

Bennett Beacon



Winter 2022 • Volume 24/Issue 1

Alumni Edition

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-Marsha Jadd, '58
-Mark Overall, '03
-Christine Salamone, '73
-Joanne Szwejbka, Faculty

BY CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.

News From Our Principal



As we approach the end of the first semester, it is, once again, amazing to realize how fast this school year is passing. We welcomed all of our students back to in-person learning in September 2021 and we are working to close existing learning gaps and to provide intensive mental health supports due to the impacts of COVID-19. I am proud of our entire staff who work tirelessly to ensure all of our students have an opportunity to successfully transition back into the traditional school setting.

Data-driven instructional decision making, as well as providing students with timely, relevant, and impactful feedback, is at the forefront of our instructional model. Our tremendous teaching staff continues to incorporate strategies that identify learning gaps and develop plans of action, with a laser-like focus, to address their students' individual needs.

As we continue to reshape and rebuild our school, we are becoming a school of destination. Bennett is once again becoming a beacon for students across Buffalo due to the Advanced Placement course offerings, graduation rates, a safe and civil school climate, PTECH program, and athletics, amongst a plethora of other reasons.

The entire school community celebrated our students' successes during the first semester by distributing Student of the Month awards. In addition, each student that passed every course during the first marking period was invited to an Academic Achievement Celebration, where we celebrated their successes.

I am excited to share that in December we welcomed a group of our highest achieving students into our National Honor Society. We have had our national chapter for 4 years now and over 50 students have been inducted!

Our Bennett Football Team had an unbelievable season. Our Tigers advanced to the New York State Class AA high school football final, which is the first time this has ever occurred for a Buffalo Public School. Along the way, we earned the Section 6 Class AA championship and the New York State Regional championship. We beat Cicero from North Syracuse in the semi-final game by the score of 38-0 to advance to the final. Our Tigers finished the year ranked #2 in New York State Class AA and #14 in all of New York State high school football!

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*

From Our First Vice-President

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to extend greetings to each and every one of you for a joyous and hopeful New Year.

We are one busy group of people that remain connected to the **"tie that binds us"** - Bennett High School. It is a wonderful bond that energizes me all the time. We make an incredible difference for **Bennett High School**.

Our dues-paying members are beyond compare. Without the funds that so many of you contribute annually, we would not be able to do so much good for our current students. As of today, we are at **398 members** for a total income of \$28,020. If 600 more people could find it in them to join at the basic level of \$20, we could give back \$12,000 more to the students. **I am hopeful.**

We have just embarked on the establishment of an Endowment Fund. If you read the article on page 3, you will learn about how you can make a difference in the future. **I am hopeful.**

When you read the Principal's article about all the successes we are seeing, in spite of the pandemic, **I am hopeful.**

I recall a story of starfish washed ashore after a storm. Tens of thousands of them. Alone, the starfish were doomed; the sun would soon be out and dry them because

they had no way of getting back into the ocean. But a lone boy, walking down the coast would reach down and scoop some up and throw them back into the water. He did this every few steps. At the other end of the beach, an old man scoffed at the youth and, as they neared each other, asked the boy what he was doing.

"I'm throwing starfish into the sea!"

The man laughed at the folly of youth. "There are thousands. You won't be able to make any difference."

With that, the young man smiled, grabbed a starfish and tossed it back into the water. "It made a difference for that one!"

I invite you to **make a difference**. Renew a membership. Make an additional donation. Ask a fellow alum to join the Association. Contribute to our Endowment Fund. Support our sports teams. Attend a reunion. Join a committee of the Board of Directors. Resolve to do any other "youthful folly" you can think of to help.

Together we are a powerful group. We are capable of "tossing thousands" back into the Blue and Orange!

I am forever indebted to all of you who make our shared hopes and dreams come true. If I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me at (716) 308-5451.

Neil Lange



class reunion

**Class of 1970
July 9, 2022**

We are having our reunion dinner for the **Class of 1970** on Saturday, July 9th, 2022 at the Grapevine Banquets, 333 Dick Rd, Depew from 6 to 11p.m. There will be a buffet dinner, cash bar and a DJ. The cost of the dinner on Saturday will be \$65 per guest.

We are also arranging a tour of Bennett on Saturday morning, July 9th. There will be a casual get-together Friday, July 8th at Caputi's at 2351 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda at 5:30 pm. This will be cash bar and order off the menu. Email Janice Spector at janicemichele52@gmail.com or Linda Steinfeldt Bush at happycamper7252@yahoo.com with your current phone # and email address or if you have any questions.

Look us up on Facebook under **Bennett Class of 1970 Group** and sign up to stay informed. FYI, The Taste of Buffalo is also that weekend so there will be plenty to do to celebrate our 52nd reunion!!

