

# Bennett Beacon



Winter 2024 • Volume 26/Issue 1

Alumni Edition

Bennett High School • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 • (716) 816-4250 • (716) 308-5451 • [www.bennetalumni.com](http://www.bennetalumni.com)

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Mark Overall, '03

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Christine Salamone, '73 & Fac.

### Recording Secretary

Marilyn Wittman, Retired Faculty

### Corresponding Secretary

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Dr. Leonard Katz, '53  
Irene McLeish Greene, '57

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### Faculty Liaisons

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Mary DeSignore - Athletics

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### Class of 2024

-Linda Barker Moore, '68  
-Carol Newman Caserta, '60  
-Marsha Jadd, '58  
-Mark Overall, '03  
-Christine Salamone, '73  
-Joanne Szwejbka, Faculty

### Class of 2025

-Deby Fox-Hahn, '60  
-Christopher Hough, '73  
-Neil Lange, Faculty  
-Amanda Robert, Parent  
-Marilyn Wittman, Faculty  
-Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

### Class of 2026

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-Lawrence Levin, '57  
-Roslyn Righetti, '74  
-Amy Visniesky, Faculty  
-Kathy Bulluck, Faculty  
-Tara Maj, Faculty

BY MARGARET LANZ PUZIO, '68 & FACULTY

## It's a Family Affair...

*All Class Reunion to be Held on Friday, June 7, 2024 at  
Lewis J. Bennett High School*



June is a traditional month for Buffalo families to plan their reunions and the Bennett Family is no different! On Friday June 7, 2024, the Alumni Association will host its third annual **All-Class Reunion and Honor Roll Ceremony**. Just like any other family reunion, it's a time for shared stories, laughs, camaraderie, and reminiscing. This new tradition brings Bennett students and faculty from the 1940s to the twenty-first century together at our Alma Mater to en-

joy food, drinks, music and catching up with acquaintances from an important part of their lives. No matter when you went to Bennett, we all had one thing in common; singing the resounding chorus, "*Bennett, Bennett, thine forever. Naught from thee our love shall sever.*" So mark your calendar and don't forget to buy your ticket/s using the form on page 4. It's fun to go alone or with a whole group.



This year's All-Class Reunion will feature a gathering of a special sub group of the Bennett Family, **The Marzo's Voyagers**. Mrs. Marilyn Marzo plans to be present this year to share photos, stories, and laughs with fellow Voyagers and faculty chaperones. I've included a few photos from the trips, but won't it be great to be part of this special celebration. The first group of Voyagers travelled during the 1989-90 school year in the spring. They traveled to France and Spain. The second group of Voyagers traveled to London, Paris, and Madrid during the 1991-92 school year.

These are very special memories for all the students and faculty who made these trips. We eagerly anticipate getting the groups back

*See All Class Reunion...continued on page 7*

Did you know that you can FOREVER have your name enshrined at Bennett High School? Our Alumni Walkway has pavers to be engraved, available in two sizes (4" x 8" and 8" x 8"). For details, please call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451. I will be happy to help you with the process.

## Our President Reports... Active Alumni Association Has A Mission



**H**appy New Year to all of you. It is such an honor to be the president of the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. As your president, I get to see all of the marvelous programs and events get planned and then, unfold. I am also able to see, up-close, the interactions of students and staff. Each time I welcome alumni back to the building or speak to them on the phone, I am constantly reminded of their devotion to their alma mater!

The academic tone at our school is palpable. **Learning permeates the building.** Order and discipline is always evident and praise and recognition for doing the right thing is practiced. Much of this is due to the constant advocacy of your Alumni Association and the funds you so generously contribute. **Your DUES make miracles happen!!**

Since the beginning of the school year, we have done so much to engage alumni and to give back to our school. There are many articles in this edition that touch on those gatherings and happenings.

Early in the school year, your Board of Directors held their **first meeting** of the academic year. On the following **Friday, September 29, 2023**, we held a gala to honor all of the members of our **Founder's Circle of the Endowment Fund**. We had a large turnout. There was a splendid array of food and beverages. After, we heard from Margaret Puzio, Principal Alvarez and myself about the future of the fund and the current state of the school. Culminating the evening, the permanent display was unveiled with all of the names of donors. A great time of fellowship!!

