

# Bennett Beacon



Summer 2018 • Volume 21/Issue 1

Alumni Edition

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

## Principal's Update

**AS** we approach the end of the year, I am encouraged by our accomplishments. As we continue to build our school, we will work diligently to improve student achievement and build upon the success of the past as well as create strategic plans for the future. Our teachers, administrators, School Based Management Team and Alumni are working to continue our progress. Below you will find our plans for the 2018-2019 academic school year:



CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.

Lewis J. Bennett High School of Innovative Technology will work to build our partnership with Google. We are in the midst of building something special and the supports that Google could provide to our students are limitless. We are hoping the supports will be focused on improving our three Computer Science academic strands - Software Development and Programming, Networking and Hardware, and Graphic Animation and Digital Design.

Lewis J. Bennett High School of Innovative Technology will be implementing a "flexible learning space", which is a non-traditional classroom that will be utilized by our Graphic Animation and Digital Design academic strand. This space will promote a creative learning and work environment for our students and be furnished with state of the art technology.

Lewis J. Bennett High School of Innovative Technology will be adding Crew to the athletic opportunities that our students have access to. The West Side Rowing

Club has allocated scholarship monies to help support our students who will be joining the team.

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

Work Hard, Have Fun, Celebrate Successes... Go Tigers!!

## Mission Statement

### Bennett Alumni Association

**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 goals. The Bennett High School Alumni Association's contributions will be substantive and creative in order to achieve these goals.

## From Our President

BY IRENE MCLEISH GREENE. '57



**This has been an amazing year!** We are growing and expanding as a new and innovative school, and, as always, we still need your help. Having just completed our first full year, the impact that our Alumni make is awesome! We have been able to provide so much that the school would not be able to have if they only depended

on the school system. Your dues and gifts make it possible for us to offer our students experiences they could not receive at any other high school in Buffalo. Through Mini-Grants and contributions to Principal directed activities, we help to make the difference!

Please, as we begin our new membership year, consider how important you are! We had about 600 dues paying members last year. My hope is that we could double that and make an even greater impact on our future! Our school year has ended and we are looking forward to another exciting year and we will need your help even more. We love our Alma Mater and we want to see it provide the same and even more opportunities for students as it did for us.

## 2017 - 2018 Officers

### BAA President

Irene McLeish Greene, '57

### Vice Presidents

Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
Neil Lange, Faculty

### Treasurer

Lawrence Levin, '57

### Recording Secretary

Deby Fox-Hahn, '60

### Corresponding Secretary

Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

### Past Presidents

Phillip Brothman, '56  
Wayne Reilly, '47  
Dr. Leonard Katz, '53

### Bennett Principal

Carlos Alvarez, Jr.

### Faculty Liaison

Richard Rittling

## DIRECTORS

### Class of 2018

- Linda Barker Moore, '68
- Carol Newman Caserta, '60
- Nicholas Costantino, '62
- Marsha Jadd, '58
- John Vella, Faculty
- Vacant

### Class of 2019

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

### Class of 2020

- Elvira Brinson, '84
- Cecilia Henderson, Faculty
- Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68
- Lawrence Levin, '57
- Ryan Montgomery, '13
- Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48

# ALUMNI MINI GRANTS

*...your membership dues at work...*

## Bennett Chess Club

The **L.J. Bennett Chess Club** would like to send a great big Tiger shout out to the Alumni Association! With their gracious Alumni grant we were able to purchase Chess Club shirts. Each Chess Club member received an official personalized Nike Chess Club polo shirt.

The L.J. Bennett Chess Club meets on Tuesdays in room 355. We welcome any chess enthusiasts to join our club. We also welcome any Alumni Association member to join us for a high-spirited game of chess. Again, stop in to Room 355 and **chess** us out!!!



**New Bennett Chess Shirts!**



We apologize to **Richard Sperling, '60**, whose name was mistakenly listed in the *2018 Winter Beacon* obituaries. We are happy to report that he is alive and well!

