



THE OWLMANAC

The official newsletter of the Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc.
a non-profit association since 1986

Spring, 2009

www.BensalemAlumni.org

Vol. 2, No.3

From the President's desk ...

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and managing to survive some tough economic times. I am grateful to all the people that find it as important as I do to give back to our old school.



First we would like to thank Steve Begelman for orchestrating a Tricky Tray otherwise known as a Chinese auction. Steve is a retired Philadelphia school teacher who heard of our cause and wanted to contribute. Steve helped us do this despite losing his brother a week before our event. We raised over \$1,100 in one night! We did despite the fact that our newsletter was delayed at the printer and our members did not get it until after the event. We pulled it off anyway. Thanks again Steve!

We help classes with their reunions and in return our classes try to help us raise money too. Recently the class of '73 had a reunion and donated \$500 to our cause. The class of '88 also had a reunion and donated \$200. This is a great way to help our organization and we really appreciate it. (See stories inside)

We have achieved another goal! We now have over 2,000 people with profiles on our new website www.BensalemOwls.org. We started this site in October 2008 and already we have almost 10% of our fellow alumni on this site. That is a lot of people to have come together in such a short amount of time. Our next goal will be to have 5,000 profiles created—over 20% of all people who graduated or attended the school! Wow! Just think of all the people you would see walking down those hallways at school. You can come here and connect with one person of every five that you knew. We keep improving the site too. Recently the web masters added a couple of nice features. One is for members of our "In Memory" section. This section allows for our members to leave a comment

Continued on back page

Ray Guim

Ray Guim, '74
president@bensalemalumni.org

BAA Annual Spring Golf Outing Slated for June 17, 2009

23rd annual scramble to raise scholarship money

The Bensalem Alumni Association will hold its 23rd Annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at Bensalem Twp. Country Club.

A field of alumni golfers, friends and family will tee off at 8:00 am (shotgun start), Coffee and doughnuts will be available during registration at 7:00 am, and golfers will enjoy soft drinks and water on the course with beer and a cash bar on the patio in the afternoon. Lunch and an awards presentation will follow at the club's newly renovated Rose Room.

"This outing is a large part of our fundraising to raise money to support our scholarship fund," said association president, Ray Guim. "Each year we give scholarship awards to six graduating Bensalem seniors, and this outing, along with our alumni donations and contributions, helps us make this possible."



Entry fee for golfers is \$100, and includes green fees, a cart, soda, beer (cash bar) and lunch. First and second place finishers will win awards, with additional prizes for such skills as closest to the pin, longest drive, and on the green at designated holes. All golfers will receive a commemorative gift recognizing their contribution to this annual event.

Prize and hole sponsorships are also available. If you or your company are interested in donating, please contact Ray Guim at 215-245-2106.

Check your mail for the tournament registration form, or register quickly by going directly online at www.bensalemalumni.org.

We hope to see you there!

"Swing Shot" pictures for all golfers!

"Bensalem III The Journey Continues" Now Available

The Historical Society of Bensalem Twp. has published a third volume of the township history. "Bensalem III The Journey Continues" is available at the Society office (3211 Knights Rd.; call 215-639-6575 for hours), at the Visitors Center on Street Road (in front of Philadelphia Park) or the Township Building. The price is \$25.00 plus \$3.00 if needed for shipping. This hardbound volume contains over 400 pages, about 500 pictures, and many memories from Bensalemites. Volumes I and II are also available at a cost of \$20 each.

*Sally Van Sant Sodesky
Class of '52*

In this issue of The Owlmanac...

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**Join old friends in the Bensalem Alumni Association!
visit our website at www.bensalemalumni.org and Sign Up Today!**

Alumni Update

Email information and photos to Ray Guim at president@bensalemalumni.org (please include "Alumni Update" in the subject line), or mail pictures to Bensalem Alumni Association, PO Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020. Pictures will be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Cleveland Chapter is Born

On Easter Sunday, April 12, 1998, My wife Carol (McLaughlin - Bensalem Class of 1982) and I went to Marymount Hospital in the suburbs of Cleveland, OH, for the birth to our second child.