Thanks to the Class of 1960 for their generous contribution to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund. We hope other reunion classes will follow their lead and help grow the Endowment Fund!

Founders' Circle

Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund

Our Past Is Their Future

Our Bennett Alumni Legacy



BY MARGARET LANZ PUZIO, '68 & FACULTY

So many of us **Bennett grads** look back on our high school years as having helped shape who we are today. In gratitude, appreciation, and hope for the future, we generously give our time and resources to ensure that today's students enjoy a similar experience. This year, we ensured the permanency of our legacy by establishing a **Bennett Endowment Fund**.

The beauty of an endowment is that it exists for generations to come in perpetuity. Each year, only the income from the fund is spent, leaving the principal to grow. It's an exciting opportunity for alumni and friends of Bennett to make a difference in the lives of Bennett students today and for years to come.

We thank you for your consistent generosity over the years, knowing that the educational enhancements for Bennett students, provided by the Alumni Association, would never have been possible without you and your generosity.

We ask that you consider this special opportunity in light of the fact that not only will your donation be tax-deductible (because we are a 501(c)(3) organization), but, it will support Bennett HS forever.

The Endowment Committee works closely with the Community Foundation For Greater Buffalo (CFGB), entrusting the investment and management of the endowment fund to this well-established and respected cornerstone of charitable organizations in Buffalo. This ensures that the funds are managed with great competence and with financial management expertise. The Bennett Alumni Association will administer the distribution funds with the goals of **strengthening support for highly skilled faculty members, enhancing the infrastructure needed for a modern high school, and directly aiding students through grants and scholarships to help them reach their full potential.**

There are many ways in which to donate to the endowment fund, including writing a check payable to the *Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund* and mailing it to 2885 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214 or online at www.bennettalumni.com. As you are considering possible charitable donations from IRA disbursements, please keep the endowment fund in mind. A gift to the fund outlined in your will or as a named beneficiary will also ensure your legacy. Please call

Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 if you have any questions.

We would like to invite you to be part of our **Founders' Circle**. The **Founders'**

The beauty of an endowment is that it exists for generations to come in perpetuity... only the income from the fund is spent, leaving the principal to grow!

Circle is a select group of donors who choose to make a contribution of at least \$1000 by December 31, 2022. This can be accomplished through installments as long as the donation totals at least \$1000 by December 31, 2022. The **Founders' Circle** is a special opportunity because members will be recognized permanently with their names inscribed on a plaque in the foyer at BHS. There will be a gala ceremony commemorating this milestone.

Your Bennett Alumni Board of Directors solidly supports the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund, as evidenced by their personal contributions. We hope that you, too, will find this opportunity for a charitable donation worthy of your generosity. We hope to see you at the **Founders' Circle gala!**

Celebrating Athletes: Bennett Sports Hall of Fame

In 2002, a group of Bennett Alumni met under the leadership of former Spanish teacher, Jennie Brummer, and established a Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame. Larry Veronica, former Bennett Physical Education Teacher and Coach, volunteered to chair the committee. We established the criteria for nomination to the new Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame, which follows:

1. Be a graduate from Bennett High School for at least five years

2. Be a member of at least one Varsity Sports Team and have achieved First Team All-High Honors in that sport. Multisports athletes must achieve at least one First Team All High Honors

3. Another category, "Special Inductees" was established to include a nomination of outstanding coaches and outstanding team or individual achievement. Female athletes prior to Title IX were also considered.

As the year passed, the committee evolved and opened up their scope to be a bit more inclusive. Since the inaugural class of eleven

inductees in 2002, 170 Bennett Alumni have been inducted. In addition, we have honored three alumni by naming a memorial award for each upon their passing. Each award has its own unique qualifications memorializing the achievement and high character of these great men - Earle Y. Hannel, Msgr. John Zeitler, and Ricky McCarley.

Every induction ceremony was a lifetime memory for all involved. Ceremonies were held in the Bennett Auditorium, which is a lasting memory in and of itself. At the induction ceremony, each inductee, after an on-screen recap of their Bennett career, would present their memories. These inductees' memories were so heartfelt, emotional

and moving for everyone in attendance as well as for the inductees. It was evident that Bennett played such a big role in the individual growth and development through the inductees' formative years.

The induction also included a front hall reception with food and beverages accompanied by displays of the individual inductees, which allowed those in attendance to socialize.

To focus on the inductees relative to their memories and accomplishments, a Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame website has been developed. One may read about an inductee by going to the website www.bennetsportshalloffame.org. Then, type in the inductee's name and year they graduated and click on their photo to read about them. This Hall of Fame committee met each month of the year to discuss and select inductees.

Congratulations to the committee for a job well done!