Ann Lyon Shub, '43

Eileen Berkun, '47

Joan Dautch, '49

Mary Stephen Borth, '55

James A. Setlock, '79

Eric Mahr, '73, 2011

Stuart Brownstein, '66, May 19, 2011

Carol Riggio Shanley, '51, 2014

Gloria Lawrence Baxter, '43, 2014

Patricia Honeychuck Bonfanti, '50, May 17, 2014

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

John R. Waterhouse, '42, May 2015

Elizabeth Holtzclaw Moore, Oct. 10, 2015

Leonaro (Lynn) Snyder, '45, Nov. 23, 2015

Beverly Kathryn Bierl, age 72, Jan. 22, 2017

Robert A. Marshal, '57, May 2017

Rev. Dr. Ronald Sloan, '53, age 81, June 3, 2017

Nancy Boller La Justice, '51, age 83, Sept. 15, 2017

Lois Kropp Nenno, '48, Oct. 20, 2017

*(Reported since Winter 2018 Bennett Beacon)*

## • In Memoriam •

Steven Kovel, '56, Dec. 9, 2017

Lawrence Korman, '49, age 88

Clayton Crawford, '51, Jan. 10, 2018

Nancy Forehead Fickenscher, '51, Jan. 15, 2018

Dolores "Lorrie" Peters, '51, Jan. 18, 2018

Wesley Jackett, '51, Feb. 2018

Marilou Harr Cybul, '52, age 84, Feb. 4, 2018

William J. Shoemaker, '57, age 78, Feb. 19, 2018

Bennett Leader, '47, age 88, Feb. 21, 2018

Audrey Boodson Cohen, '52, age 83, Feb. 22, 2018

George Voskerchian, '50, age 87, Feb. 25, 2018

Gary Lichtman, '58, age 76, March 6, 2018

Maxwell "Mac" Ellis, age 89, March 7, 2018

Jane Good Curtin, age 94, March 12, 2018

Sherman Woldman, MD, age 85, March 21, 2018

Peter Paul Zabel, Sr., '54, age 81, March 21, 2018

Sheila Rapport Kadish, age 80, April 2, 2018

Patricia "Trish" Stapleton Griffith Blaine, age 89, April 13, 2018

Ronald Silberberg, age 85, April 13, 2018

Arthur Block, April 15, 2018

Robert I. Maclin, '62, age 75, April 16, 2018

Sharon Fisher Meer, '55, age 81, April 17, 2018

Dona Elizabeth Dise, '47, age 88, May 14, 2018

Mary Jane Steele Cornschafter, '45, age 91, June 15, 2018

Aline Thompson Deckert, age 96, May 21, 2018

Charles A. Volkert, '48, age 90, May 26, 2018

Carol Hawkins Smith, age 77, May 29, 2018

Eileen "Leenie" Dozoretz, '60, age 76, June 7, 2018

Herman R. Rodenberg, '44, June 8, 2018

Carole Marshant Schreckenber, age 84, June 14, 2018

Mary Detig Lang, '52, age 83, June 29, 2018

John Menig, '51, July 2, 2018

Carolyn Funk Gallivan, '45, age 90, July 12, 2018

### Faculty/Administration

Anthony (Tony) Vetrano, age 87, March 10, 2018, Former Administrator.

Leonard S. Sikora, age 90, June 10, 2018, Assistant Principal and Principal, 1964-1975.

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

## Bennett Tigers Football

Ja'Vair Walker, Justin Campbell, Luis Ramirez, Coach Arthur Jordan, Nick Constantino, Joel Richards, Brandon Barkdale, Noah Tadasz, Coach Stevenson McDuffie, Coach Aaron Young, Christopher Pettiway, Donovan Queeno, Jordan Fayson, Jakari Nettles, Jeremiah Williams, Aaron Smith, Jalen Johnson, Weldon Young and Kobe Good celebrated a successful Bennett Tigers Football season at a banquet held in their honor!



Class Notes

# The 1940s

**Gwen Hanes Dougherty, '47**, reports she is a grandmother of nine and a great-grandmother of thirteen! She enjoys volunteering in the Gift Shop at DeGraff Hospital and with Twin Cities Meals on Wheels program. "My years at BHS were some of my fondest memories. I still remain loyal to the Orange and the Blue!"

