

The President's Des by Ray Guim, '74

HELLO ALUMNI!

elcome to 2020. I guess we're all seeing a little clearer lately (ha ha, get it? 20/20?). As always, the Alumni Association has a lot on its agenda for the upcoming year. I thank you for taking a few minutes to read our newsletter.

First on the agenda is the newsletter itself. We are finally moving into the new millennium. This will be the last year that this newsletter is mailed to everyone. Right now, we mail this letter to over 17,000 alumni. Starting next year, we will only mail our newsletter to paid members because we need to trim costs if we want to keep helping high school seniors with scholarships. We will still have the newsletter online for everyone to see, but you will not get a mailed copy unless you are paid up. Dues are only \$12 for the year, so if you like getting the newsletter, make sure you use the dues form on the back of this one or go to our website at www. BensalemOwls.org and pay by card or PayPal.

The Alumni Association has a lot on its agenda for the upcoming year.

In other news, we had our sixth all-year reunion picnic at the pavilion at the Bensalem Township Building. I personally had a great time. Of course, I always have a great time at these events; you just never know who is going to show up and where the conversation will lead you. This year we had pretty good interest in the event, and we are planning on more this year at the Trifecta Club, which some of you will recognize as the old German Sports Club on Bristol Road. They have a lot of outdoor activities and even a place to go if it rains. The cost is \$20 and includes food (see inside). We are really looking to make this a big event this year, and I personally invite you to come out and meet everyone. You can keep up to date on our plans via our website (BensalemOwls.org) or through our Facebook group at Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc. We are still looking for a band to provide a little entertainment—if you know anyone who would like to help out, let us know.

Next up is our golf outing. We are doing our 33rd golf outing this year on June 17, 2020 at Bensalem Township Country Club.

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www.BensalemOwls.org







THE OWLMANAC

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

Bensalem Alumni Association

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From The President's Desk

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See the details on next page. I always have a great time at this event, too.

Continuing on, the alumni veterans wall really came out great! Wayne Lewis '62 (former Navy) has put it all together, and now we are at 1,229 names on our wall. This wall is for anyone who has served in any branch of the military. If you know someone who deserves to be on there, please ask them to send us a copy of their military ID so we can an add them. We cannot put a name on the wall unless we verify that they were in the service and want to be listed. Overall, I think our veterans wall really looks amazing, and if you get a chance, stop by the Bensalem High School auditorium or, of course, check it on our website.

The last topic is something that I always seem to be working on: the "In Memory" section of our website. Those of you who know me may think this is an odd hobby of mine. I would say that this is not a fun part of being the president of the Alumni Association, but it is a necessary task to be done. I really think I do it to show some respect to our past classmates. I guess this is a small thing, really, but if you ever wondered what happened to So-and-So, you could look on our site (BensalemOwls.org) and either send them an email to say hello or see them on the In Memory list. At least this way, you know where they are. Right now, we have 30,000+ names in our database, and we have 3,128 names in our In Memory section. If we are missing an obituary, please let me know about it, and I will post to our site.

Before closing, I think it is important to restate that our purpose, per our mission statement, is "to help graduating Bensalem High School students further their education by providing them with an award toward their education costs." Last year we gave out 8 scholarships for a total of \$13,500. We select these winners by reviewing students' essays. Our criteria varies for each scholarship: we select three by need, three by achievement, and two by a sponsor requirements. The members of our committee review the essays and select the most deserving in each category. The problem we have with this is, of course, that when you read the essays, you want to give a scholarship to all the kids. You can help us solve this problem by making sure to pay your member dues. Your \$12 contribution can go a long way for a student in need.

Once again, thank you to all of the dues-paying members. We could not do it without you!





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Rates: Business Card - \$25; Quarter Page - \$40; Half Page - \$70; Full Page - \$130

Your ad appears in both the print and online versions. For more information, please contact: Ray Guim at President@BensalemAlumni.org or by mail: BAA, PO Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020.

Bensalem High School

Distinguished Alumni Award

ensalem High School's Distinguished Alumni Committee and the Bensalem Education Foundation will honor the third class of Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at a reception and induction ceremony at the recently renovated high school during the fall of 2020. The 11 graduates to be added to the Wall of Honor are:

Rev. Paul Munford, '68: founded the New Joy Baptist Church, Riverside, CA; through fundraising, built permanent structure for the New Joy Baptist Church; received Black Voice Newspaper Community Builder Award; awarded NAACP Religious Award; received Riverside City Council, Mayor's Appreciation, and Riverside Historical Award.

both wild and domestic.

