. The final challenge will be its authorization. The Alumni Association is hopeful that the process will move without delay as a September 2015 opening will require work on implementation to begin quickly.

More information:

For updates on the plan for Bennett as it moves through the process, please email:

bennettredesign14@gmail.com or like us at our facebook page: *Bennett High School Alumni Association*.



In Honor Of...

A gift in memory of Wayne Reilly and Sam Maislin has been made to the Bennett Alumni Association by:

- Phil & Judy Brothman
- Larry Levin

What a nice way to honor the memory of those who have done so much for us. The Board will be exploring establishing a Founder's Society for the purpose of recognizing our leaders.

Class Notes...

The 1940s

Peg Yeates Ehrmann, '41, is back in North Buffalo, living with her daughter and enjoying her 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. She is a vibrant, healthy 91-year-old, looking forward to hearing about other Class of '41 members.

Suzanne Herman Himmel, '49, and her husband, **Morris Himmel**, '47, live in Scottsdale, Arizona. They have 3 married daughters and 5 grandchildren, all living in the Phoenix area.

David (Dave) Goldstein, '49, writes that his education at Bennett and University of Michigan prepared him well for his 45 year career in the entertainment industry. He loves his retirement in "beautiful, exciting New Mexico". He was senior Vice President of Operations and Administration for 20th Century Fox's Home Video Division.

Donald H. Cloudsley, '42, who died in 2012, left the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (which he headed for many years) an art collection worth \$100,000. Don served on the Bennett Alumni Board and was one of Bennett's most faithful supporters.

Class Notes...

The 1950s

Beneta Bregger Silberstern, '50, writes from Rochester, encouraging the Alumni Board to, "Keep up the great job. I feel good being able to support in my small way."

Bobbi Marcus Medrick, '51, sends a photo for the *Beacon* of Bennett classmates attending a



picnic in July: "What a great time to get together with grammar school friends and high school graduates after all these years!" Featured in the photo are: **Paul Jacobson**, **Bernie Weinstein**, **Betteann Brockman Umof**, **Bobbi Marcus Medrick**, '51; **Shellie Newman** and **Harvey Podolsky**, '52.

Barbara Becker Ebrite, '51, thanks us for sending her the printed *Beacon*. She writes that she and the computer are not close friends!

Mary Gordon Perkins, '52 is still hanging around. She says, "Thanks to my wonderful gym teachers and my cheerleading days for my good health!" She received national certification in 2004 and her Florida EMT license and EVOC certification. "Am I proud?" "You betcha!"

Barbara Brenner, '52, sends this photo of 13 Bennett classmates celebrating their 80th birthdays at Giancarlos Restaurant in October. "We all had a great time and hope to get together next year for our 81st!"

Seymour (Sy) Gitin, '52, has retired as Dorot Director and Professor of Archaeology, W. F. Albright Insti-

tute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, the oldest American research center in the Middle East. He and his family will remain in Jerusalem where he will continue to write and serve as Professor Emeritus.

Tom Angelo, '53, who died in November, was inducted into the Harvard Cup Hall of Fame, Class of 2014, on Oct. 11, 2014, at Pettibone's Grille in Coca-Cola Field.

Lois Walter Atchley, '54, has fond memories of Bennett. She recalls being in a skit with a few other girls in a senior year assembly before the Ben - Ken game, "where we were a 'car' with a 'driver' and 'drove' across the stage." She has retired from nursing in Florida but still volunteers and sings in *Women of Note* (See website: [Women of Note.com](http://WomenofNote.com).) She would love to hear from classmates at 561-964-0993.

Gerald Prince, '52, attended the Senior Empire State Games at Cortland in June and won three swimming awards: bronze medals in the 50 yard free style and 100 yard free style; and the gold medal for the 500 yard free style. "My credo now, is: Never Give Up!"

Class Notes...

The 1960s





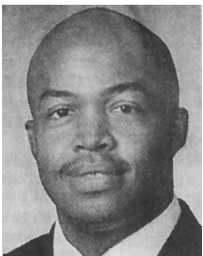
Scott Slesinger, '68, is the legislative director for the Washington, D.C. based Natural Resources Defense Council. He has enjoyed a

long career devoted to environmental legislation and regulatory reform. He received his BA and law degree from UB.

Class Notes...