It was necessary to deliver the baby via Cesarean Section, and unfortunately the epidural that was given to Carol was only able to numb one side of her body because of scaring from a previous back operation. This meant she had to endure the operation via local anesthetics, and because of the intense pain of the surgery Carol used words that I think she learned while attending keg parties behind Ramblers Field many years ago.

After the operation, she apologized to the Anesthesiologist, Deepak Gupta, for her language (it was a bit harsher than the normal King's English - closer to the English used by Bensalem Township Supervisors). Dr. Gupta told us that it didn't offend him, and that he heard much worse language while growing up in Philadelphia area.

Being in an operating room in Cleveland, we were surprised that he was from the same town we grew up in, and we asked him where in Philadelphia. We were stunned when he replied, "In a little suburb named Bensalem." We found out that he graduated in the mid- to late-80's and had a few siblings that also attended Bensalem High.

Although there have been various golf outings and get-togethers at local pubs hosted around the country,

I'll bet that no other Bensalem Alumni Chapter can duplicate the intimacy and casual conversation that was held at the first meeting of the Cleveland Chapter.

Lincoln Braden Class of 1981

Editor's Note: Thank you for the story, and congratulations! Just goes to show you never know where or when you'll run into a BHS alum.

~ ~ ~

Suggestions for the Newsletter/and Website

When I received my Owlmanac all the way in Maryland, I cried. I think back all the time of BHS. Have you ever thought about placing announcements of births, marriages, engagements, new positions, and new degrees earned? You could also profile classmates.

When I read the obituaries and Mr. Ellzy had passed, all I could think about was his son, Fred. Remember the Ellzy store in Trevoze? Who didn't know an Ellzy!

I love the website too! It would be neat if there was a way you could send in pictures of old Bensalem Owl items like school jackets, trophies, year books, cheerleading uniforms, prom tickets, old pictures of groups of friends, places we hung out at like Bella Pizza, or a virtual tour of BHS! How about a shopping area where you could purchase Bensalem Owl stuff? or participate in a fundraiser going on at the high school?

Thank you for bringing a little bit of home to me here in Maryland. Now my son knows mommy went to

A Boyhood Dream Come True

Every boy's dream in my day was to be an engineer in the railroad. This past Christmas this "dream" came true. I spent a day on a locomotive on the Santa Monica Valley (CA) R.R., moving cars around the yards. Great stuff for this 81-year-old timer who is still a kid at heart. After all, C.S. Lewis said it: "When I became a man, I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness and the desire to be very grown up." I believe a lot of this came from my experience with classmates and faculty at Bensalem.

Bill Foster
Class of 1945



school too! I'm so excited and thank you.

Candice N. DeVaughn
No Class Listed

Editor's Note: It makes us cry too, but for other reasons. You have some good ideas for the newsletter and website, and after we dry our eyes we'll look into using them.

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Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020

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Golf Committee	Mike Deering '71
All Year Reunion Committee	Donna Fleming '77 &
Co-Chairs	Margie Anderson Knowles '81

Dear BAA:

Why am I listed "In Memory"? I am alive and well and have been living in England since 1973!!

Bill Colacicco
No Class Listed

Editor's Note: Oops. Sorry about that, Bill. Glad to hear, as Twain said, that the reports of your demise have been greatly exaggerated. Thanks for checking in!

~ ~ ~

Dear BAA:

I just wanted to drop you a quick note of thanks for the 1979 Year Book. I truly hope you are able to find my subsequent years (80, 81, and 82). My boys and I had a blast looking through it. Thanks so much,

Paula J. Henninger
Class of 1982

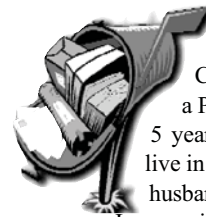
Editor's Note: Glad we could help. We're not always able to fill requests for old yearbooks, but it's nice to hear that you and your family enjoyed it.

~ ~ ~

Dear BAA:

Greetings from The Villages in Florida, where retired people go. I recently received my first "The

Letters to the Association...



in CA. Then as a clerk for the P.O. in Summit County CO for 10 years and a Postmaster for Alma CO for 5 years. I retired last Oct. and live in Breckenridge CO with my husband and son Joshua. When I was with my aunt and uncle we lived in Trevoze at the trailer park. I remember a black girl who rode our bus. She had long hair and freckles. She was crying one day when we got our report cards because she showed me she got straight A's. She was crying because she said no one would appreciate it. I wish I knew her name. My name is Stefana Mirto. My maiden name was Barchie. Some people might remember me as Stephanie until my aunt came to school to correct it as I was named after her.