Stephen Wurst, VMD, '68: VMD from University of Pennsylvania school of Veterinary Medicine; founded the Barnegat Animal Clinic in 1984; Veterinary practice in NJ expanded to eight doctor practice; worked on the Osprey Project and Golden Hearts Retriever Rescue Organization; contributed to the Peregrine Falcon project of NJ; steward of all animals,

Steve Nolan, '70: Directed Department of Veterans' Affairs PTSD Clinic in FL for five years; received four Meritorious Service Medals for service in Afghanistan; received Commanding General's Leadership Award for 4th Infantry Division; authored poetry collections *Go Deep* and *Base Camp;* featured on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*; 2007 Chief of Combat Stress for Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

Dr. Robert Stinger, '71: Section Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma and Adult Joint and Reconstructive Surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital; BS Penn State, MD/PhD Georgetown; graduated Magna Cum Laude with an MBA from Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University; collaborated and published with a Nobel Laureate Elias J. Corey.

Mark Blaszczyk, '76: Corporal in the Bensalem Township Police Department; served on the Bucks County Drug Task Force and elite Bensalem SWAT team; received awards

for Extensive Undercover Operations and Distinguished Valor from the Bucks County District Attorney's Office for his work with the Bucks County Drug Task Force; is a two-time recipient of The Lifesaving Award; served in the Bensalem Accident Investigation Unit and Bensalem Township Police Honor Guard; is a founding member of the Neshaminy Valley Town Watch and volunteer firefighter with the Newport Fire Company.

Russell F. Jones, Jr. '76: Nationally recognized safety and security expert; managed and coordinated the safety and security platforms for many large hospitals and universities; awarded the International Association Hospital Security and Safety Medal of Distinction; authored numerous articles and books on public safety and security.

The **Distinguished Alumni Award** was created in 2016 by a group of retired and current Bensalem teachers, guidance counselors and administrators to provide outstanding role models for the students and community of Bensalem by recognizing Bensalem graduates who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to their field of work, study, or service to their communities and society as a whole.

Candidates must have attended BHS for at least 2 years, have graduated from BHS at least 10 years before the date of nomination, and have achieved outstanding success in one or more of the following categories:

- Business and Professional
- Science and Medicine
- · Humanities and the Arts
- · Humanitarian and Military or Governmental Service

A call for nominations is announced through district websites, alumni websites and each of the district's offices by members of the community, selection committee, Bensalem staff member, or any Bensalem graduate. Posthumous nominations are also accepted. Inductees are honored with a plaque at the induction luncheon and ceremony and a permanent plaque is installed at a Wall of Honor at Bensalem High School.

The Bensalem Distinguished Alumni Committee works under the auspices of the Bensalem Educational Foundation (BEF). BEF was established in 2013 by a group of citizens, teachers, administrators and business leaders as a broad-based, non-profit community organization for the purpose of securing resources from individuals, corporations, community organizations and foundations for distribution in support of programs that benefit and improve the educational opportunities of students in the Bensalem Township School Ellen Voorhees '76: Researcher in information retrieval, the science that underpins search engines; inventor on three US patents; Fellow of the Association of Computing Machinery and the Washington Academy of Sciences; author of numerous papers on information retrieval and natural language processing.

Theresa Grafenstine, '87: First female and longest serving Inspector General of the United States House of Representatives; served as the Global Chair of ISACA, only the 2nd woman in 50 years to be elected to this role; recognized as one of the "Top Ten Audit Thought Leaders of the Decade." Leader in the international cybersecurity audit profession; helped to advance the information technology, governance, internal auditing, and accounting professions; renowned leader in cybersecurity.

Letty Wright-Maxwell, '88: NASA fellow and NASA Project STEM Manager/Awarded three Congressional Black Caucus Awards in Leadership, Youth Empowerment and Teacher Distinction; Samsung STEM teacher in United Arab Emirates; helped establish EdOptions Virtual School in 2006; started Maxwell Family Foundation to provide graduating high school students with scholarships.

Sunshine Werbock O'Donnell, '89: Writer, Artist, and Educator; author of the novel *Open Me*, for which she was selected a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers novelist; an award winning essayist; a selected author in W.W. Norton's *The Best Creative Nonfiction Anthology*; featured artist in several art exhibitions; featured artist on the Food Network; founder of The Coffeehouse Project, a mobile literacy classroom for underserved children; and author of *Your Vacation on Planet Earth*, a children's mindfulness book.