The next weekend, on **October 7, 2023**, we celebrated the rebirth of the **Sports Hall of Fame**. We inducted six outstanding athletes, A pre-show gathering, with a wonderful food display, was held in the front hall giving me the opportunity to greet more alumni. The awards were presented by Roslyn Righetti, chair of the committee. I was thrilled by the large donations from **Don Gilbert, '60** and **West-Herr Ford** to support the event. A printed program, with many advertisements, helped defray the costs.

We were right back in action for the **Annual Meeting** on **October 12, 2023**. Over 30 alumni gathered via Zoom to hear about the accomplishments of the Association. I loved hearing where all of these guests were from and their Ben-

nett memories.

November found some new activities preparing for three holiday events to give back to the students. **Our Boxes of Love** was a fundraiser to gather specific funds that we could use to buy gift cards to Aldi's to aid families. Over \$1300 was distributed. We also held a **campaign using Amazon** to get specific items that our young people lack. The staff was thrilled as the packages arrived each day.

Personally, the best event ever was our **Holiday Bazaar**. Chaired by Linda Scinta from the school and Tara Maj from our Board, bags and boxes of brand-new gifts were received. I was able to set up these items on the Friday before the event. I was so excited to see every table in the Alumni Room filled with gifts. On **Monday, December 18, 2023** we were back to do the actual event. Previous to the students attending, Ms. Scinta held lessons about giving. I can tell you these lessons worked.

All of the ninth grade classes and every Special Ed class came to the Alumni Room to shop. I was privileged to greet each student. If you ever wanted to see polite and thankful students, this was the place to be. I never was so excited to see how impactful our Alumni are.

All of these events and many more **are made possible by our alumni**. If you still need to pay your DUES, please do so soon. We are only able to continue our work because of your contributions. I thank you for being the good people you are. **We make a difference!**

## Have a ZOOM Reunion

**H**as your class ever considered a regular Zoom Reunion? Marian Kretschmer Kaplan, '61 has been doing that since COVID hit. She says it doesn't involve much time, but provides a good opportunity to regularly keep in touch with her classmates.

Each month she sends out, via email, a question for her classmates to respond to. She has a great list of questions such as "What city are you now living in and why?", "Something interesting since being at BHS.", "Favorite teacher at Bennett and why?", "Greatest achievement.". She compiles the answers and does a quick monthly update.

Then several times a year, she does a Zoom meeting with her classmates. She reports that attendance is growing and good times are had by all.

## Sports Hall of Fame Supporters

Thanks to these advertisers in the Sports Hall of Fame Program...

Elizabeth White Ahmed's Family

All Care Physical Therapy Services

Mary Evanco-Caryk, '76

Carol Newman Caserta, '60

Tony Martin Awards, Inc.

M. J. Peterson Real Estate

Coach Larry Veronica

Don Gilbert, '60

West Herr Ford

Local 282 Buffalo Professional Firefighters

Jeffery Arnone, '79

Crane Capital Group

The Gwan Family

The Cammarata Family

B. J. MuirheadCo., Inc.

Class of 1974

Crystal Davis Peoples-Stokes, '69

Paul B. Becker

If you would like to advertise in this year's Sports Hall of Fame program, contact Roslyn Righetti, '74 at [meowkitty44@roadrunner.com](mailto:meowkitty44@roadrunner.com) or contact Neil Lange at 716-308-5451.

## Sports Hall of Fame's 18th Induction Ceremony a Success

On October 7th, 2023, the Bennett Sports Hall of Fame Committee held its 18th Annual induction Ceremony.

"I am so pleased to report that we inducted an additional six men and women into our ranks and we were able to honor the 2022 State Champion Bennett Tiger Football Team," commented Chair Roslyn Righetti.

"I am humbled to join such esteemed company in the Sports Hall of Fame," said Jon Baker. "Thanks for recognizing my swimming career. It was an amazing experience and I will cherish this memory!"

The committee is anxious to begin planning the 2024 event. We need your help to guarantee every athlete deserving of honor can be recognized. If you are aware of a Bennett athlete who deserves consideration, Please use the form at the right or email Roslyn at [meowkitty44@roadrunner.com](mailto:meowkitty44@roadrunner.com) to discuss their credentials and contact information.

## 100th Anniversary Planning Committee at Work

September 2025 is just around the corner and your Bennett Alumni Association has started the planning. Our proposed date for the Reunion Weekend is September 19, 20 and 21, 2025.

Tentative plans include an Open House and All Class Reunion on Friday from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, with individual classes then continuing the party at their own destinations.

Saturday events are planned to include a football game and parade at All-High and a grand Gala Celebration Dinner in the evening. An Ad Book and compilation of the History of Bennett over the last 25 years will also be produced.