**H. Robert Herman, '48**, of Penfield, NY, has sent a donation to the Bennett Alumni Association to commemorate his 70<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary and to honor his late friend and classmate, **Ronald Richards, '48**, who played second oboe in the school band and orchestra. He remembers that in his day, he operated the mimeograph machine and the spirit duplicator as the office monitor, "two devices which current students probably have never heard of".

**John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49**, Chief Warrant Officer 4, USAR, has given a gift in memory of **Sissy Leman Van Slyke** and also in memory of **Jackie Scherer, Donald Smith, Art Reynolds** and **Fred "Fritz" Shelgren**. "I will never forget..."

Class Notes

# The 1950s

**Theodore Sullivan, '50**, of Williamsville, has given a gift to the Bennett Alumni Association in memory of **Nancy Forhead Fickinscher, '51**.

**Dick Hirsch, '50**, writes in *Buffalo Business First*, May 11, 2018, about Bennett's history and of **Kenneth Barley, '50**, a retired minister in Denver, who has "joyous memories of Bennett", and who commuted all the way from

Corfu! Hirsch reports that our new Principal, Carlos Alvarez Jr., is determined to once again make Bennett the school everybody wants to go to. (see more on page 11)

**Pat Burke Young, '55**, writes that "she is most excited to hear about all the innovative changes coming to Bennett" and she thanks everyone involved.

**Judy Seyse Oehler, '56**, sends us a photo of her cheerleading outfit at Bennett and reports that after 30 years of teaching, she enjoys craft shows, is a water skier, Animal Shelter volunteer, and has two sons and six grandchildren.



**Art Serotte, '57**, was inducted into the Western NY Section VI Sports Hall of Fame on Dec. 8, 2017. Congratulations to Art, a former BHS Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

Class Notes

# The 1960s

**John Emerling, '60**, and his wife Carla, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Jan. 20, 2018. Congratulations!



**Gary Wolfe, '68**, an artist since the early 80s, was a guest speaker at an Artists' Talk sponsored by the Buffalo Society of Artists. It took place at the Carnegie Art Center in North Tonawanda.



**Karen Hoffman Fink, '55** sent the following: **Buffalo Gals Celebrating Their 80th Birthdays in Boca Raton, Florida, February 2018**

**Top (left to right):** Rita Levin Pollack, Karen Hoffman Fink, Renee Katz Garson  
**Bottom (left to right):** Nancy Goldman Kurlander, Linda Kardaman Snitzer, Hindy Greben, Rosalie Brothman Rosenband



*Class Notes*

# The 1980s

**Elvira Brinson, '84**, became a Transportation Officer for the Department of Homeland Security in Oct. 2017.

*Class Notes*

# The 1990s

**Kenya Hobbs, '91**, has been appointed Diversity Coordinator at Medaille College, Office of the President.

*Class Notes*

# The 2000s



**Aaron Hayes, '02**, has been promoted by Key Bank to Vice President, Department Manager, from Associate Vice President, Vendor Manager.

Mr. Hayes has been with Key Bank since 2005.

*Class Notes*

# The 2010s

**Ryan Montgomery, '13**, has been chosen to enter the Baltimore Maryland Police Academy as of June 25, 2018. Ryan's life-long dream has been to become a police officer. The entire Alumni Board, of which Ryan is a member, wishes him the very best of everything as he begins a new and exciting chapter in his life. Ryan, you will be missed!



**Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin, '13**, has been named [BN]spired winner, as part of the Athena Young Professional Leadership Award finalists. This award is given to a "Say Yes" college scholarship recipient who has achieved the highest levels of academic, community and personal success. She received her BA and her MBA from UB. During college, Ketter-Franklin won grants for community programs, one of which pairs master social work students and MBA students to aid local nonprofits. Congratulations Cheyenne!