Hari Sunny Notani '91: US Secret Service. Leads investigations of high profile cyber and electronic crimes; spent six and a half years assigned to the Vice-Presidential Protection Detail for VP Joseph Biden; frequently speaks on identity theft and internet fraud.

District. Since its inception, BEF has worked to raise funds for needs throughout the district including STEM lab and robotics equipment and programs. They have also provided funding for nursing suites, cafeteria and recreational equipment purchases. The foundation also offers an opportunity to purchase commemorative bricks placed in an area called the "Owl Walk" outside the high school. The money raised from the sale of these bricks is used to enhance the nine district libraries. The foundation's "Take Your Seat" program allows people to buy nameplates for the seats in the recently renovated performing arts center at the high school. The money raised from this program goes to buying equipment needed in the high school auditorium.



(\$50-\$99 + dues)

1949 Mary Jane McLarren Vandegrift

1955 Eleanor Axhwiswff Kuhna

1956 John M Shetzline

1958 Robert D Beck

1958 William H States

1959 Daniel Bentz

1960 Virginia A Clifford Wharton

1960 Charles J Morton

1961 Peggy A Foley

1961 Dennis Lautenbacher

1962 Theodore "Kristiniak, Jr'

1962 Patrick J Lawler

1962 Wayne L Lewis

1964 Lillian H Kase Hadfield

1964 Shirley Lefferts Neitzel

1964 Anita K Morton Kristiniak

1965 Deanann A Hinkin

1965 Eugene Samero

1966 Kathy Quinn Tomlinson

1966 Thornton E "Wagner, Jr"

1967 Albert J "Carp, 4th"

1967 William J Stinger

1968 Doreen Maisano Lynn

1968 Robert E Poole

1969 Mike Baill

1971 Joanne Shafter Christian

1973 Steven J Hovick

1974 Patricia L Mervine Bleiler

1974 Michael F Rigney

1974 Jim Wistner

1976 Cathy Monroe

1977 Joseph (Joe) Alpuche

1978 Darren Shaw

1987 Deborah (Debbi) Ebbert Zaleskas

1970 Karen Lilik Shastay In Memory

1944 Sam Lombardo

1960 Alwyn R Gougler

1961 Richard Patton

1957 Gerald (Jerry) Weikel

1965 James A (Jim) Hartz

1966 Ronald L Tomlinson

1970 Nancy Anderson Ashton

1967 James Bogan

1967 John Dornisch

1965 Gordon A Larson

1960 Virginia Lee Mingle Adams

1966 Thomas Adams (+ Faculty)

1976 Robert J (Bob) Gratkowski

(\$100-\$499 + dues)

1970 Kathleen Murphy

1971 Keith Crawford

1971 Dennis G Moessner

1974 James (Jim) Gentile

1974 Edward J Sherwood

1975 Leah Neri Hesson

1974 Ray Guim

1982 Harry Daut

1972 Linda C Holwood Fish

1971 Mary Anne Battaglia Nolan

1974 Meredith A Calien Wheeler

1974 Sandra Hyland Sandberg

Scholarships

Robert Milner ~ Mat Slakoper ~ 1967 George Ciotti

(\$25-\$49 + dues)

1941 Jean A Jones Mudie

1945 Alice I Scheer Sperling

1945 Merritt L Silcox

1949 Sarah A Lorenzo Gottsabend

1953 Barbara J Barbon Graziosa

1953 Rose M Gray Doneker

1953 Erma H Rupp

1953 G. Lola Tomlinson

1955 Edwin R Catanach

1955 Marion C O'Donnell Weber

1957 Janet Mebs Herold

1957 Kenneth E "Young, Jr"

1958 Dorothy (Dot) Enney Anderson

1958 David C Garrett

1958 Jeffrey Stone

1959 Frances Joan Yakel Trommer

1961 Margaret S (Peggy) Thullen

1963 Francis W (Frank) Walsh

1965 Ronald W Decker

1965 Judith C Schreiber Carson

1965 Dorothy Vickers DelGuerico

1966 Joseph Bound

1966 William (Bill) McKinney

1966 Richard Schreiber

1967 Lawrence Phelps

1968 Thomas Deacon

1968 Steven Smolenak

1969 Davina McKinnev Hoch

1969 Diane Pittam Jones

1969 Leigh Schrwartz Pallatt

1969 Janet Woodruff Shillack

1971 Chester Ganczarz

1972 Michael J Brennan

1972 Patricia R Grady

1973 Robert B Allahand

1974 Thomas (Tom) Mee

1975 David R London

1975 Joanna Penner Connelly

1975 "Paul ""Squeaky""" Williams

1976 Mark Blaszczyk

1977 John (Rick) Arabinick

1977 Nora J McDonough Schreiber

1977 Patricia M Shapiro Rodzwic

1978 Mark Selkow

1982 Tammy L Jenkins

1982 Donna M Wilson Whiteman

1983 Alan Jenkins

1983 George H "Selph, Jr"

1984 Linda C James Hinchcliffe

1990 Angela M Warman Palma

FACULTY Mark E Banchi

FACULTY Patricia Yagecic

If you're looking for your name... and it's not here...