The weekend will conclude with Brunch, our Annual Meeting and our Honor Roll inductions.

Currently, members of the committee include Robert Sugarman, '57, Judith Stecker Kugel, '60, Tara Maj, Fac, Paul Riestler, '70, Sheila Busshart, Fac, Linda Scinta, Fac, Liz Williams, Fac, Phil Brothman, '56, Maureen England, Fac, Len Katz, '53, Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68 & Fac, Marilyn Wittman, Fac, and Neil Lange, Fac. Our next meeting is March 5th at 3:15pm.

Our meetings will be held on ZOOM. We will also be able to do hybrid meetings, if desired. **We are looking forward to expanding our Committees.** Please consider being part of this once-in-a-lifetime event. One Hundred Years of Bennett High School at 2885 Main Street!!! To Help, call 716-308-5451.



### Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form



**If you know of or you were an outstanding Bennett Tiger Athlete, please consider nominating that athlete or yourself for the Sports Hall of Fame. Please complete this form and return to Bennett before February 16, 2024.**

**Name of Athlete** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sport** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach a brief description of the athlete's excellence, citing honors and awards.*

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sports Hall of Fame • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, NY 14214**

## From Anthony Locane, '68

I graduated from Bennett in 1968. I was fortunate to grow up in the district for Bennett. I had wonderful teachers who guided and taught me how to prepare for my future. I still use my algebra knowledge when creating my art and figuring sizes and proportions; my love of reading was solidified at Bennett; and my years working on the *Beacon* staff prepared me for a professional life as a graphic designer/creative director after art teaching positions dried up and disappeared.

I attended all three reunions for my class; the last being my 50th in 2018. It was there I reconnected with Carol Newman Caserta, my senior year homeroom teacher. When I was a senior, Carol seemed to be only a few years older than I was and yet her command of 30+ teenage senior boys was nothing short of masterful. It's been 55 years since I sat in the last row of Carol's homeroom, but it seems as if it was only yesterday.

When I think of my time at Bennett, Carol always seems to be at the forefront of my memories. When I speak to her now, it's a lot of walking down memory lane; but it's also about remembering how positive Bennett was for me. I don't recall difficult or dangerous times; I remember friendly faces and attitudes. I remember starting each day in homeroom and watching Carol dealing with us and her "smirks" when one of us said something silly, trying to look and act grown up.

Yes, I am grateful for Bennett and what it afforded me. I am heartened to know Bennett will continue on for years to come; and specifically for the hard work Carol, other faculty and alumni have done to ensure it does.

# Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion Set for June 7, 2024

The Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion is set to return on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. In conjunction with the gala evening, we will hold our Honor Roll Ceremony, starting at 5:00 pm and we also plan on honoring an Alumni of the Year.

The Reunion is designed for all Bennett Graduation Classes to have a chance to return to the school and gather for an evening of reminiscing and celebrating memories through the years.

The Honor Roll Ceremony recognizes outstanding alumni in their vocations and avocations. There are hundreds of outstanding alumni and we would love to recognize you or one of your classmates!!

Last year's All Class Reunion was a mini prom with dancing on the stage, a scrumptious buffet, beverages and basket raffles. Chair **Kelly Gallivan, '95** will be returning with her dynamic committee to produce another

stellar evening of fun!! Get your tickets today!!

Although in the planning stages, rumor has it that we will be traveling to a Romantic Evening in Paris!!! Oh-LA-LA!!!

## 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 7, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Please make your reservations before May 26, 2024. 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

## The New Membership Year

## Bennett Alumni Dues

**D**ues to the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. make such a huge impact. Through your generous contributions, you have helped level the playing field for countless Bennett students. Your continued help makes a difference!

We thank you for your support!

*\*\*\* For information about how your gift of \$250 or more can be used to sponsor a Memorial Garden paver, call Neil at 716-308-5451.*

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

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

 <b>\$75</b>	 <b>\$50</b>	 <b>\$25 • Basic Dues</b>	 <b>Other</b>
 <b>Century • \$100</b>	 <b>Gold • \$101 - \$199</b>	 <b>Platinum \$200 - \$499***</b>	 <b>Diamond \$500+</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Membership runs from September 1, 2023 until August 31, 2024*