The 1990s

Jacob Gaik, '90, is a Board Certified Psychiatric Registered Nurse and the Clinical Nurse manager for the Center of Behavioral Medicine at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia. He writes: "No task I ever achieved, no obstacle I overcame and no challenge I ever conquered would have been possible if it weren't for the friends I made, the teachers that helped me see the world and the family everyone had become at Bennett High."



Landrum Beard, '98, has been named Director of the Communities of Giving Legacy Initiative at the Community

Foundation for Greater Buffalo. He formerly worked at the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County as a leadership executive.

Our Membership Year runs from August 31st until September 1st!!

Your membership dollars support our students!

College Success Center Helped by Alumni Association

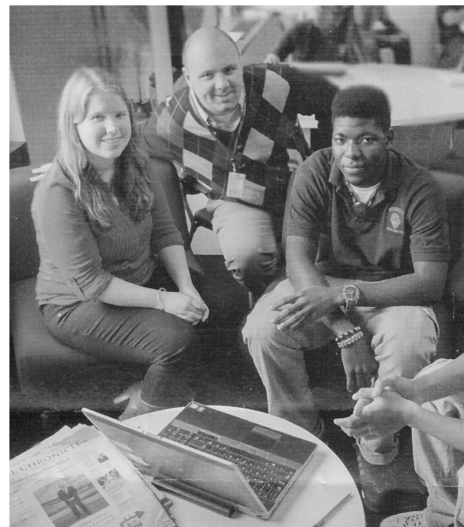
by Len Katz, '53

Dear Bennett Alum - As you know, the Bennett Alumni Association has attempted over several years to help students get to college. Our previous efforts did not work out except in a few instances, but you expressed that you were still interested in helping them.

The situation now is very different and alumni could be of help. Here's what has happened at Bennett...

A UB professor, Dr. Nate Daun-Barnett, has grant money that allowed renovation of an area on the second floor at Bennett which is now known as the College Success Center. It is staffed from 11:00 am-1:00 pm daily. Maureen England, guidance counselor, heads the Center. She has moved her office there and is present on a daily basis. Nate Barnett has provided UB graduate students in Education who also work there; there are generally one or two UB students in the Center each day.

The Center is very busy and additional help would be welcome. The role of the alumni will be to assist students through the well-



defined process that has been developed by Ms England.

Students need someone to talk with about their plans and to assist them as they fill out forms, mostly on-line (rudimentary computer skills will be useful.) The alumni will not in any way be expected to be experts. A packet of information would be available on a first visit to the Center and Ms. England or one of the UB students will provide an orientation.

We will not work with one specific student (unless that works out) but rather we would be available as needed. Work need not be completed in any session; it can be saved for future visits. No specific dates or commitments are required; you could come as available. Six have already signed-on: Ryan Montgomery, Gail Pitterman, Joan Simon, Sue Gardner, Marsha Jadd and Len Katz.

If you would like to assist 4th year Bennett students as they prepare college and financial aid applications, please let me know by calling me at 716-830-6165. Of course, you could visit the Center to determine if this is right for you.

Hope you will find this opportunity to help of interest. Assuming yes, please let us know which day or days of the week would be best (you don't need to be there every week) and, if you will be away for any long periods of time.

www.bennettalumni.com

This is our official website!!!

DON'T BE FOOLED!

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!

2015 Community Foundation Donors*

\$500+ - Diamond Club Donors

Julie Horn, Faculty
Captain Anthony M. Nash, '06

\$200 - \$499 - Platinum Club Donors

Marland L. Berdick, '49
Joan Broderick Mooney, '64
Philip Celniker, '54
James Douglas Crawford, '46
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65
Thomas J. Guttuso, MD, '53
Dr. Russell F. Houseman, '45
Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64
Sally Laurie Murphy, '51
Gloria Lawrence Baxter, '43
Harold Leader, '57
Gerald F. Lupejkis, '50
Anne Osborn Krueger, '50
Frederick J. Wallace, '50
Barbara Young Coles, '57