## Alumni Honor Roll Candidates 2018

The following alumni will be inducted into the Honor Roll at our Annual Meeting and Brunch on September 23, 2018. More information about the Brunch is found on page 7.

1. Dr. Rene T. Alexander - 1970
2. Tony Calucci - 1980
3. Dr. Lorenda Chisolm - 1994
4. Dr. Deborah P. Mielcarek - 1973
5. Anthony "Tony" M. Nash - 2006
6. Ron Parson - 1971
7. Phil Richardson - 1969
8. Daniel Wood - 2004
9. Genevieve Grotjan - (Posthumously)

BY JOHN EMERLING, '64

## BHS Class of 1964 Viet Nam Connection

**Our Class of 1964** had a lot of its members serve our country in some capacity during the Vietnam War. One classmate, Edwin Smolarek gave his life. We were all affected in some way by the war.

It was decided among us to give the donations and proceeds from our 50th Reunion to Buffalo's Vets and to preserve the legacy of the ultimate sacrifice Ed made during his time serving in the Armed Forces in the war. Through Edwin's and many others heroic efforts, we live in a free and prosperous country. We selected The Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park as the representative recipient.

Members of the Reunion Committee standing in the photo (L to R) are Tom Dixon, Diana Cohen Nathan, recipient Capt. Brian Roche, John Emerling, James Lawson and David Nathan. We presented our Class of 1964 gift of \$1,000.00 to the park's Executive Director, US Coast Guard Captain Brian W. Roche in a ceremony at the Naval Park earlier this year. Our classmates, are proud to be able to make this meaningful donation.



## Famous Bennett Alumna: Genevieve Grotjan, '30

In UB's spring 2018 issue of *At Buffalo*, Ann Witcher Gentzke describes "An American Hero", the story of how a young Buffalo woman's "dazzling mathematical skills" led to the unraveling of enemy codes during WWII. Genevieve's story is of particular interest to Bennett Alumni because she spent four years at our Alma Mater before going on to the University at Buffalo.

Genevieve Grotjan lived with her parents on Tacoma Avenue while attending Bennett. She excelled in math, Latin and many other subjects and graduated as the Class of 1930 salutatorian, delivering her graduation address in Latin! She enrolled at UB where she continued to excel and win prizes in mathematics, graduating in 1936 summa cum laude. As a graduate assistant, she pursued her Master's degree but did not finish her thesis. Author Gentzke speculates that opportunities for women in higher academia were limited. But Ms. Grotjan did find her way to Washington, D.C., joining the US Army Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) in 1939 as World War II threatened. The charge of the SIS team was to decipher the Japanese cipher known as Purple. On September 20, 1940, she broke the code, much to the amazement and relief of her team and her bosses. She continued to work for the SIS, focusing in the latter months of the war on deciphering Soviet cables sent by the KGB.

The author tells us that Ms. Grotjan married, had one son and taught math at George Mason University where her husband was a Chemistry Professor. Their son, age 22, died tragically in 1969 from a cardiac arrest. Information after that is limited, but we know that her husband established the Genevieve Feinstein Award in Cryptography at the University before his death in 1995. She died in 2006 at the age of 93. In 2011, Grotjan was posthumously inducted into the National Security Agency's Cryptologic Hall of Honor.

Although Grotjan died with no living relatives, Ms. Gentzke writes that her memory is being preserved, most recently in the famous children's publication *Highlights* (2017), which features a photo of Genevieve Grotjan breaking the code, and an article encouraging the study of mathematics.

Bennett Alumni can take pride in her exceptional accomplishments.



**Genevieve Grotjan receiving the Exceptional Service Award from Brig. Gen. Paul Everton Peabody in 1946.**

## Class of 1968 Plans 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The Bennett High School Class of 1968 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at the Westin Hotel Buffalo, 250 Delaware Ave., from 6pm-11pm. The event will include an hors d'oeuvres hour, a sit down dinner, a DJ and dancing, a photographer, valet parking, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$86 a person. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis.