Ahmad Ansan, '74, November 5, 2020  
 Roger E. Whalley, '47, age 92,  
 March 12, 2022  
 Sanford Silverberg, '50 age 89,  
 April 6, 2022  
 Sinette Johnson Winfield-Denson, '58,  
 age 82, September 24, 2022  
 Doris Derby Orgek, '53, age 86,  
 October 16, 2022  
 Myrna Levitsky Morris, '55,  
 November 6, 2022  
 Amy Florian Baumgartner, '61, 2023  
 James A. Phillips, '61, 2023  
 Charles G. Inman, '47, age 94,  
 June 6, 2023  
 Ralph "Bud" Booth, '48, age 91,  
 June 14, 2023  
 Clarence F. Bauer, '38, age 102,  
 July 20, 2023  
 Dennis Campagna, '64, age 76,  
 July 22, 2023  
 Walter Kemp, '71, age 71,  
 August 11, 2023

## • In Memoriam •

*(Reported since Summer 2023 Bennett Beacon)*  
**Your additions or corrections are requested.**  
**Please forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.**

Karla Finton Wiseman, '53, August 16, 2023  
 Lawrence A. Schulz, '58, age 82,  
 September 3, 2023  
 Francis Patrick "Pat" Fox, '61, age 79,  
 September 13, 2023  
 George Mergenhagen, '51,  
 September 21, 2023  
 Roger G. Schneggenburger, '56, age 84,  
 September 26, 2023  
 Maureen Marie DeGeorge, '60,  
 October 7, 2023  
 Marland Berdick, '49, age 91,  
 October 11, 2023  
 David Max Weinberg, '50, age 91,  
 October 12, 2023  
 Dr. George Robert Tzetzto, '54, age 86,  
 October 19, 2023  
 Eugene Morgulis, '51, October 20, 2023

Hugh J. Devine, '55, November 2023  
 Ronald Meer, age 89, former Bennett  
 Principal, November 2, 2023  
 Jacilyn Mittlefehldt Stevenson, '54,  
 age 86, November 10, 2023  
 Suzanne T. Lach, Faculty Social Studies,  
 age 81, November 11, 2023  
 Judith Ann Kirtland Elson, '55, age 86,  
 November 13, 2023  
 Lee Landon Metzger, '44, age 97,  
 December 8, 2023  
 Sidney D. Ehrenreich, '61,  
 December 12, 2023  
 Barbara Nadel Organek, '51,  
 December 19, 2023  
 Jack Alan Geyer, '51, age 90,  
 December 31, 2023  
 John E. (Gene) Garrison, 49, age 93,  
 January 6, 2024  
 Maria Manzella, '60, January 8, 2024  
 Betteann Brockman Umof-Joseph, '51,  
 age 90, January 12, 2024

## Letters from our Supporters

The enclosed check is a memorial gift in memory of my father, **Marland Berdick, '49**. My father passed away on October 11, 2023. He was always a proud alum of Bennett High School and donated to Bennett often over the years.

It is my pleasure to send this check to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund in memory of Dad. As a retired high school English teacher myself, I applaud the Bennett Alumni Association and all the hard work and support you give to Bennett. Dad was so proud of your work!  
 Sincerely,

Marilyn Berdick

Just giving back a little for your Boxes of Love. The experiences I had at Bennett were a wonderful preparation for my musical training and career as an orchestral musician and teacher.

Bennett was a great place to be in 1956 - 1960 - all that school spirit, assemblies, shows, great honors classes, the Music Department with Mr. Nowak, etc...

Wonderful that Bennett is again doing well in football. Last weekend, I took a grandson to his high school football game. You should have seen his eyes when I told him that MY high school was the State Champs last year.

Go Bennett!! Go Tigers!!!

Mary Louise Brecker Veremeychik, '60

## • Help Wanted •

As we enter the New Year, we have been taking a look at what positions we need on our Board to help us keep growing. If you could help in one of these positions, please let us know. Call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451 to volunteer...

**Grants Writer** - We are aware there is funding for organizations like the Bennett Alumni Association. Having a Grants Writer on the team would enable us to write grants and find alternate sources of money to support the programs at LJBHS!

**Accountant and CPA** - Our busiest area is processing our dues contributions and filing the necessary reports of the organization, not only with the Board, but with the IRS.

**Class Leader Contact** - We have discovered that when we have a dedicated member of a Class to make phone calls and keep in touch with their classmates, involvement increases. Not only do we see more membership, but we also see more attendance at our events. If you could be a Class Leader for your graduation year, let me know. I have a hunch there are many Class Leaders already doing this and we don't know their names.

# News From Our Principal

BY CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.