\$101 - \$199 - Gold Club Donors

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53
Richard M. Bender, '46
Marleen Bengel Varner, '49
Dr. Melvin M. Brothman, '50
Phillip Brothman, '56
Rosalie Brothman Rosenband, '55
Beverly Davis Blue, '61
Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80
Dr. Richard S. Elman, '70
Anne Fonzi Linehan, '67
Nancy Forhead Fickenscher, '51
Carolyn Funk Gallivan, '45
John M. Garrity, Atty., '48
Mary Gordon Perkins, '52
Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59
Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell, '55
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty
Morris Himmel, '47
Karen Hoffman Fink, '55
Robert F. Kreinheder, '53
Lawrence H. Levin, '57
Hazzan Leon S. Lissek, '56
Robin McNallie, '56
W. Graham Millar, '51
George W. Munschauer, '49
Teresa R. Nash, Friend
Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53
Dr. William E. O'Connor, '56
Josephine J. Riso, '55
Robert A. Russell, '63
Elaine Schrutt Brothman, '53
Donald S. Serota, '58
Pamela Stecker Weinrieb, '64
Elaine Thier Schweitzer, '47
Dr. Herbert J. Ulrich, '57
Donna Weber Wattman, '59
Paul F. Werler, '42
Quinnette Westbrook Mathias, '61
Bernard E. Wills, '48

\$100 - Century Club Donors

Marilyn Bass Buxbaum, '54
Herbert Benatovich, '54
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55
Jennie DePerro Brummer, Faculty
Hugh J. Devine, '55
Jacqueline Engel Irwin, '59
Scott W. Gehl, '70
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72
Ana M. Hurd, Faculty
Merle Katz Goldstein, '55
Neil J. Lange, Faculty
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty
Carol A. Levin Benet, Ph.D., '57
Hon. Sam Maislin, '64
Bruce A. McNallie, '56
Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty
Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70
Harry L. Powazek, '73
Melvin L. Reinheimer, '62
Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48
Walter S. Sherman, '52
Rhoda Stein Greenwald, '59
Theodore Sullivan, '50
Edward J. Willett, Jr., '56
Rev. Msgr. John W. Zeitler, '50

Thanks to all of our members for their continued support!

*As of January 5, 2015. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Welcome New Board Members

We are delighted to welcome four new Board Members to the Alumni Association.

Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48 received her law degree from SUNYAB and practices law at KavinokyCook, LLP where she is an estate planner. Her knowledge of the Buffalo community stems from her experience as an active volunteer. She has served on the governing boards of many of Buffalo's leading institutions.

Robert Maclin, '61, has much experience in the field of education. He has served in various positions ranging from teacher to NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist. He started the Alumni Redesign Committee which has been charged with developing the plan to keep Bennett open. His community spirit is unparalleled. He is dedicated to our cause.

Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68 is also a leader in education. She was a social studies teacher (at one point returning to her alma mater to teach)! She subsequently worked as an assistant principal and principal in various suburban districts. She recently retired as Superintendent of the Batavia School District and is currently working as an Interim Director of Secondary Education in the Sweet Home District.

Master of technology and community relationships is a title fitting **Ryan Montgomery, '13**. Graduating from the Law Program two years ago, he is currently at Medaille College pursuing a degree in education. He has stepped up as the administrator of the Bennett Alumni Facebook page. He also has been reaching out to various community members to garner their support of the redesign plan.



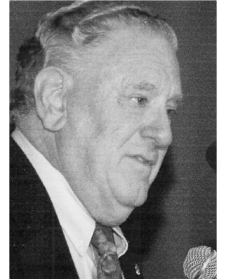
"If it were not for Say Yes, I honestly do not know where I would be today. It is thanks to Say Yes and to those contributing to it that I am able to attend the University at Buffalo. I have confidence now that I can reach my goals and pursue my dreams of a successful business oriented career."

Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin, 2013 graduate of Bennett High School now studying at UB

Valedictorian of the Class of 2013, Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin was accepted at the University of Buffalo and has excelled. She was a national finalist in Bennett's Virtual Enterprise program.

Coach Veronica Inducted

Larry Veronica, who heads our Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Committee, was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame last September. He was recognized for his almost 25 year coaching career at Bennett. He coached at least one sport each season - almost 76



different seasons of excellence. He initially started coaching track and field and then added basketball, football and tennis. Coach Veronica would finish his Track Career with a record of 150 wins and four losses.

Coach Veronica has the reputation of treating his opponents with dignity and his players like family. In fact, some 25 years later, he still keeps in contact with many of his players.

"I stay in touch with a lot of them. I have two guys who call me every New Year's Eve to wish my wife and I a Happy New Year. I feel good when I go into the city for something and I see some of the kids - man, they treat me like royalty!"

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 •

CLASS OF 1960

Although there will be no formal Class of 1960 reunion, we would love to get **UPDATES** from all of our Class of 1960 friends!

Please let us know how you are doing - jobs, retirements, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren - anything that you would like to share!

Hope to hear from you!