Our Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion and Honor Roll Induction has been rescheduled to Friday, June 10, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.. There are still tickets available for the evening. You can use the form on the website to reserve your spots or the form on this page. Reservations that have been previously paid for will be honored on that evening. Tickets will be mailed to everyone two weeks before the event.

The event will start with the induction of our Honor Roll recipients. Following the ceremony, we will celebrate Bennett with a Happy Hour. A delicious appetizer display will be served and a cash wine bar will be available. Soft drinks and water will be provided.

All-Class Reunion and Honor Roll

You are invited to be a part of the All-Class Reunion and Honor Roll Ceremony on Friday, June 10, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Please make your reservations before May 27, 2022. Tickets will be mailed to you.

Please PRINT! • Question? Call Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451

Name _____ Class of _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to **Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.**
Please attach Additional Names to this form and mail to:
Bennett All Class Reunion • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214

Class Notes

The 1930s

Nancy Preston Broderick, '36, passed away at the age of 102 on November 23, 2020. Her daughter Joan wanted to find a way to memorialize her mother with a Bennett connection. She made a contribution in her mother's name to the newly created Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund. Joan reports, "My mother would be thrilled to be a part of the Founders' Circle." We are thrilled to be able to remember your mother in perpetuity!

Class Notes

The 1940s

Gwen Hanes Daugherty, '47, just celebrated her 91st birthday and is "fairly healthy." She continues to volunteer at T-NT Meals on Wheels. She's happy that all of her family still lives in this area - Four married children, nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and soon-to-be 3rd and 4th Great-great-grandchildren. She wishes she could still see the "few classmates who are left."

Phyllis Keipper Abendscheih, '48, wrote a lovely letter with her membership dues thanking the Association for all they do. "I love the newsletter and all the information that is included." She reports that she likes to "send money, however small, to my favorite school, Bennett!" Her favorite teachers at Bennett were Bessie Federman and Mr. Simon.

Joan Devine Walter, '49, writes, "Hail to Thee! I haven't been to many places until I build up some antibodies. I'm vaccinated, but immunocompromised.

Class Notes

The 1950s

Theodore Crane McDonald, '53 passed away on March 24, 2021, at the age of 85. His wife, Cornelia, reports, "Throughout our 49-year marriage, he told me many stories of his years at Bennett. He enjoyed the *Bennett Beacon* and reminiscing about his happy times as a student at Bennett."

Sandra Rabin Scheff, '53 and her husband **Joseph, '53** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Kathryn Schweizer Tiffany, '56. Kathryn's daughter-in-law wrote, "On November 5th, we lost a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandma & great-grandma. Classmates knew her as Kay, and everyone I spoke to who attended school with her, spoke so highly of her! What lovely memories! She loved Bennett High School and all the friends she knew from her alma mater. So many she was still friends with.....that's a rarity these days. As I was going thru her things....I came across a note that my mother had in her personal phone book that read, "When I die... please notify Bennett High School Alumni Association – Kathryn Schweizer Tiffany – Class of 1956".

Marie Gerace Zafron, Faculty 1956 - 1968, taught honor history classes at Bennett. When she decided to go back and pursue a degree in psychology, she was asked to teach a senior psychology class. After retiring from teaching in 1995, Marie keeps herself busy with many community activities. She's a regular supporter of the Bennett Alumni Association.

Judy Seyse Oehler, '57, is happily living in New Jersey. Here she is with her husband, John and their eldest son Michael.



Class Notes

The 1960s

Sherry Arlene Schaefer Fried, '61. Sherry passed on February 8, 2021. Her husband wrote, "Sherry would be pleased to know that Bennett has made a comeback to its glory days...she loved that school. One thing I forgot to mention was that Sherry and I lived in Buffalo for the first 22 years of our marriage. If you remember Pat's Hot Dogs on Sheridan and Parker, that was us."

Lawrence & Lucille Hepkins Sherlick, both Class of 1966, continue to support their Alumni Association. They explain, "We are proud of the good work you are doing on behalf of the students." They hope everyone stays safe and well!

Class Notes

Continued on page 6...

Class Notes

...continued from page 5

Class Notes

The 1970s

Judge Shirley Troutman, '78, currently serving on the Rochester-based Appellate division of the State Supreme Court, has been appointed by Gov. Kathy Hochul to a vacancy on New York's highest court – the Court of Appeals.

Class Notes

The 1980s

Lamar Smith, '82 was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame on October 13, 2021. Lamar still holds the high school record some 40 years later.

Class Notes

The 1990s

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, '90 is a professor of African American studies at Princeton University and has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation fellowship. She is one of 25 scientists, artists and scholars across the country who will each receive \$625,000 in unrestricted grants over a five-year period.