~ ~ ~

Dear BAA:

The new website is wonderful and a lot of fun. Thanks! The Owlmanac newsletter is also very enjoyable and informative.

Shirley (Neitzel) Lefferts
Class of 1964

Editor's Note: Thanks, everyone, for your words of encouragement. Bringing alumni together is our goal.

~ ~ ~

Dear BAA:

I couldn't break away from the website to answer your e-mail. I was in tears of joy finding it. Ninth grade in Bensalem was my best year in high school if not my life (except for coming to Christ in 2004). I would like you to add me to the Alumni. I would have graduated in 1971. I graduated at Aviation High in Redondo Bch CA. But miss my friends from Bensalem most. I worked as a letter carrier for 20 years

Stefana Samuel Mirto

Editor's Note: Thanks for writing in, Stefana. With any luck, maybe a reader will recognize and remember your story and offer some help in placing names with the memories.

Renee Hiller Devlin
Vice President, Class of 1962

~ ~ ~

Dear BAA:

I really enjoy receiving The Owlmanac and learning news about some school friends that I haven't thought about in a very long time. It brings back memories of all the fun and great times we had at Bensalem High School.

Jean Anne (Dunn) Salisbury
Class of 1951

OBITUARIES

- Maria Bolinski '82
- Florence B. (Schad) Breen '64
- Gloria A. Freas Breen '41
- Donna L. Butz '77
- George O. Funke '35
- Evan Walter Kline '34
- Mark J. Oleska Jr. '76
- John Franklin Wharton '38
- Joseph W. Fox '53
- Grace E. Lewis Reichert '39
- Thelma Vandegriff Cooling '40
- Member of Hall of Fame*



Michael Joseph Wiles '04



Cynthia Waring Bentley '58



Theresa (O'Mara) Corella '75



Edward P. Wolfe '78

Donations in memory & honor of Police Officer Chris Jones, Class of 1987, can be made to:



Chris Jones '87

Police Officer Chris Jones Children's Trust Fund Philadelphia Police and Fire Federal Credit Union Bucks County Branch 852 E. Street Road Warminster, PA 18974



Mike Nagy, Educator



Al Tibbets '83



Beatrice (Bea) Koplin Feinstein '43



Slavik (Vic) Litvinenko '78

The Owlmanac accepts pictures for this section. Please email photos to Ray Guim at president@bensalemalumni.org (please include "Bensalem Obit" in the subject line), or mail pictures to Bensalem Alumni Association, PO Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020. Pictures are returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

REUNION NEWS



Class of 1969 – 40th Reunion

To be held at the General Greene Pavilion at Washington's Crossing State Park on Oct. 3, 2009 from 11am-3pm. Food, desserts, beverages, door prizes and keepsake party favors included. Cost to attend is \$7.50 adults \$3.00 Children under 12. If interested in attending please contact either Elise Haferl-Lykins at elise.lykins@c21ag.com or Kathy Wiltbank-McCauley at rip5051@pa.metrocast.net. All payments due by Sept. 15, 2009. Please mail payments to Kathleen McCauley 65 Sunshine Dr., White Haven, PA 18661. Include how many will be attending as well as your name, address, telephone number and email address if available.

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## Class of 1974 –35th Reunion

*We're planning a 35th reunion,  
so start your diets now!*

As many of you know, we had a 33-year reunion back in September of 2007. We had an outstanding turnout and everyone there voted to have a 35th - so here we are, at your service again. Our last gathering was such a success that we are going to repeat the theme, the menu, and location. The tropical decorations are still in great shape so we will make the room as festive and awesome as we did last time. Keeping the same theme and reusing previously purchased party items will help us keep the cost the same as in 2007, even though the price of the banquet and entertainment has gone up.