Bennett's 12th Sports Hall of Fame

On Saturday, October 18, 2014, Bennett High School inducted ten new members into its Sports Hall of Fame. The worthy honorees showed emotions of excitement and happiness for their memorable day of recognition. In the case of one inductee however, a somber mood prevailed. Jeffrey A. (Ricky) McCarley, an outstanding All High basketball player from the class of 1962, as well as a respected member of our Bennett Sports Hall of Fame Committee, passed away nearly three months before his scheduled induction. Ricky knew of his impending induction before his death. A number of people, including family and friends, spoke for Ricky. Each paid tribute to a life well lived and expressed gratitude, not only for his athletic accomplishments, but more importantly, for the positive influence he had on so many youngsters in his role as a teacher for 33 years at Buffalo's School #53. May God bless our treasured friend and colleague.

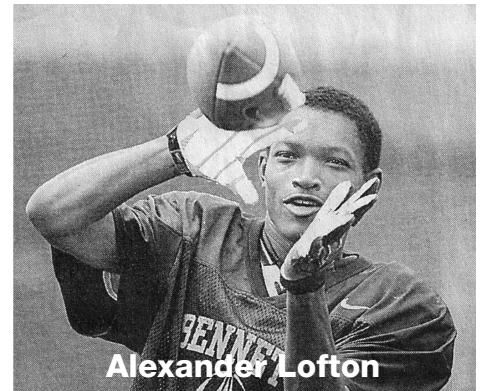
Accepting individual Sports Hall of Fame plaques for their Bennett High School accomplishments in this year's induction class were:

- Dan Conley, '77, (Career Achievement Award), as a member of the Bennett track and football teams as well as a championship coach in several school districts.
- James Gardon, '72, (Football and track standout)
- James Graves, '69, (All High basketball player)
- Herbert Hasan, '72, (Two sport All High distance runner)
- Darnell Kimble, '04, (Accomplished basketball player)
- Virginia Kuhlmann, '73,

by Ken Parr, '57
(Groundbreaking pre-Title IX standout in tennis and basketball)

- Jeffrey (Rick) McCarley, '62, (Basketball)
- John Nwachukwu, '81, (Championship tennis player)
- Steven J. Samson, '87, (Three Sport Star)
- Jennifer Whissel Simpson, '86, (Star performer in cross country, swimming and track)

There is a Bennett Sports Hall of Fame showcase in the foyer of the school, near the auditorium, featuring all honored members since the initial class of 2002. The Bennett Hall of Fame was founded by long-time faculty member, Jennie Brummer. Former Bennett multi-sport coach, Larry Veronica, who was recently inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, is the chairman of our committee. The master of ceremonies for the event was Don Gilbert, class of 1960. This year's attendance included several members of this year's league championship football team.

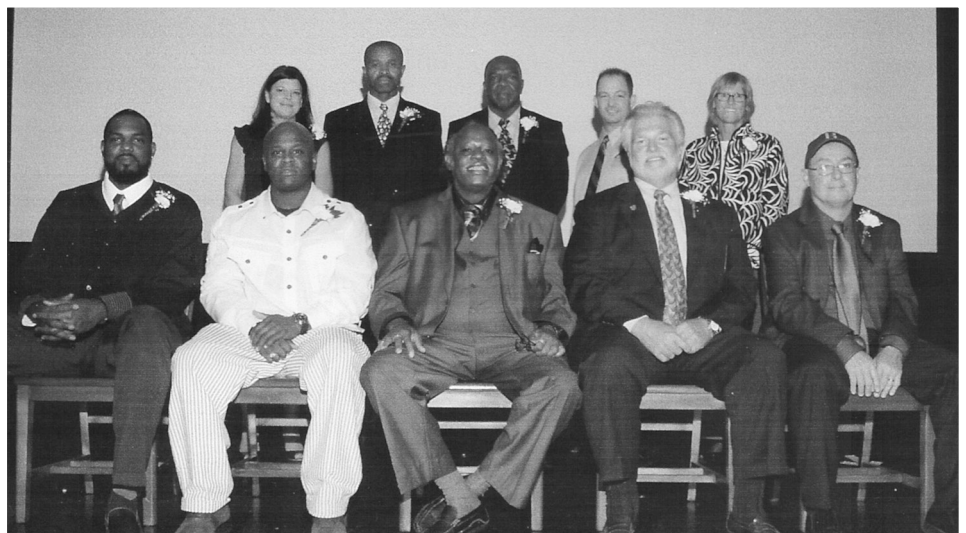


Winning Season

by Nicholas C. Costantino, Esq., '62

I was on the sidelines with the team for all their games and can tell you I thoroughly enjoyed every minute. I am a former member of the team and a member of the Bennett Sports Hall of Fame committee.