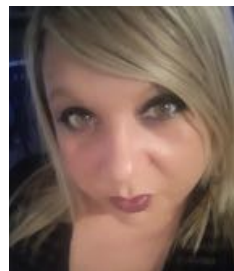
She received her bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University in 2007 and her master's and Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

She is the daughter of Henry Louis Taylor Jr., a UB faculty expert on urban issues and racial and economic justice. *From the Buffalo News September 24, 2021*

Misty Jones, '95. Misty's entire adult life has been focused on

serving others. After graduating from Bennett, Misty went on to complete the nursing program at Trocaire College. Since

2006, she has been employed as a Registered Nurse at Oishei's Children's Hospital caring for people right here in Buffalo. Misty also co-founded Illustrious Medical Transportation, a business that transports clients to non-emergency medical appointments.



Julie Foser, '95. After Bennett, Julie earned a certification in photography from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Julie is an extremely accomplished and globally published photographer who has earned over 50 global photography awards, including being named one of Buffalo's Most Influential Female Artists a few years back. Julie creates compelling photographs with the use of professional equipment and her eye for the detail. She lives in Buffalo and is a proud mother of two.

Harvey Lee Miles, '91 received the Men of Dignity award in November. The award honors one's character, perseverance and purpose.

Class Notes

The 2000s

Frederika McClary Easley, '02. After graduating from Bennett, Frederika went on to earn a Bachelor's in Public Relations from Buffalo State College. She currently

serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives at The People's Ecosystem, a BIPOC-led



cannabis company. Frederika is also a certified vinyasa and prenatal yoga instructor.

Charlie Garfinkel, '56 passed away on November 14, 2021. We remember his 19 national racquetball titles, 21 eastern regional championships, 25 New York State titles and 9 City of Buffalo doubles championships. Charlie, a Buffalo News sports columnist for over 40 years, spent 49 years as a Buffalo Public School teacher. He served on our Sports Hall of Fame Committee. He was most proud of his 14 Hall of Fame inductions.

Class of 1965

August 6 & 7, 2022

The Class of '65 is planning our **RESCHEDULED** reunion (was the 55th, then the 56th, now it's the 57th (at which we will celebrate turning 75!) on August 6th and 7th. On the 6th we will have dinner at Tewksbury Lodge and on the 7th we will have a catered picnic (location to be announced). All info will be shared via email and on our Facebook page. Send an email to 1965bennett@gmail.com with questions or to update your contact info.

Carole Wolkind Weingarten.

class reunion

• In Memoriam •

Eleanor Miller Flueckinger, '40,
age 86, December 26, 2009

Thomas Reigstad, '42,
October 7, 2015

Marjorie Herring Suchman, '48,
December 6, 2015

Judith Zax Antonucci, '54, age 70,
May 1, 2016

Carol Ann Kuch Howard, '61,
June 17, 2017

Jacqueline Hargrave Braswell, '55,
January 2018

Myrna Korn Miller, '52, age 83,
June 10, 2018

Gordon MacArthur, '47,
June 26, 2018

Janet Schusterbauer Franks, '50,
August 9, 2018

Abraham Gitchin, '47, age 87,
September 14, 2018

Merville Shaw, '42, age 93,
September 18, 2018

Marion Roberts Woodhead, '47,
December 29, 2018

Lillian Kershenbaum Palanker, '47,
July 10, 2019

Elaine Urick Zeitler, '61,
April 6, 2020

Nancy Preston Broderick, '36,
age 102, November 23, 2020

Kernan W. Davis, '50,
November 29, 2020

(Reported since Summer 2021 Bennett Beacon)
Your additions or corrections are requested.
Please forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.