On Friday evening, August 24, 2018 there will be a casual get together at Tappo Restaurant located at 338 Ellicott Street in downtown Buffalo starting at 5pm. There is no cover charge; pay as you go. If interested in attending, please email Steve Gandel: [steveg451@yahoo.com](mailto:steveg451@yahoo.com)

On Saturday, August 25, 2018 there will be a tour of Bennett High School from 10:30am to about noon led by Neil Lange. There is no need to sign up, just show up on the steps of Bennett by 10:30am.

If you graduated from the Class of 1968 and would like to attend the Reunion please contact either

**Mimi Maslekoff Ganz at:**  
[daisybugg21@aol.com](mailto:daisybugg21@aol.com)

or

**Diane Sartini at:**  
[diane.sartini@gmail.com](mailto:diane.sartini@gmail.com)

You can call or text  
Mimi at [781-910-5834](tel:781-910-5834)  
or  
Diane at [702-400-8475](tel:702-400-8475).

*class reunion*

## class reunion

### Class of 1998 20th Reunion

The Class of 1998 is holding its twentieth Reunion on the weekend of August 17 - 19, 2018. Cost of the entire weekend package is \$100, including the Class T-shirt and all events.

A Friday night gathering will take place at the Buffalo Marriot Harbor Center.

A Saturday Brunch will take place at a location to still be determined.

On Sunday, the Class will gather at Canal Side at the Pavilion. Class members are requested to wear their T-Shirts.

Tickets and more information are available from Jeanette Tyson ([jeanette.Tyson@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.Tyson@gmail.com)). Class T-shirt is included in the ticket price, so please be sure to indicate your size! Tickets must be purchased by August 10, 2018.

BY ROBERTA ALLBERT DAYER, '53

## Class of 1953 - 65th Reunion

Members of the Class of 1953 are invited to attend their 65<sup>th</sup> reunion in conjunction with the Bennett Alumni Brunch and Annual Meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Milo's Restaurant in Williamsville. We will meet privately on the first floor at Milos at 11:00 a.m. to share our memories and news (and hugs) over coffee, tea or juice, before joining the larger Alumni Group upstairs for Brunch.

You will find a registration form for the Brunch in this Beacon, which we ask you to complete and enclose your check for \$25.00 so that we know you are coming. If you have questions and/or suggestions, please contact Bill Klein who is chairing this event. He can be reached by phone at 716-380-6058 or by email at [Kleinqwj@hotmail.com](mailto:Kleinqwj@hotmail.com). We hope to see you all there!

BY CAROL NEWMAN CASERTA, '60

## Alumni Brunch and Annual Meeting

Come join your fellow alumni at our Annual Meeting and Brunch at 12:30 pm on Sunday, September 23, 2018 at Milos Restaurant, 5788 Main Street in Williamsville, New York. This is a great opportunity to renew Bennett friendships, meet our Honor Roll recipients and reminisce about our Alma Mater. (You will also learn about what's new at the school from Principal Alvarez!)

The cost of this delicious brunch has remained the same for many years: \$25.00 per person. Please use the response form below to complete your reservations in a timely (now) fashion! Your RSVP is needed by September 12, 2018. We are looking forward to your presence!



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

Mail your UPDATES to:

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

### Annual Alumni Brunch

We'd love to have you at the Annual Brunch!

- Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 12:30pm
- Milos Restaurant • 5877 Main Street • Williamsville, New York 14221
- 716-810-9489

**\$2500** *per person*

Please PRINT! • Please respond by September 12, 2018

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach Additional Names to this form and mail to:

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

# 16th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction

The Lewis J. Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee is delighted to announce that the 2018 Induction Ceremony will be held at the school on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with a reception in our front foyer. Hot sandwiches, salads, desserts and soft drinks will be served. The Induction Ceremony commences at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

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

- Irv Brody, '51- Baseball
- Carol Newman Caserta, '60 – Earl Y. Hannel Award
- Gary Cohen, '61 – Baseball
- Msgr. James N. Connelly, '41 - Msgr John Zeitler Memorial Award
- Jim Ewing, '78 – Basketball
- Dan Goldie, '86 – Football, Baseball, Hockey
- Tom Jost, '80 – Baseball
- Hassan King, '90 – Cross Country, Track and Field
- Roslyn Righetti, '74 – Basketball, Softball, Volleyball
- Debbie Sims, '74 – Basketball, Volleyball, Floor Hockey
- Jerry Voskerchian, '63 –Football

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

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

Please remember to include your name, return address and the names of those who are attending with you. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our inductees on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at this wonderful event. See you there!