The 2014 Bennett Tigers, led by Coach Steve McDuffie and an outstanding group of assistants and football players, went undefeated this year. This team inspired alumni, teachers and students more than any time in the recent past. It seems that this team is just what the doctor ordered for Bennett High School. The Sports Hall of Fame committee invited the coaches and players to attend this year's induction ceremony and we were honored by their presence.



Sports Hall of Fame - Class of 2014

class reunions

Class of 1965

by Carole Wolkind Weingarten, '65

50th Class Reunion - August 28th -30th

Reservations now can be made at the Adams Mark Hotel (where the Saturday night dinner dance will be held) by calling 716-845-5100. Be sure to mention the special rates for our Bennett Reunion. A tour of the school will take place on Saturday. The entire weekend will be posted on the class reunion website page: www.bennett1965.com/home.html, including pertinent information regarding registration and reservations. This information also will be mailed to those for whom we have addresses by the end of April 2015, so watch your mail! Send contact information to Bette Silverman Davidson at 1965bennett@gmail.com.

If you would STILL like to join our planning committee (there is lots to do) contact Carole at weincsw@verizon.net or 716-688-6432. Please share this information with classmates.

Classes of 1960s

by Pamela Weinrieb, '64

Let's Get Together Once a Month for Lunch

Since our 50th reunion was such a success, we are going to attempt to keep the "Bennett High" spirit alive. We are suggesting a monthly informal alumni gathering at noon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The first was held at the Wellington Pub, 1541 Hertel Ave (716-833-9899) near Parkside (for those who forgot it's next door to Bob and John's La Hacienda where many of us used to "hang out"). Anyone who graduated in the 1960s is welcome. If this is successful, maybe alumni from other decades would like to be included. Contact me at prsw@mac.com.

Class of 1965

Looking Ahead

by Nancy Davidoff Kelton, '65

Following are excerpts from Nancy Davidoff Kelton's article, *High School reunion is eagerly anticipated* which appeared in the Buffalo News, September 5, 2014:

- I could not wait to get out of high school...
- I cannot wait to go back...
- I definitely want roast beef on weck, Anderson's frozen custard and more than one charcoal-broiled hot dog at Ted's...
- I plan to drive through my old North Buffalo neighborhood and see my Hertel Avenue haunts, by Kleinhans Music Hall where my mother took me to hear Van Cliburn and Glenn Gould play piano, and Ellicott Square, where my father worked and I learned to type on his secretary's manual typewriter. . .
- Somethings never change...
- The Buffalo stores where I bought clothes - the Sample Shop, L. L. Berger's and Hengerer's - no longer exist...
- And I hope Ted's hot dogs taste exactly the same...

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*

Don L. Scherger, '46

Jim Winspear, '40

Betty Raymond Schroeder, '41

Roy E. Dehm, '48, Jan. 2008

Edward Wienand, '60, July 16, 2011

Robert Nielson, '44, August 31, 2012

Gladys Leffler Attmore, '40, August 2013

Richard Byron, '42, Summer 2013

Alice Hoffelt Blatchford, '43, March 1, 2014

Marcus Richard Mabee, '54, age 77, March 12, 2014

Nancy Lohman Thomas, '57, age 74, April 6, 2014

Joan Blampied Barton, '49, May 15, 2014

Seymour Hesch, '45, age 86, June 24, 2014

Jane Outerson Gosden, '38, age 94, July 6, 2014

Kenneth L. Maclin, '66, age 66, July 9, 2014

Jane Leney Winzig, '49, age 81, July 11, 2014

•In Memoriam•

(Reported since *Summer 2014 Bennett Beacon*)