"We're Sorry!"

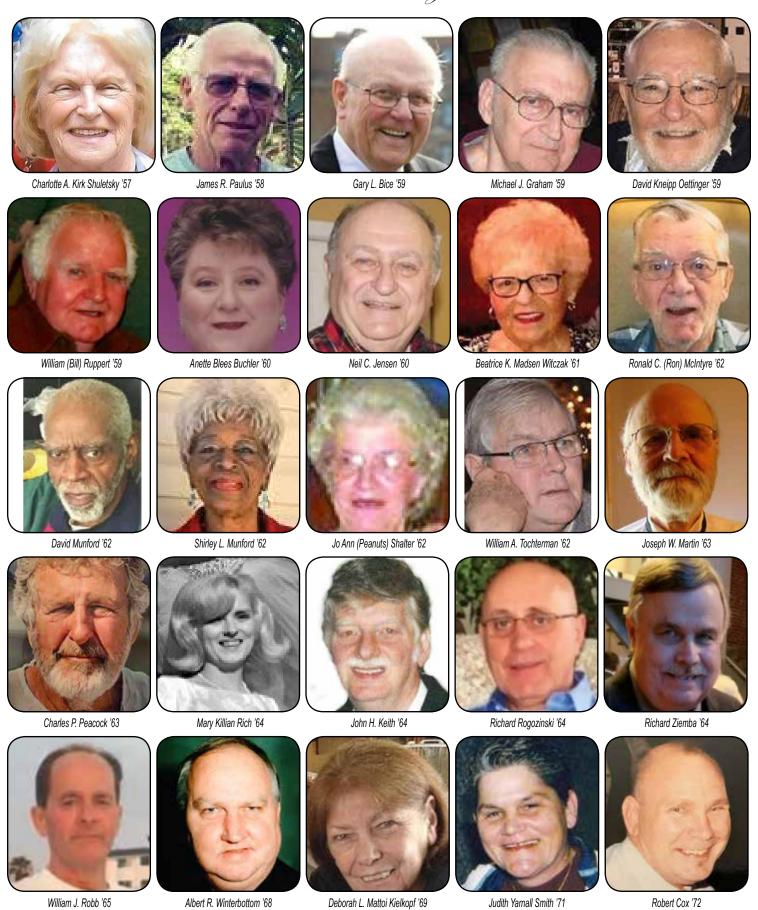
We do our best to make sure those who help us achieve our mission are recognized, but sometimes a name or two may not appear

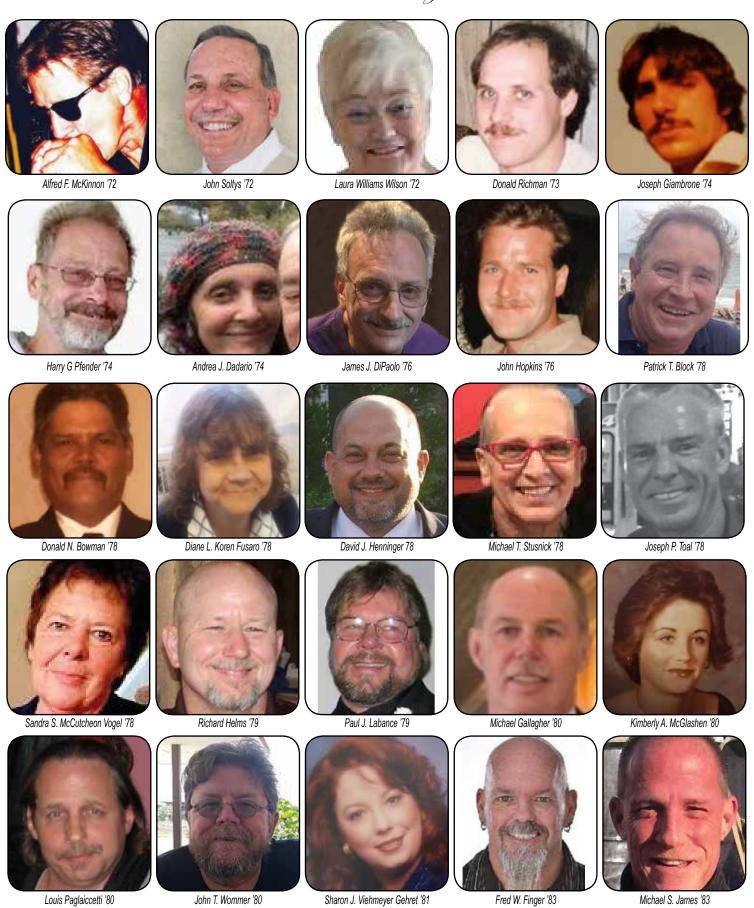
Please visit www.BensalemAlumni.org for a complete list, and let us know if anyone is missing!