# Staff Thank-you Luncheon

The Bennett Alumni Association's Board of Directors had the extreme pleasure of hosting a Thank-You Luncheon on Monday, May 9, 2018 for our administrators, faculty and staff. Catered by Bagel Jay's, a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

It was especially gratifying to listen to our faculty members share their positive experiences they had with our students this year.

We are most fortunate to have such a talented group of teachers and professionals instructing our present day freshmen and sophomores.

Happy summer to all!



Our Mini Grant Program awarded over \$7000 to help the students get experiences that would not be possible without Alumni Support! Your memberships matter!



Upon completion of her Mini Grant project with her classes, Ms. Kenny sent us this thank-you!

**Thank you so much** for the Mini Grant. I hoped that the idea of a painting party would help them socialize and use their creativity.

The students really enjoyed the activity and asked if they could do it again. Some of the students have chosen to donate their artworks to Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Barden for their offices.

Thanks again.  
Melissa Kenny



Tiger Tech night was a wonderful evening to showcase all that's good about BHS! The Alumni Board helped both "financially and substantively!"

**Thank you for a** wonderful dinner on Monday, May 14, 2018. The faculty and staff appreciated all your efforts to see that BHS continues and remains successful.

All you do does not go unnoticed!!! Optima Futura!



All of the Spanish Class students signed this Thank-you note from Mrs. Popovic upon completion of their Spanish Food Cooking experience!

**We thank-you from** the bottom of our hearts for all of your support. Your help with the Mini Grant enabled us to expand our learning opportunities in the Spanish classroom!



# 2018 Community Foundation Donors

A Big TIGER Roar to all of our major donors!

## Diamond Club - \$500+

Class of 1966

Marland L. Berdick, '49

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

Gregory Dale Abram '71  
Sheldon Berlow '50  
Joan Broderick Mooney '64  
Dr. Melvin M. Brothman '50  
Phillip Brothman '56  
Philip Celniker '54  
Dr. Joseph Chazan '52  
Robert E. Cook '60  
James Douglas Crawford '46  
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D. '65  
John E. (Gene) Garrison '49  
Scott W. Gehl '70

Seymour Gitin '52  
Sanford Horwitz '69  
Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D. '64  
Merle Katz Goldstein '55  
Richard A. Killinger Jr. '64  
Sally Laurie Murphy '51  
Harold Leader '57  
Hazzan Leon S. Lissek '56  
Colleen Mastoris Lambros '56  
Kenneth W. Matasar, M. D. '60  
Ross Nwachukwu '90

Anne Osborn Krueger '50  
Robert A. Russell '63  
Elaine Schruttt Brothman '53  
H. Leigh Severance '56  
Sue Shaffer Gardner '48  
Judy Stecker Kugel '60  
Rhoda Stein Greenwald '59  
Theodore Sullivan '50  
Bruce R. Thielking '66  
Tamiko Thompson Stumpe '73  
Frederick J. Wallace '50

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

Roberta Allbert Dayer '53  
Jeffrey Arnone '79  
Janice Atwood Anderson '48  
Richard M. Bender '46  
Marleen Bengel Varner '49  
Richard Berkson, M.D. '64  
Donald S. Blanke '57  
Elvira Brinson '84  
Pat Burke Young '55  
Richard F. Carver, M.D. '55  
Beverly Davis Blue '61  
Cynthia Dayer Erb '80  
Thomas J. Dixon '64  
Ronald K. Dollman '60  
Laurence D. Edelman '57  
Dr. Richard S. Elman '70  
John P. Emerling '64  
Frank G. Emerling '60  
Ellen Fleysher '62  
Lance Fogan, M.D. '58  
Hon. Paul L. Friedman '61