Edna Louise Jehle Carrol, age 98, July 12, 2014

William J. Cunningham, Jr., age 86, July 15, 2014

Jeffrey "Ricky" McCarley, '62, age 69, July 21, 2014

Demetrios "Jim" Liaros, '51, age 81, July 30, 2014

Edward Sontag, '57, age 76, August 2014

Robert J. Miller, '55, age 77, August 7, 2014

Donna Menear Olsen, '69, age 63, August 17, 2014

Jutta "Betty" Krieger, age 86, August 26, 2014

Joseph C. Cutrona, Jr., age 66, Sept. 22, 2014

Gloria Lawrence Baxter, '43, age 89, Oct. 2, 2014

John B. Hazelet, Jr., age 74, Oct. 4, 2014

Deana M. Savage Vinson, age 64, Oct. 4, 2014

Eugene J. Naab, Jr., age 96, Oct. 14, 2014

Joseph Sardo, age 59, Oct. 21, 2014

Peter J. O'Connor, age 68, Oct. 23, 2014

Dagmar Fischer Slaughter, '41, age 90, Nov. 6, 2014

Thomas C. Donnelly, age 61, Nov. 15, 2014

Thomas Angelo, '53, age 79, Nov. 16, 2014

Eleanore Hamilton LaRussa, age 83, Dec. 21, 2014

Joseph Cardina, '39, age 94, Dec. 22, 2014

Thelma Abel Fisher, age 94, Dec. 27, 2014

Sheldon Savot, '60, age 72, Dec. 2014

Joseph J. Saseen, '60, age 74, January 8, 2015

FACULTY

Robert Haffey, Sept. 4, 2014: Social Studies Dept.

Judith Jayson, Oct. 2014: Business Dept.

Janeann Haggerty, Oct. 25, 2014: Librarian

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

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 2015 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, 2015!

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

Honoree Reunion Huge Success

by Allen Yasgur, '60

September 21, 2014 was a very special day for past and present Alumni Honor Roll honorees. Thirty plus inductees gathered at the Alumni Association's annual brunch and meeting to reminisce and recall Bennett's impact on their past and present lives. It quickly became obvious that Bennett was not only just a high school but a way of life for these honored alums and their families.

One alum was heard to remark that, "My children think I'm still in high school the way I talk about Bennett and run into fellow alums."

Other honorees discussed the school's future with pride and optimism. Everyone expressed the hope that "the best is yet to be" was not just the school's motto, but a prophesy waiting to occur.

*Principal's Message
continued from Back Page*

date, we are at \$250,000 and climbing!

I would also like to thank members of the BHS Alumni Association for their assistance with mentoring some of our seniors and providing that guidance which is needed to help our students reach new levels in their educational journey. You will find more details about your involvement in our students lives in other articles in the Beacon.

As we all work hard as a BHS family to provide a great experience for our students, I leave you with the words: The Best is Yet to Be!

Your support is vital to our alma mater!

Message from Our Principal Dr. Bert Stevenson, '86

Happy New Year!

Well, here it is, another year and I hope it is an outstanding one for all of you. We've been busy thinking about 2014 - 2015 for quite a while, planning end of year school activities - especially graduation.

Having completed the first semester, we stand ready to finish the school year with confidence. My hope is that you, too, will look forward to the challenges of the new semester. Build on your achievements and put away your past disappointments.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special

thanks to the Bennett Redesign Team, which is mostly made up of BHS alumni and caring staff. On Monday, January 12, 2015, this committee presented a very clear and comprehensive redesign plan to the Board of Education regarding saving our beloved Bennett High School.

Although we have this cloud above our school, we are still committed to provide a quality education to the 500 plus students that are still enrolled here at BHS.

We are also pleased to announce our continued partnership with Erie 1 BOCES, which is providing vocational training

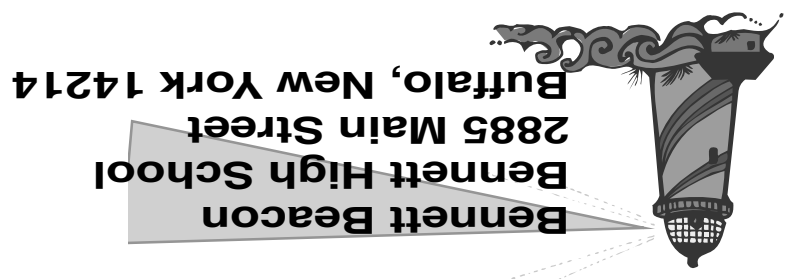
for our students in a number of high-demand fields. Students who complete the program will leave with a certification that will provide them with employment.

I am excited to share that student achievement is rising at BHS. Also, I am delighted to let everyone know that we are back to the business of helping our students succeed!

With excitement, seniors are starting to receive their letters of college acceptance. Scholarships are also coming in. To

*see Principal Message
Page 11*

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August 1, 2014



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