Theodore A Benatovich, '61,
November 30, 2020

Dr. Lawrence B. Bleichfeld, '44,
December 15, 2020

Sherry Arlene Schaefer Fried, '61,
age 77, February 8, 2021

Elaine Soltys Batcho, '50,
February 19, 2021

Theodore Crane McDonald, '53, age 85,
March 24, 2021

Rita Zamrock Freer, '61,
April 1, 2021

James L. Shanks, '50, age 88,
April 3, 2021

Bernard E. Wills, '48, age 91,
April 17, 2021

Frederick J. Wallace, '50,
May 31, 2021

James L. Phillips, '67,
June 13, 2021

William D. Schulze, '38,
July 2, 2021

Robert Donald Ping, '50,
July 20, 2021

Anita Witkin Brody, '61, age 78,
August 11, 2021

Salome "Sally" J. Roy Moehlau, '46,
age 92, September 12, 2021

Robert P. Hazelet, '54, age 84,
September 20, 2021

Sanford "Sandy" Beckman, '54,
age 84, September 25, 2021

Robert M. Green, '67, age 71,
October 7, 2021

Howard Fogel, '69,
October 7, 2021

Patrick Ryan, '44, age 95,
October 17, 2021

Bernard "Barney" Meidenbauer, '53,
age 86, October 31, 2021

Kathryn Schweizer Tiffany, '56,
November 5, 2021

Franklin E. Koren, DDS, '50 age 89,
November 11, 2021

Charles 'The Gar' Garfinkel, '56,
age 82, November 14, 2021

Cora "Corry" Olkowski, Faculty,
age 75, November 16, 2021

Clayton A. Stahlka, '40, age 99,
November 20, 2021

Peter Simon, '67, age 71,
November 28, 2021

Robert M. Devine, '73,
November 29, 2021

Mary Margaret Campbell Giles, '45,
age 94 December 3, 2021

Jeffrey S. Willoughby, '69, age 69,
December 6, 2021

Phyllis Koepf Sears, '45,
December 8, 2021.

Arthur Bloom, '42, age 96,
December 18, 2021

Cora Olkowski - Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair.

We were sad to learn of the passing of Cora (Corry) Olkowski who was one of those teachers who quietly made a positive difference in the lives of her students each day of the 32 years of her teaching career.

Global Studies and American History were the subjects she taught, but respect, thoughtfulness, kindness, and friendship were the lessons she modeled.

She often took time to counsel individual students about to make life-changing decisions. Her attention and compassion were recognized and acknowledged in the years ahead by those

teenagers, now much wiser adults. Special education students in Corry's classes were of her particular concern. She worked closely with her colleagues to ensure their success and ultimate high school graduation.

Corry was loved by her "Bennett family". She was a good friend, always smiling and willing to help. She loved flowers, beautiful china and was an excellent cook, who delighted everyone with her German potato salad.

We remember Corry fondly and remind her husband, David, that she is in our memories and in our hearts.

Football Places Second in Class AA State Game

What an unbelievable season for our Football Team! We swept the region and advanced all the way to the State Class AA finals game in Syracuse.

Under the leadership of Coach Steve McDuffie, who was selected as the *Buffalo News* Coach of the Year, the team (11 - 2) suffered only one loss in regular season play to Orchard Park with a score of 36 - 51. That defeat would be avenged in the first playoff game when the Tigers crunched Orchard Park 70 - 20 propelling our boys to an eventual State championship game.

Scores throughout the season were decisive, with three shutouts and double-digit wins against some notably seasoned teams such as Williamsville North, Clarence and Lancaster.

Following the Orchard Park massacre, the team faced Lancaster for their closest victory in playoffs with a score of 14 - 10. Bennett readily trounced McQuaid Jesuit (26 - 14) and Cicero-North Syracuse (38 - 0) setting them against Carmel (9 - 2) at the Championship game in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

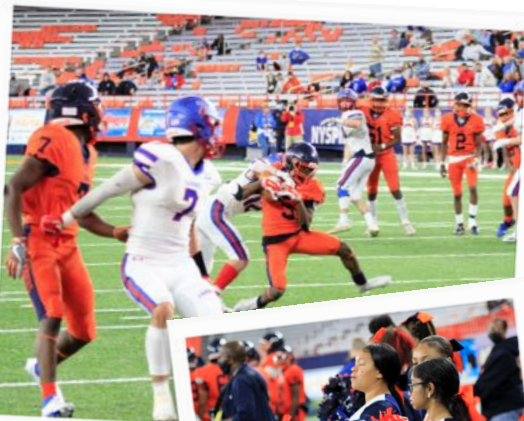
Great play and hard effort would not be rewarded at the Dome. Our boys suffered their second defeat this season with a score of 12 - 42.

Coach McDuffie was assisted by Khalil Cottman, Arthur Jordan, Anthony Scott, William Blackford ('88), Marty Trisdale, Bob O'Connor, Djuan Todd, Jermame Clemmons and Aaron Young ('96).

Coach McDuffie commented, "We've had over 20 colleges in to see the kids. We have been successful in graduating 98% of our student-athletes with over 80% of them going on to play football elsewhere."

A banquet will be held in the Spring to celebrate the team and their families. If you are interested in being a sponsor of the banquet, please contact Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 or nlange@bennetalumni.com.

Photos by David White, '20



Your Alumni Association is forever grateful for those who make contributions in honor of or in memory of or in thanks for Bennett Alumni. Here are some that we received since our last edition!
Please see the Scholarship form!

•Gifts Received in Honor of...

•Bennett Beacon Staff

... by Peter & Rhoda Trooboff, '60

•Gifts Received in Memory of...