As we approach the end of the first semester, it is amazing how fast this school year is passing.

Data driven instructional decision making, as well as providing students with timely, relevant, and impactful feedback continues to

be 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' needs.

The Lewis J Bennett school community continues to celebrate our student successes. We have hosted three Academic Achievement Celebrations during the first semester of classes. Each student that earned Merit Roll, Honor Roll, and High Honor Roll academic successes was invited to the Academic Achievement Celebration.

Our extended learning opportunities for students started in October 2023. Students receive academic support as well as enrichment experiences after school. The PTECH after school sessions also allow students to have mentoring opportunities and project-based learning experiences focused on working with drones and robotics.

Our Juniors and Seniors enrolled in our Software Development and Networking majors are able to participate in our newly designed Student Technology

Leadership Program (STLP). It is our hope that student technology leaders will also be able to assist new students, or those who are unfamiliar with BPS platforms, to access and utilize Schoology, One Drive, Infinite Campus and more.

The Lewis J Bennett school community will be welcoming another select group of high achieving students into our National Honor Society. We have had our national chapter for seven years now and nearly 100 students have been inducted.

Our Lewis J Bennett football team had another unbelievable season. Our Tigers advanced to the New York State Class AA high school football semi-final game for the third consecutive year, which is the first time this has ever occurred for a Buffalo Public School. Along the way, we won the Section 6 Class AA championship, and the New York State Regional championship. Our Tigers finished the year ranked #1 in Western New York, #2 in New York State Class AA and #11 in all of New York State high school football. We had seven student athletes named to the first team All-Western New York team and three named to the first team All- New York State first team. In addition, four student athletes have been offered scholarships from Division 1 college football programs.

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**

BY MARILYN WITTMAN, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

## Annual Meeting Held on October 12, 2023 via ZOOM

The Bennett Alumni Association convened via Zoom on October 12, 2023, for an enthusiastic gathering that brought together alumni from across the country. They represented their enduring commitment to Bennett High School.

President Neil Lange gave the following report.

In a remarkable journey, the Association played a pivotal role in saving Bennett High School from closure in 2013-2014. Today, Lewis J. Bennett is thriving with its highest-ever enrollment, reflecting the dedication and hard work of its administrators, staff, and alumni.

The meeting celebrated recent achievements, including a successful Endowment Gala and the 2022 New York State Football Championship Tigers induction into the Sports Hall of Fame. This event honored the team's remarkable accomplishments, its coaches, and cheerleaders. Six distinguished alumni athletes were also inducted.

Behind the scenes, the Association's committees

remain the driving force, tirelessly working toward equity, advocacy for students, and preserving the legacy of Bennett. Their collective efforts continue to shape the school's future.

The Treasurer's Report brought positive news, emphasizing the association's robust financial health. With no paid employees, the association reported \$80,000 in total revenue, a growing Endowment Fund nearing \$100,000, and a commitment to supporting Bennett's mission of advocacy and equity.

During the meeting, nominations were announced for new Board members, and they were unanimously approved, reflecting the association's commitment to growth and ensuring the vitality of its leadership.

Exciting future events were also announced, including the Annual All-Class Reunion and plans for a grand 100th Anniversary Birthday Party for Bennett High School in 2025.

together on the evening of June 7, 2024. There will certainly be loads of laughs, hugs, and stories!

What a Reunion it will be. The Marzo Voyagers will gather at the All Class Reunion on Friday, June 7, 2024! See you there!



## Ja'Meer Thomas Player of the Year

Ja'Meer Thomas, who has been signed to attend Syracuse University in the Fall, was selected as the Dick Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year.

Ja'Meer explained, "My time at Bennett was very fun. I learned about leadership and overcoming adversity. I love Bennett and how they taught me to be a young man. I learned about character and want the guys coming up to follow me just as I had to follow guys like Jayden Lewis and Rashard Perry."

Congratulations, Ja'Meer!!

BY MARILYN WITTMAN, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

### Boxes of Love Campaign a Success

#### *Providing Essential Support for Our LJB Students*

Lewis J. Bennett High School alumni have come together to support needy students through a GoFundMe campaign titled "Boxes of Love." The campaign has raised over \$1500.00 to address the basic needs of students facing challenges such as food insecurity and limited access to personal hygiene products.

The initiative was spearheaded by concerned faculty who recognized the significant impact that unmet basic needs can have on students' ability to learn and thrive. Your Bennett Alumni Association readily partnered with them as they sought to ensure that every student has the resources they need to succeed.