where it should in print.

To Everyone Who Has Donated!









Patrick L. Riley '85



Joseph R. Ziff '85



Donald Ermel '87



Davida C. Godett '93



Sean Bannon '97



Saranna Brandt Pembroke '99



Christina M. Marconi Gaudio '00



James Joseph Elinich '05



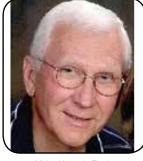
Shane P. Gallagher '09



Raymond Horner '19



Tom Federick ~ Teacher



Michael Homel ~ Teacher



Lillian Yacopchak Kriss ~ Teacher



Gloria Cowdrick Law '73

~ Not Pictured ~
Frances Bailey '38
Elizabeth (Betsy) Martin Butta '38
Ruth Hughes Ackman '39
Dolores R. Kolb Groh '40
Alice M. Weis Miller '41
Helen Perkins VanSant '42
Marie Gordon Brenner '44
Robert Moore '44
Eva J. Daileda '45

Norman L. Kline '45 C. Richard Osterman '46 Marie M. Sawyer '52 Margareth H. Segwick-Ryan '52 Donald L. (Don) Heaney '54 Jennifer N. Waltz '55 George J. Anderson '56 Sandra L. Junghanns Saladino '57 Cynthia Bumm '58 Daniel Day '58 Wilson J. Hansbury '59 Margaret Yeager '61 Harold Tither '63 Frances Climie '65 John J. Sabolcik '66 Timothy J. Driscoll '69 Todd Ruggie '69 George Dobrowolsky '70 Rex S. Simmons '70 Dennis G. Moessner '71 Julia I. Barrett Taylor '71
Jean A. Mudie Jones '72
Dawn V. Klauder Catrambone '73
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Mildred M. Thorpe '74
Susan L. Hanlon Toal '74
Anthony T. Nicoletti '75
Al Harris '77
James A. Deskiewicz '80
Kelly M. Stork Evans '81

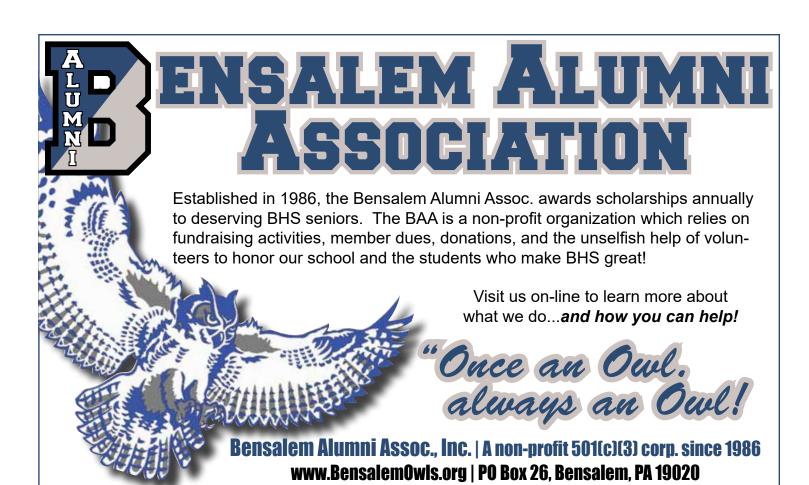
Salvatore Stabeno '81 David Hampson '83 Brandon Wanderer '99 Kelly M. Miller '06 Samantha Hutcheson '07 Ashley Mae Karas '08 Nicholas Yushko '08

"Once an Owl, always an Owl!



Bensalem Alumni Association Membership Form

Please Print Clearly.	Name: Maiden Name:				
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	Phone:	Cel	t	Class of:	
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