•Vincent Patricola, '61

...by Bob Curthoys, '61

•Karl Puzio

... by Elaine Diringer, Retired Faculty

•Bruce Wexler

... by Leon Lissek, '56

•James L. Shanks

... by daughter Sharon E. Perez

•Sue Alexander Schweizer

... Joanne Tedesco Ulrey, '55

•Coach Byron Vickery

... by Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80

•Diane Gartler Martinelli, '66

... by Carolyn Price Singletary PhD., '66

•Robert Milch, MD, '60

... by Kenneth Matasar, MD

•Kathy Schweizer Tiffany, '56

... by Sandra Markham Skaine, '56

... MaryJane Kern Bednar, '62

... Anonymous

•Gifts Received in Thanks for...

•Our Wonderful Bennett Memories

•Edward & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty

The History of Bennett High School

This installment is the continuation of the History of Bennett that we have been publishing in the Beacon. The full version can be found at www.bennettalumni.com.

INSTALLMENT FOUR - THE 1940S

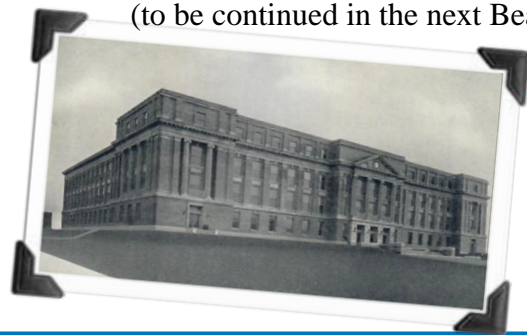
Yes, World War II was the focus of the start of the decade. With the war's end, the reputation of Bennett grew to national prominence. The scholarship of the faculty and the students was recognized. Evidence included a high level of learning that propelled graduates to prestigious colleges and universities throughout the country. The philosophy of the school was that education went far beyond the rigors of the classroom.

Education was about extra-curricular activities, and Bennett had far more than any other school. There were regular clubs like art, band, Student Council, Inter-High, science club, chess club, and camera club. Additionally, there were Hi-Y's, the forerunners of the sororities and fraternities of the 1950s. There was roller skating, tapping, riding,

drama, debate, stage crew, flag marshals, and many, many more. Bennett football set records at the Harvard Cup with the largest night attendance at a high school football game!.

Education wasn't just for students but included the whole community who participated in much of what went on at the school. Bennett was the hub of Central Park.

(to be continued in the next Beacon)



Have you considered supporting Bennett High School through the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund as a part of your legacy or estate planning?

Please contact Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 to learn how you can make a difference.

Class of 1972

August 19 - 21, 2022

Can you believe it's been 50 years? It's our Golden Reunion and we want to do it up right, but we need all of you to help and participate.

Spread the news, save the dates August 19th - 21st, 2022.

For information and to help, contact
Charleen Harris Strasner -
spr94Kyz@gmail.com.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.
Let's make it an event to remember.

class reunion

To our Alumni...

We received a nice letter from Chimmia West, parent of **AI MCDuffie, Jr. '21**. She expressed her thanks for all that the Alumni have done and continue to do.

"I want to thank the Alumni Association members for continuously working for decades to make sure the doors of Bennett remain open for students, faculty and families. My son was given many opportunities to learn and excel and explore many talents within himself throughout his four years at Bennett, graduating with a Regents Diploma.

"I also want to thank Principal Alvarez for his hard work, commitment, compassion and the tough love he gives his students to see them excel as growing adults into the future. Opportunities for students to focus on career goals and learn about scholarships that may be able to change lives for a better future are always present at BHS."

Cross Country



Bennett Athletics

For the first time in LJB history, the Cross-Country Team was eligible for team play at sectionals. This meant at least five different runners had a sectional qualifying time.

The runners who qualified were Xavier Fischer, Damarreon Martin, Angel Villegas, Samaritan Subba, and Jordan Daniels. The boys finished the season 14 - 2 in league play and the girls ended their season 9 - 7.

Damarreon Martin was the Tigers' best runner and he set a new Lewis J. Bennett Delaware Park record (15:02) and a new best Knox Farms sectional final time (20:07).

A few members of the team, including Damarreon, have been approached by local college coaches with an opportunity to run at the collegiate level. The program continues to get stronger and stronger each year and the future looks even brighter with six freshmen competing in meets throughout the year.

- by Coach James Kane II



Girls Tennis Team

The Lewis J. Bennett Girls Tennis Team had a good season this fall. It was our first time competing in the fall as opposed to the spring season.

The weather was a bit chilly, but we had four first-time players come out for the team. Alifa Chowdhury, Ezra Kwizera, Num Moie Saie, and Alyse Conseillant all jumped into the game and showed great progress throughout the season.