The campaign has been met with gratitude from the school's administration and faculty.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support from our alumni," said Neil Lange, President of the Alumni Association. "Their generosity will make a real difference in the lives of our students."

Many of the impacted students expressed their gratitude for the help in being able to have a holiday celebration.

## Students are Producing T-Shirts

Under the direction of teacher Bob Jesionowski, our Lewis J. Bennett Special Education students have a unique job/skills class. It's called Distributive Education and the students learn how to operate a real business.

One of the projects that our young people handle is designing and producing T-shirts. They are offering these shirts for our alumni. All purchases will be mailed to you.

This is truly a great way to support our students and prepare them for their futures. Also, proceeds from the sale go back into their "business" so they can expand their ability to produce more items.

There have been discussions of purchasing an embroidery machine, which would greatly enhance their abilities into the future.



The cost of the shirts are \$25.00, which includes postage. For an additional \$5.00, you can have your name printed on the back.

To place an order, you can use the form on page 9. For questions, you can call Mr. Jesionowski at the school. The number is 716-816-4250.

# Holiday Giving Day Touched the Lives of Our Precious Students



Lewis J Bennett’s Holiday Giving Day was a huge success! What was most exciting was to see the look on our students’ faces as they entered our festive room full of amazing gifts. Home decor, winter gear, jewelry, sporting equipment and so much more were graciously donated and available to be given to loved ones at no cost to our students.

Upon completion of our event, we took some time to talk with students to get their reactions. A few students said that being able to give gifts to their family made them feel good inside.

Realizing they do not have a lot of money, other students noted that their family members were surprised to get any gifts



and it made them feel special to be remembered.

One student shared, “My parents love decorating for the holidays. I know they loved my gifts because they immediately put the gifts out for all to see”.

Another student mentioned, “I was excited to give my brother a soccer ball given that he loves sports. He was very surprised”.

A few of our immigrant students shared, “We were especially happy to give gifts to our teachers who have helped us a lot this year”.

Our hope is that our students learned more than one valuable lesson when it comes to the Joy of Giving. A huge thank you to everyone who assisted with our Giving Day... and there are many of you.

A very special thank you to all of our generous donors! Next year we plan to have a “Gift Giving Gathering” in November to really collect a lot more gifts!! Stay tuned for details!!!



## The Tiger’s Den Provides Items for Students in Immediate Need

What is a Tiger’s Den? In nature, it's a place of security for the mother and cubs. At Bennett, it is also a place of security, but more than that, it's a room we have created to provide necessary clothes, and other personal care items for our students who might be in need.

Our Lewis J Bennett Tiger’s Den has assisted countless students this school year. Whether it is hygiene items, clothing replacements or school supplies, our Alumni funds have been a blessing when it comes to stocking our shelves.

Utilizing our Tiger’s Den Amazon Wish List has given us the ability to replenish our needed items quickly without placing a financial burden on our staff. Thank you again to our generous Bennett Alumni who have continuously donated to our Tiger’s Den.

If you wish to use our Amazon Wish List, you can simply use the link and ship your donation to the school in care of Linda Scinta.

A huge thanks to all who have already donated and continue to make the lives of our students so much better!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/J27O9XUX1JYC?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/J27O9XUX1JYC?ref=wl_share)

Together **WE** Can Stock the Tigers Den  
**Some items on the Wish List...**



**Sweatshirts**  
**Sneakers**  
**Socks**  
**Jackets**  
**Leggings**  
**T-Shirts**



**Underwear**  
**Toothbrushes**  
**Tooth Paste**  
**Sweat Pants**  
**Laundry Detergent**



**W**e'd love to report about you! Please send your updates to us. Your friends would love to know what you're doing. We'd love to know about your accomplishments!

Have you considered making a contribution to our Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund?

Please remember Bennett Alumni in your Estate Planning and your Legacy Gifts!

For more information, call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451.



BY MARILYN WITTMAN, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

## Retired Bennett Faculty Rally Support *Providing A Stove for a Family in Need*

In a heartening display of compassion and generosity, a group of retired faculty members has come together to support a special education student's family facing dire circumstances. The family, living in poverty, found themselves without a basic necessity – a stove.

Upon hearing of their predicament, these retired educators, still deeply connected to the Bennett community, took swift action. Coordinated by Neil Lange, the much-needed stove was purchased and delivered to a very grateful family - just in time to cook the turkey and boil the potatoes!!!!

