



THE OWLMANAC

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

Fall, 2009

www.BensalemAlumni.org

Vol. 2, No.4

From the President's desk ...



Welcome to all of our new members. Even with the economy in flux, we have managed to increase our contributing membership by over 25%! Your \$10 member dues help us to reach our goals of aiding a graduating senior.

First report is the big news of the upcoming All-Year Reunion. This is for anyone who graduated from or went to Bensalem High School. This is the first time we have ever taken on something this big, and we're really hoping for a great turnout! Our committee is really working hard on this to put together a great night of socializing with former students. After all, we all have something in common and that is we are all Owls! *Once an Owl, always an Owl!* See story and invitation in this newsletter.

Our golf outing continues to be a successful event every year. This has been the base of all we have accomplished. This year we had 120 golfers and great weather again. We appreciate our sponsors and golfers because they really contribute to our goal of raising money for our scholarships. Joseph Barbieri '83 created and donated a custom hand-made pear wood putter with our logo etched on the bottom. The lucky winner of this was Lou D'Andrea '69. Congratulations, Lou, I hope it makes you an awesome putter! And a big thanks to Joseph, too.

This was the first year we had digital swing pictures. To check them out go to www.BensalemAlumni.org and go to "Golf Results." You may see a few bad swings in there – but they would all be mine! The pictures are pretty unique and as far as I know there are no other outings doing this at this time. Since everything is high tech, if you played golf with us you can send your swing shot – or somebody else's – via e-mail to your phone and then watch it anytime you want. This will help you get through the coming winter, and maybe you will learn how to play a little better and come back next year to win our event.

Continued on back page

Ray Guim

Ray Guim, '74
president@bensalemalumni.org

First All-Year Reunion Celebration Set for April 30, 2010 – Save The Date!

Sure, you go to your class reunion and see people you graduated with...but what about people who graduated a year or two before or after? Now you can see people you went to school with at the Bensalem Alumni Association's inaugural All-Year Reunion Celebration.

The reunion is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2010, at Fisher's Tudor House (1858 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020) from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The cost is \$85 per person (if purchased by February 14th, 2010; \$90 per person thereafter). The ticket price includes:

- ~ Full Open Bar
- ~ Buffet Dinner
- ~ Coffee and Tea
- ~ Magic by Jim Straub
- ~ Dessert
- ~ Music by Marlin Disc Jockeys
- ~ Memory Book
- ~ Reunion Souvenir

There will also be photo opportunities, and all attendees will get a "Memory Book" filled with pictures, comments and mes-

sages from Bensalem alum. The Memory Book is a great opportunity for alumni to share fond memories/photos, and businesses to show their support for the Bensalem community the Alumni Association's mission to provide scholarships for graduating Bensalem seniors. Build your customer base by placing an ad in the Memory Book that includes a coupon or discount!

Prices for ads in the Memory Book are: \$125 full-page ad (camera ready copy needed); \$75 half-page ad (camera ready copy needed); \$50 quarter-page ad (camera ready copy needed); \$25 business card (business card needed); \$15 photo and two-line message/thought; \$10 two-line message/thought.

Space in the Memory Book may be ordered by completing the appropriate sections of the form (see back page) and mailing it to the address provided, or by contacting Margie Anderson Knowles '81 (margie-knowles@aol.com; 215-208-7903) or Ray Guim '74 (rayguim@fast.net; 215-245-2106).

23rd Annual Golf Outing A Hit

More than 120 golfers enjoyed great weather and good times at our 23rd Annual Golf Outing, held June 17, 2009, at Bensalem Township Country Club. This year, for the first time, we had digital swing shots taken by Ray Guim. You can check them out at www.BensalemAlumni.org. You'll see we had plenty of good golfers at our outing plus a few good sports.

This year we had another first; Joe Barbieri '83 donated a hand-made pear

wood custom putter with our alumni owl etched on it. This was a very nice gift. Lou D'Andrea '69 was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Lou, and thank you, Joe! We also had a hand-made stained glass golfer that Joe MacAdams '63 won. Another prize was a football donated by the Eagles. Each golfer received a prize. All proceeds go to our Alumni Scholarship Fund. We're definitely looking forward to doing it again next year!

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Join old friends in the Bensalem Alumni Association!
visit our website at www.BensalemAlumni.org or www.BensalemOwls.org!

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.

Who Are We?

When we were in 9th grade, we decided to get involved with the upcoming gym exhibition. There were many things to do: tumbling, rings, high bar, etc. The one thing we decided to do was learn a few tricks on the high bar. We never used the high bar in gym class.

With a little help we could get on the bar. We did forward spins, backward spins, hangs (by arms and knees), swing back and forth, and drop off.

All was well until the night of the gym exhibit. We were really surprised to see the high bar we practiced on was pulled up. They needed the area for seating.

This high bar was much higher and we would take turns helping each other to reach the bar -- putting one foot in the cupped hands and one hand on the shoulder, then, on the count of three, we'd push up. I helped Jean and Kay was to help me up. Jean was to spin forward and I was to spin backward, then reverse, and then both hang by our knees, swing and drop off.