The team would like to thank the Alumni Association for their support, and we send our gratitude for the team hoodies that you provided.

- by Coach Jesse McVerby



Undefeated Boys Varsity Soccer Team

The 2021 Lewis J. Bennett Boys Varsity Soccer Team had its first undefeated season in 20 years, despite sitting out of the 2020 season due to Covid restrictions.

Coach Mary DelSignore returned for her 21st year coaching soccer at Bennett. The team brought back Sam Ndikubagabo, (Class of 2014) as her assistant coach.

The team began practicing in mid-August at All High Stadium. The very first thing they worked on was conditioning. After sitting out last season, many players returned very out of shape. They spent the first half-hour and last half-hour in each practice just doing running drills. The team worked hard to get back in shape to become one of the most competitive and well-rounded teams in Division II.

The Tigers opened their season on September 10th and defeated Burgard by a score of 8 - 4. The team never looked back from there. They went on to win all of their games and finished with a perfect 6 - 0 record.

The team advanced to Sectional play on October 21st at All High Stadium against Cattaraugus Little Valley. The game was tied 1 - 1 at half time and the team lost by a score of 2 - 1 after a game-winning kick in the last four minutes of regulation play.

The team consisted of 16 players from LJB and four players from the Research Laboratory High School, which is housed on our campus.

The Tigers look forward to returning to play in August. - by Coach Mary DelSignore

Mission Statement

of the
Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.

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."

Bennett's 100th Anniversary in 2025

It's time to start thinking about the Lewis J. Bennett High School 100th Anniversary in 2025. If you're like me, that seems so far away. In reality, it isn't. There is a whole lot of planning that needs to be done to guarantee the year of celebration our beloved school deserves.

To that end, we have starting a planning committee. Areas that will need leadership are as follows:

- Anniversary Yearbook & Ad Book Committee
- Video Presentation
- Alumni Brunch
- Entertainment
- Former Faculty Contacts
- Class Gathering Committee
- Mailing Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Gala Committee
- Historical Assembly
- Bennett Tour Committee

This is a once in a lifetime chance to celebrate Bennett. We need people who want to make this the best party that the city has ever seen.

If you can be part of our planning, please let us know.

We will be meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future, so everyone from around the world can be part of the planning.

We can only do this together!
Neil Lange

Bennett All-Class Reunion & Honor Roll Ceremony

Friday, June 10, 2022

5:00pm - 9:00pm

At Bennett High School

- Honor Roll Induction at 5:00pm
- All Class Celebration follows
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm.
- \$25.00 per person includes:
 - Finger Foods
 - Gift Bag
 - Souvenir Glass
 - Soft Drinks & Water
- Cash Bar



Tickets are limited to the first 200 replies.
Dress is Business Casual

Tickets may be purchased by mail or online at bennettalumni.com. Include your name, address, phone number and your guests' names. Please make checks payable to *Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.* and mail to:

**Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214**

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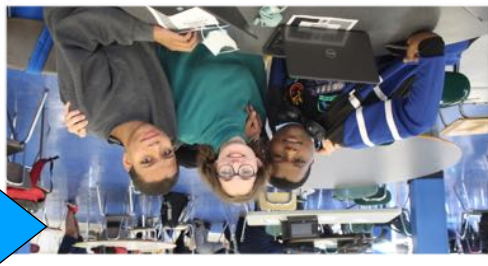
Bennett Beacon
Bennett High School
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214



Time Sensitive Publication
JANUARY 31, 2022

Celebrating Successes!

Charles Davis, Mariah Peterson
and Jayvon McBride were part of
the celebration of passing all of
their classes.



Iquellya LaValley, Ny'ahliz Ro-
driguez, Matthew Smith and Abner
Garcia enjoyed their pizza party
that was funded through the gen-
erosity of Bennett Alumni!



Alumni Board member Mark Overall
and Coach Khalil Cottman celebrated
Antonio Davis and Jayden Lewis with
the Bob Lanier & Mark Overall Out-
standing Players Plaque at the Winter
Basketball Tournament..



Assistant Principals Jamie Bardeen
and Erich Wheeler mug with Isaac
Deynes, Avion Moore and Carter
Johnson.