**Here are the details:**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009**

**Holiday Inn Select**

**Registration: 6:30 PM**

**Complimentary Tropical Cocktails: 6:30-7**

**Open Bar: 7:00-8:00**

**Dinner, Dancing, Cash Bar: 8-Midnight**

**COST IS \$75 PER TICKET**

## The '80s Remembered at the 1988 20th Reunion

### '88 donates \$200 to Bensalem Alumni Association

On Saturday, November 29, 2008 – a little more than 20 years after they walked the halls of dear old BHS – 140 alumni from the class of 1988 and their guests teased their hair high, donned leg warmers and corduroy varsity jackets and moved on the dance floor '80s style (some still think those moves are totally cool) as they gathered for their 20th year high school reunion.

OK, in all actuality, the hair is much tamer now (overheard: "thank goodness for the flat iron") and attire ranged from jeans and blazers to suits to cocktail dresses. But guests did enjoy '80s music by the DJ, good food and cocktails at the Holiday Inn Select in Trevoise while they reminisced about the times they shared at Bensalem High School from 1984-1988.

Blue and white centerpieces decorated the tables in the packed room and coordinating

balloons were placed throughout the room. Photos and yearbooks from back in the day were displayed in the registration area and there was always a group nearby reliving their memories, chatting with fellow classmates. Mr. Banchi even made a surprise guest appearance. The class also honored those who have passed with an attractive memorial table.

Throughout the night there were raffles for things like furthest traveled, videos from back in the day and a slide show presentation of "Name That Hair." Many alumni reacquainted as they talked about their jobs and families and many mentioned their pages on Facebook and how they'd reconnected with fellow classmates there.

The reunion committee thought the night was quite a success, especially given the fact that most people had to be asked to leave the ballroom at the end of the night and were then found at the hotel bar, continuing the party until last call. Class president Tim Boone said, "We're already gearing up for the 25th, so '88 alums, stay tuned."

We are having a Tropical Luau with a Pig Roast and all the tropical trimmings along with other (non-pork) entrees as well. Come casually dressed in your most colorful Hawaiian attire. SPREAD THE WORD to those you're still in touch with in case we do not have accurate contact information (we learned this last time).

Make checks or money order payable to:  
BENSALEM CLASS '74 REUNION  
52 Kennedy Cove, Dallas, GA 30132

Class of '74 Reunion Committee: Francine (Pisaturo) Warner, Committee Chair; Joanne (Pisaturo) McCreery; Joan (Bell) Dumoff; Patti (Lalli) Gentile; Sue (Baier) Bannon

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Class of 1979 30th Reunion

The Class of 1979 will hold its 30th Reunion on Friday, November 28, 2009, from 7-11pm at the Bensalem Country Club. Tickets must be purchased in advance; NO tickets at door. Please email current address for invitation to Kim Hodell at absolute_heaven_message@comcast.net. Phone: 215-785-5271.

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## Class of 1990 20th Reunion

Hi! I just wanted to let you know that you are invited to the Class of 1990 Reunion on the Spirit of Philadelphia on Saturday November 27, 2010. It will be a dinner cruise from 6:30pm-9:30pm. \$79.67 a person which includes dinner buffet, dj, waitstaff, tips, taxes, etc. To hold the date, I need at least 25%. So, I am asking all possible attendees to mail me a check or money order for \$25 a person to hold their spot on the boat. (The remaining \$54.67 a person is not due until 9/10.) If I collect deposits from more than 300 people we will probably be able to have the whole boat. I am opening this reunion to Bensalem's Class of 1990 and their close high school friends.

Email me for my address if you would like to attend. Please let other graduates know as soon as possible. Hope to see You at this Reunion. Sincerely, Paulette Kirk Kasmer paulettekirk@yahoo.com



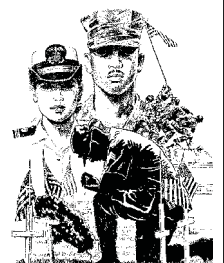
## BAA Salutes Alumni in the Military

Albert J. Gresley 1977; U. S. Marine Corps

Norman F. Gresley 1972; U. S. Coast Guard

Philip James George 2005; 56th Stryker Brigade 111th  
Infantry Division Alpha Co. (Iraq)