Diane Gartler Martinelli '66  
John Gelzer Jr '51  
Louis Gerstman '53  
Elaine Goldstein Neuman '56  
Cynthia Gossom Jones '73  
Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell '55  
Christopher J. Hough '73  
Marsha Jean Kaiser Shendell '62  
Elaine Kaiser Kellick '59  
Robert F. Kreinheder '53  
Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil '60  
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro Faculty  
Lynn Lederman Hirsch '52  
Lawrence H. Levin '57  
Rona Lichtman Tananbaum '60  
RoseMary LoCurto Arnone '79  
Herbert I. Lubick '54  
Leonard Ludwig '55  
Miriam Maslekoff Ganz '68  
Bruce A. McNallie '56

George W. Munschauer '49  
Carol Newman Caserta '60  
Mario Nunez '66  
Barbara Paul Selby '48  
Harry L. Powazek '73  
Anthony J. Prasil '40  
Nancy Preston Broderick '36  
Carolyn Price Singletary PhD '66  
Melvin L. Reinheimer '62  
Herman Rodenberg '44  
Charles E. Rush, Jr. '57  
Linda M. Scheffer '61  
Patricia Schlehr Frizelle '55  
Ruth Seitz Cleary '63  
Natalie Shupe Abramson '57  
Myron M. Siegel, Atty. '47  
Robert L. Sloan '53  
Alvin Spector '71  
Elaine Thier Schweitzer '47  
Gloria Van Riper Askren '56  
Bernard E. Wills '48

## Century Club - \$100

William Anthony '60  
Kenneth L. Barley '50  
Marilyn Bass Buxbaum '54  
Judith Bernbeck Kiley '56  
Anthony Cox '71  
Jennifer J. Crumpley '68  
Hugh J. Devine '55

Irving Elster '53  
Tom L. Freudenheim '55  
Terrence Gamble '65  
Thomas J. Guttuso, MD '53  
Cecelia B. Henderson Faculty  
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan '72  
Neil J. Lange Faculty

James S. Linderman '47  
Andre Martinelli '62  
Donna Moslow Lawler '60  
Nancy Rice Hunt '45  
Louise Seereiter Faculty  
Janet Severance Reynolds '61  
Nils A. Vigeland '68

*As of June 30, 2018! Please let us know if there are omissions or errors in our records. We'd be happy to check!*



# ALUMNI MINI GRANTS

*...your membership dues at work...*

Students had fun at the Alumni sponsored Tiger Field Day on the last day of school.

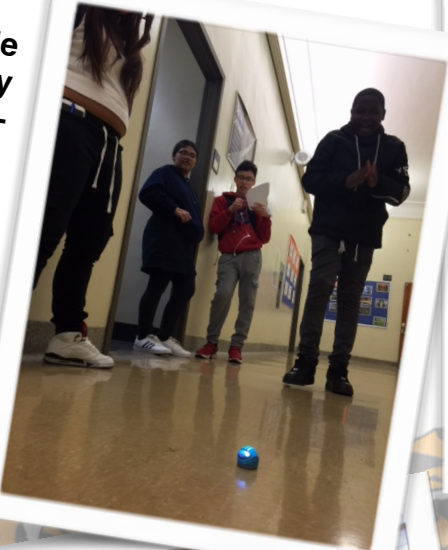


Getting their hamburgers and treats! A huge Field Day was organized by the teachers and staff, complete with a visit from the Ice Cream Cycle Dude!



Ms. Elizabeth Lenz combined art and architecture for her project. Mayor Byron Brown visited the students' display at the Allentown Art Festival.

Ms. Leslie Duggleby gave her students an opportunity to explore coding and robotics thanks to our Alumni Grant.



Mr. Jesse McVerby sponsored a January Exam Celebration thanks to his Mini Grant!



Ms. Melissa Kenny used her Alumni Mini Grant funds to do interpretive painting based on English literature.