2021 - 2022 Major Alumni Donors

* As of December 31, 2021. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Diamond Club - \$500+

Marland L. Berdick, '49
Sheldon M. Berlow, '50
Joan Broderick Mooney, '64
Philip Celniker, '54
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65
Bruce A. McNallie, '56

Donald H. Meyncke, Jr., '49
Robert A. Russell, '63
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Schreiber, '59 & '61
Gordon T. Warme, '66
Sandra Wolfberg Schreiber, '61
ANONYMOUS

Platinum Club - \$200 - \$499

Phillip Brothman, '56
Elaine Diringler, Faculty
Dale Eddols Goodyear, '65 & Faculty
Frank G. Emerling, '60
Stuart A. Gellman, '54
Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59
Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64
Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68
Merle Katz Goldstein, '55

Sally Laurie Murphy, '51
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty
Dr. Cantor Leon S. Lissek, '56
Dr. James D. MacLowery, '53
Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60
Robin McNallie, '56
Andrew G. Mesches, '64
Dr. Robert Allen Nover, '57
Eva Roeder MacLowery, '53

Linda M. Scheffer, '61
Owen W. Schultz, '92
Rex W. Seitz, '66
Ruth Seitz Cleary, '63
Robert L. Sloan, '53
Robert C. Sugarman, Ph.D., '57
Bruce R. Thielking, '66
Donna Weber Wattman, '59
ANONYMOUS

Gold Club - \$101 - \$199

Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53
Nancy Becker Kuhn, '59
Lucille A. Buell, Faculty
Pat Burke Young, '55
Peter M. Cammarata, '75
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55
Barbara C. Chamberlain Lyons, '57
Robert Curthoys, '61
Beverly Davis Blue, '61
Hon. Crystal Davis Peoples-Stokes, '69
Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80
Roger E. Dayer, '82
Ronald K. Dollmann, '60
Laurence D. Edelman, '57
Robert P. Fine, '61
Larry Fink (River), '68
Linda Franklin Harris, '60
Terrence Gamble, '65

Scott W. Gehl, '70
James S. Gehring, '64
Jerome M. Giordano, '54
Seymour Gitin, '52
David S. Goodman, '60
Maxine Y. Herring Hall, '62
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72 & Faculty
Christopher J. Hough, '73
Paul J. Jacobs, Jr., '67
Elaine Kaiser Kellick, '59
Dr. Leonard Katz, '53
Mary Jane Kern Bednar, '62
Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64
Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil, '60
Douglas A. Lang, '56
Harold S. Leader, '57
Lawrence H. Levin, '57
Kenneth J. Munro, Jr, '57

Major Anthony M. Nash, '06
Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty
Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53
Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70
Nancy Paul McKeever, '57
Carolyn Price Singletary Ph.D., '66
Don W. Rappold, '63
Roslyn M. Righetti, '74
David A. Rosen, '71
Allan H. Rosenblitt, '65
Ann Rynne Lozeau, '60
Leslie Ann Sapecky Gray, '69
Peter M. Silverberg, '56
Frances Siskar Dickman, '57
Joanne Tedesco Ulrey, '55
Jean Travis Boccuti, '57
Peter D. Trooboff, '60
Deirdre L. Webb, '89

Century Club - \$100

Linda Barker Moore, '68 & Faculty
Kenneth L. Barley, '50
Charles D. Bayless, '60
Alice Boersma Haberly, '37
Judith A. Brown Morris, '65
Carol Cicarell Ottaviani, '60
Harold I. Cohen, '51
Anthony E. Cox, '71 (Honorary Grad)
Richard Dattner, '55
Hugh J. Devine, '55
Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61
Margaret A. Galvin Premus, '72

Jeannette Guardalibene Rodak, '59
Gwendolyn Hanes Daugherty, '47
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty
Philip H. Hubbell, '56
Joanne Kaplan VanDerveer, '71
Kenneth A. Kreinheder, '57
Robert F. Kreinheder, '53
Neil J. Lange, Faculty
Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 & Faculty
Leonard Ludwig, '55
David E. Manch, '60
Irene McLeish Greene, '57
Donna Moslow Lawler, '60

Cheryl I. Pleskow, '69
Harry L. Powazek, '73
Roy Sanders, '53
Joyce A. Savasta, '57
Diane Selby Bayless, '62
Sue Shaffer Gardner, '88
James Shanks, '50
Peter Simon, '67
Patricia Timm Zaleski, '56
Lawrence A. Veronica, Faculty
Gary L. Wolfe, '68
Judith Zent Deck, '59

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

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?

In our efforts to augment our **scholarship fund**, we have created this opportunity. This past year, we were able to assist graduates 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

C A R I N G



It's Time to Invest in Our Bennett Students!

Bennett Alumni Dues

Membership runs from September 1, 2021 until August 31, 2022

Dues to the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. make such a huge impact. Through your generous contributions, you have helped level the playing field for our students. If you haven't joined before, we hope you will consider adding to our growing membership! If you have yet to renew, please remember to do so today! We thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.

If you prefer, use PayPal! Visit us at www.bennettalumni.com

Basic Dues • \$20 **\$25** **\$50** **Other _____**

Century • \$100 **Gold • \$101 - \$199** **Platinum \$200 - \$499** **Diamond \$500+**

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!