*This new section in The Owlmanac is dedicated to our alumni who serve/served in the armed forces. Please email information and photos to Ray Guim at president@bensalemalumni.org (please include "Bensalem Military" in the subject line), or mail pictures to Bensalem Alumni Association, PO Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020. Pictures returned with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.*



# BENSALEM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR 2009

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues for 2009 \$10.00 enclosed

## DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2009

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 - \$49.00 Grey Owl Club

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 - \$99.00 Blue Owl Club

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 + Gold Owl Club

## \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

- \_\_\_\_\_ Place me on the mailing list for the golf tournament  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about sponsoring or contributing to a scholarship  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about becoming involved in the "All-Year Reunion"  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about becoming involved in the Alumni Association

Please include your email address to update our records. **PRINT CLEARLY.**

### ***Please make check payable and mail to:***

Bensalem Alumni Association  
PO Box 26  
Bensalem, PA 19020

## COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ALL-YEAR REUNION:** The Bensalem Alumni Association is planning an "All-Year Reunion," an opportunity for everyone to re-connect with friends who graduated in different years. But we need your help. Please let us know:

1. Would you attend an all-year reunion?  Yes  No 2. When would you prefer the reunion be held?  Spring  Fall  
Thank You!

For any questions, please contact Ray Guim '74, President, at 215-245-2106 or [president@bensalemalumni.org](mailto:president@bensalemalumni.org).

*If you have already contributed, please disregard this form...and Thank You!*

**Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc.**  
**PO Box 26**  
**Bensalem, PA 19020**

[www.BensalemAlumni.org](http://www.BensalemAlumni.org)  
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Use *PayPal* at our website:  
**[www.BensalemOwls.org](http://www.BensalemOwls.org)**  
*or mail a check to the address below*

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

after their friends' or relatives' name. When there is a comment under someone's name a rose will appear instead of \*\*. This is good because it sometimes gives a little insight into what happened, and it shows our respect for those who are deceased. If you know someone in our "In Memory" section, please go on and leave a comment under. Another and our most recent feature is for members of our armed forces. When someone in the services creates a profile, a flag appears next to their name. We have a few more features to roll out so be sure to check back.

Our next event is our Annual Golf Outing. This will be June 17, 2009 at Bensalem Township Country Club—that's right, Bensalem TOWNSHIP Country Club. I am sure most people from Bensalem will remember the old golf course, but some do not know that it was purchased by the Township a few years ago. They have improved the course tremendously to the point that, in my opinion, it is one the best in the area! They are also working on improving the catering facilities. The buffet lunch area has recently been completely remodeled. See the ad for the outing.

The next big event will be the All Year Reunion. We are in the process of deciding on a venue but for now at least we have decided on April 2010! So stay tuned for more information.

Thanks again for your support!

# Bensalem High School Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

May 9, 2009, at the Maltese Room on Bristol Pike.

*This year's inductees include:*

|                                           |                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chuck Asman</b> ('84) Baseball         | <b>Hillary Mintz</b> ('03) Tennis               |
| <b>John Briar</b> ('80) Swimming          | <b>John Paone</b> ('79) Baseball                |
| <b>Kristen Clayton</b> ('99) Hockey       | <b>Sheldon Per</b><br>(Boys Basketball Coach)   |
| <b>Dori Clee</b> ('97) Hockey             | <b>Bridget Regan</b> ('02) Swimming             |
| <b>Joe Fanning</b><br>(Long Service)      | <b>Ted Schueller</b><br>(Girl's Swimming Coach) |
| <b>Larry Ferriola</b> ('89) Soccer        | <b>Shauntae Stancil</b> ('95) Basketball        |
| <b>Alex Houston</b> ('97) Football        | <b>T. J. Stancil</b> ('00) Football             |
| <b>Caitlin Hyde</b> ('02) Swimming        | <b>Amanda Tu</b> ('00) Softball                 |
| <b>Krishan Lewis</b> ('98) Basketball     | <b>Adam Webb</b> ('96) Wrestling                |
| <b>Chris McFadden</b> ('96) Cross Country |                                                 |

**Join old friends in the Bensalem Alumni Association!**  
*visit our website at [www.bensalemalumni.org](http://www.bensalemalumni.org) and Sign Up Today!*

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