# 2018 - 2019 Dues Statement

Membership runs from September 1, 2018 until August 31, 2019

**YOU CAN NOW USE PAYPAL TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS!**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please Check One:**

**Regular Dues - (checks made 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 written payable to **Bennett Alumni Community Foundation**)



**Century • \$100**



**Gold • \$101 - \$199**



**Platinum \$200 - \$499**



**Diamond \$500+**

**Please Mail to: Bennett High Membership**

2885 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214



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

## Our New Membership Year is Starting!

**Membership Dues** are what help Your Bennett Alumni Association make an impact on the future of our beloved Alma Mater.

**Regular Dues** allow the organization to send out mailings and keep our website going. Contributions to the **Community Foundation** allow us to sponsor Mini Grants and fund requests from the Principal for projects and activities that would not be funded by the Buffalo Board of Education.

A HUGE **THANK YOU** to the 618 ALUMNI who paid dues last year. Your generosity helped our Association support today's young people. Please send your membership contributions today for the start of the new year.

Thanks for all you do to keep our Alma Mater strong! As al-

## Bennett High Gets in Tune with its Past

*This is part of an article written by Dick Hirsch, '50. Email him at [bfloales@aol.com](mailto:bfloales@aol.com)...*

**Most of us who routinely** sang it during our four years can still remember the refrain of the Alma Mater of the high school which was opened in 1925 on that commanding site overlooking Main Street near Hertel Avenue. Here it goes:

"Bennett, Bennett, thine forever  
Naught from thee our love shall sever.  
Bennett, Bennett, lead us onward  
For the best is yet to be."

We all believed in optimism during our early time there, so we clearly remember the gusto with which we delivered that closing line. Even those who happened to be tone-deaf turned up the volume at the appropriate moment, bellowing the words as though they were anticipating their future life after graduation.

The school's motto, "Optima Futura," reinforces that outlook. It roughly translates as the best is ahead. It was chosen by Charles Elbert Rhodes, the legendary first principal. It derives from a poem by Robert Browning that stressed this advice: "Come grow old with me, for the best is yet to be." It was a memorable statement but, alas, as it turned out, as the school aged and approached its 100th anniversary, there were unhappy days.

The city's population declined sharply starting in the '50s, partly because many families decided that Buffalo public schools no longer offered the best option for their children. They fled to the suburbs. That attitude prevailed for decade as the poverty rate in the city rose dramatically. Where once the student body at Bennett was near 1800, that total dropped precipitously... *The complete article appeared in the May 11, 2018 edition of Business First.*

## Celebrating Successes!! Mr. Jesse McVerby!

Mr. Jesse McVerby, beloved Math teacher, sent the following letter to the Alumni Association:



Mr. Jesse McVerby, cooked and served the hamburgers and hot dogs at the June Field Days, celebrating the students' hard work this year.

**I would like to thank** the Alumni Association for its generous grant of \$500 which enabled our students to celebrate their success on the January final exams. Seventy-one percent (71%) of our kids reached their graduation requirement for math. Our little Tigers crushed the test! Twenty-nine percent (29%) of the passers earned an 80 or above and a total of 68% of our passers achieved a 75% and above! (For those who don't know me, I almost never use an exclamation mark. I am extremely elated by that number.)

We had a pizza party on February 9th to celebrate our success on the Regents exam. We all had a great time; our kids really enjoy being celebrated when they are successful. Who wouldn't? We had pizza, pop and chips. Our administrative team and a bunch of teachers volunteered to come up to the cafeteria to serve our kids. We have some money left over from the grant and we plan to have another celebration after we are successful on the June exams. We will share the date as soon as we know it.

I also thank the Alumni Association for your endless support of your Alma Mater. There is an old saying that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." I want to thank you for being a part of ours. We are doing something special here. I can feel it in my heart. I've been teaching here at Bennett for 18 years and I know the best is yet to be.

Thanks for everything.

**WORK HARD, HAVE FUN, CELEBRATE SUCCESSES... GO TIGERS!!**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BUFFALO, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4617

Change Service Requested

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



Time Sensitive Publication  
July 30, 2018