## Bennett Tigers T-Shirt Order Form

To order a Bennett Tigers T-Shirt (see article on page 7), complete this form, enclose your check for \$25.00 made payable to **Lewis J. Bennett High School** and mail to:

Bennett High School • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 •  
Attention: Mr. Jesionowski.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size S. M. L. XL. XXL

(Circle one)

Name on Back (add \$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_

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 money 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 \$20.00 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

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# Alumni Honor Roll

2024 Nomination Form

*please use this form to make your nomination to honor an alumni*

## Check Category:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting          | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry                  | <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/<br>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"/> Food Careers        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing              |

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a brief description of the person's achievements.

### Information of person submitting the 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 desired. We would like to recognize all those Bennett Alumni who have done so much for our community. Please submit your nominations before February 15, 2024!

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

BY CECELIA HENDERSON, FACULTY

## Alumni Honor Roll Induction Ceremony

The Bennett Alumni Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2024 Alumni Honor Roll Induction will take place on June 7, 2024.

We invite Alumni and friends to join us for an evening of nostalgia, fun, fellowship, and delicious refreshments.

Since the inception of the Alumni Honor Roll, many Bennett High School graduates have been honored in numerous categories and celebrated for the difference they have made in their respective areas: The Arts, Business, Community Service, Education and many more.

It is always exciting to see Alumni and recognize them for their accomplishments in their careers following graduation from Bennett High School.

Nominations have been received for 2024 in the categories of The Arts, Architecture, Education, Health, and Historic Preservation. If you are interested in nominating an alumni, please complete the 2024 Alumni Honor Roll Nomination Form in the Bennett Beacon and forward to Bennett High as indicated on the form. Deadline for submission is February 15, 2024.

We look forward to your presence at the Alumni Induction.



**We Count on YOUR Membership to Support OUR Students!**

***Please consider contributing to Your Bennett Alumni Association TODAY!***

Your Alumni Association is forever grateful for those who make contributions in honor of or in memory of or in thanks for Bennett Alumni or anyone you wish to recognize. See page 9.

### • Gift Received in Memory of...

Judith Ann Kirtland Elson, '55  
 by Joanne Tedesco Ulrey, '55

**Congratulations to Muhsena Haq, a super senior, who has been named to the Western New York Scholar Athlete team for girls' tennis. Muhsena carried a 90-plus average for the previous six semesters and has been a significant player in her fall sport.**

# 2023 - 2024 Major Alumni Donor

## Diamond Club - \$500+

Family of Marland L. Berdick, '49  
Richard Berkson, M.D., '64  
David M. Braunstein, '70  
Joan Broderick Mooney, '64  
Philip Celniker, '54  
Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65

Lorraine Huber Repicci, '55  
Sally Laurie Murphy, '51  
Harold S. Leader, '57  
Evelyn Miller Swarts, '59  
Robert A. Russell, '63  
Gordon T. Warme, '66

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

Marilyn Bass Buxbaum, '54  
Dr. Al B. Benson III, '68  
Phillip Brothman, '56  
Karen Carr Hopkins, '73  
Carol Cicarell Ottaviani, '60  
Tony Cox, '71\*  
Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80  
Elaine Diringer, Faculty  
Donald P. Edwards, '65  
Jeffrey M. Freedman, '68  
Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61

Don A. Gilbert, '60 & Faculty  
Judith Green Brothman, '59  
Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64  
Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68  
Kathleen Kinney, '91  
Glenn Kraemer, '68  
Kenneth A. Kreinheder, '57  
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty  
Dr. James D. MacLowry, '53  
Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60  
Bruce A. McNallie, '56

Dr. Robert Allen Nover, '57  
Anne Osborn Krueger, '50  
Robert L. Potter, '60  
Margie Redstone Rosenstock, '65  
Eva Roeder MacLowry, '53  
David A. Rosen, '71  
Linda M. Scheffer, '61  
Robert C. Sugarman, Ph.D., '57  
Bruce R. Thielking, '66  
Ronald Willig, '56  
Marilyn Wittman, Faculty

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

Jeffrey Arnone, '79  
Elizabeth Arnone Young, '83  
Nancy Becker Kuhn, '59  
Pat Burke Young, '55  
Alan S. Carrel, '60  
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55  
Beverly Davis Blue, '61  
Ronald K. Dollmann, '60  
Chetachi Egwu, '91  
John P. Emerling, '64  
Judith Eppers Horn, '60  
Larry Fink (River), '68  
Margaret A. Galvin Premus, '72  
Terrence Gamble, '65  
Scott W. Gehl, '70  
Seymour Gitin, '52

Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72 & Faculty  
Philip H. Hubbell, '56  
Christine Beebe Jehle Whitman, '68 & Faculty  
Elaine Kaiser Kellick, '59  
Richard A. Killinger Jr., '64  
Robert J. Klein, '68  
Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil, '60  
Douglas A. Lang, '56  
Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 & Faculty  
Lawrence H. Levin, '57  
Major Anthony M. Nash, '06  
Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty  
Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53  
Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70  
Nancy Paull McKeever, '57

Kathryn Poppenberg Kridel, '62  
Carolyn Price Singletary PhD, '66  
Judith Richardson Taetz, '54  
Marilyn Rutstein Schillroth, '65  
Patricia Schlehr Frizelle, '55  
Louise Seereiter, Faculty  
Harvey S. Serota, '61  
Peter M. Silverberg, '56  
Susan Silverman Carrel, '60  
Frances Siskar Dickman, '57  
Alvin H. Spector, '71  
Jean Travis Boccuti, '57  
Lawrence A. Veronica, Faculty  
Deirdre L. Webb, '89  
Lynn S. Weissman Klein, '68  
Marcia Weymouth Coleman, '61

## Century Club - \$100

Samuel J. Alessi, Jr., '61  
Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53  
Jewell Bachman Meyer, '52  
Holly Britz Nachbar, '56  
Peter M. Cammarata, '75  
Harold I. Cohen, '51  
Carol Curtis Albright, '65  
Joel L. Daniels, '56  
Mary DelSignore, Faculty  
Elsie Desenroth Colwell, '61  
Francis J. DeYoung, '57  
Dale Eddols Goodyear, '65 & Faculty  
Dr. Thomas Edwards, '63  
Lance Fogan, M.D., '58  
Robert H. French, '53  
Thomas L. Freudenheim, '55  
Stephen S. Gosch, '59

Phyllis Hanes Vogt, '53  
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty  
Myron Hojsan, '71  
Arthur Holloway, '90  
Sanford Horwitz, '69  
Christopher J. Hough, '73  
Carl Johnson, '60  
Joanne Kaplan VanDerveer, '71  
James M. Kern, '67  
Linda Konrad Byers, '60  
Robert F. Kreinheder, '53  
Karen Kreinheder, '65  
Neil J. Lange, Faculty  
Lynn Lederman Hirsch, '52  
Leonard Ludwig, '55  
Marcia Mitchell Soden, '63  
Donna Moslow Lawler, '60

John Y. Pax, '54  
Janice Y. Porter Ferguson, Ph.D., '66  
Harry L. Powazek, '73  
Janet Robinson, '68  
Charles E. Rush, Jr., '57  
Clair Saia Poliachik, Faculty  
Christine Salamone, '73 & Faculty  
Owen W. Schultz, '92  
Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48  
Scott L. Slesinger, '68  
Robert L. Sloan, '53  
Judith Stecker Kugel, '60  
Nils A. Vigeland, '68  
Thomas S. Wallsten, '60  
Gary L. Wolfe, '68  
Daniel Wood, '04  
Judith Zent Deck, '59

As of January 12, 2024. Please let us know if there are omissions or errors in our records. We'd be happy to check!

# Alumni Events in Pictures

Time Sensitive Publication  
January 31, 2024

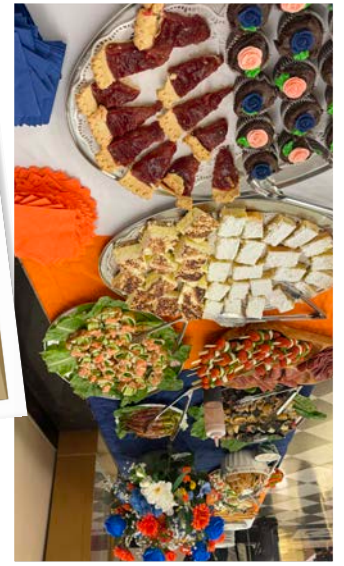
**Bennett Beacon**  
Bennett High School  
2885 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214



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**S**ome of the wonderful food that was served to our guests at the Founder's Circle Gala!



**S**ome of the many donated items and the students doing their shopping at the Holiday Bazaar!



**P**resident Neil Lange unveils the Founder's Circle plaque recognizing those who donated \$1000.00 or more to the Endowment Fund!

**A**lumni member Maureen England manned the wrapping paper station.