I was ready and Kay put her hands together to help me up, but I couldn't get up. We tried three times and everyone was laughing. Then George Ashton walked over, put his hands on my waist and picked me up to the bar. I was laughing so hard that I couldn't get myself on the bar, but I finally made it and we did our tricks. I was still laughing when I dropped off.

Can you guess who we are?

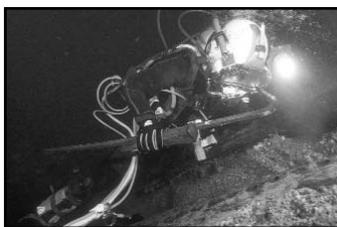
Kay Adams '51, Jean Smith Brady '51, Dolores Tilley Hansen '51

Where Are They Now? A. Ron Marigna '79

Curriculum: I was "Business" my first two years and "Con Ed" my last two. I don't think they do that anymore, I sure hope not; that could really pigeon hole a kid if they are not clear about their future.

Activities: Basketball: 9, 10, 11, 12; Football: 9; Track: 9, 10, 11, 12. Looking back I can't help but wonder what it would have been like to be involved in activities outside of sports.

After Graduation: I attended Fredrick Military Academy in Portsmouth Va. with my sights set on the Air Force Academy, but then I noticed Radford University. After finishing at Radford, you name it, I made an attempt at doing it, from short order cook to Assistant Athletic Director with Gershman YM & YWHA at Broad & Pine. I did some acting with a small theater group while living in Center City and working at the Y (even landed a small part in an indie film called "Watermelon Women" as Cop 2, if you are wondering). This was about the time I met the best part of my life, my wife Tamara.



Occupation: I am a deep sea diver for Cal Dive International and have been for about 2-1/2 years. The work requires so much focus, that in my first year or so I didn't think I was going to make it. Then one steamy hot August day 200 or so miles out, after losing a rather costly piece of equipment in 1500ft of water, I was given some words of wisdom (or an ultimatum, if you will) by a seasoned 30-year-deep sea diving veteran: "Get your head in the Gulf or get your ass back to Philly." I should be earning my first class diver rating in 18 to 24 months. This will open up significant opportunities on the international scene as a freelance deep sea diver. Once I get to that level I'll be home more, planning to end my work life on my terms. With all that said, this doesn't happen without the support of an amazing wife.

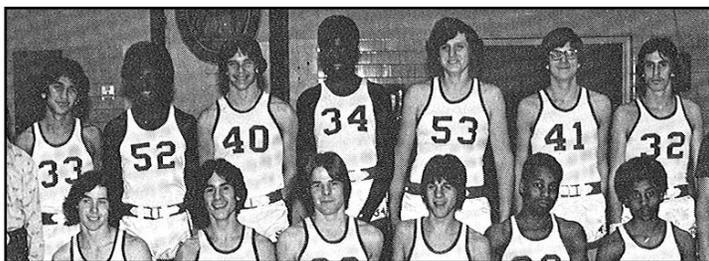


Family info: Married 15 years to Tamara Lynn, with my two guys, Dikembe, 13, and Kasta, 5, the smooth talking kindergartner. We have a somewhat unique family dynamic with my oldest son battling Autism, which to his credit does not define him nor our family. Not a day goes by that we don't count our blessing, and give a thought to those, under much tougher circumstances, looking to solve this most perplexing issue.

Favorite memory of Bensalem: Our sophomore year when (the J.V. basketball team coached by Sheldon Per) finished 19-2 with a 17-game winning streak. The Varsity won the LBCL championship that same night, but ours was sweeter...we were a team of friends.

Favorite teacher at Bensalem: It's a toss up: Mark Banchi vs Lenore Bell I was lucky as hell to have those two people available to me at that point in my life.

Last Words: I've had the good fortune to meet many people from many walks of life since that beautiful June day in 1979, and I am pleased to say I was prepared to exchange ideas with just about all of them. I'm proud to say my children are being afforded the same opportunity to grow up in our little town of Bensalem. No, it's not perfect, but it's pretty damn close.



Ron (#34) and the 1976-77 JV Basketball Team that went 19-2 with a 17-game winning streak under Coach Sheldon Per.

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

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Website Coordinator	Bob Bell, III '70
Golf Committee	Jim Bogan '67
Golf Committee	Mike Deering '71
All Year Reunion Committee	Donna Fleming '77 &
Co-Chairs	Margie Anderson Knowles '81

Obituaries



Louis A. Checchia '41	Thomas E. Tregella (Teacher)	Ronald M. Maxymuik '76
Robert F. Trapp '45	William J. Weber Sr. '60	Deborah Wilde '75
Ronald J. Zuvich '65	Mildred M. Buck '51	Bruce C. Glover USMC (Ret) '71
Karen Ann Moran '82	Ellen L. Keough '64	Bob DeChant '63
Joanne Woodward Daly '85	Christine L. Wikberg '66	Frances Kessler '62
Patrick J. Dunleavy Jr. '06	Claire T. Mee '38	George B. Ridge '38
Nancy Scholeck (nee Poulette) '53	Joe Janiszewski '74	Ruth Weidmann '48
Benjamin H. Hughes '34	Mildred M. Buck '51	Evelyn Litwin Groner '42
Henry G. Kilian '41	Ellen L. Keough '64	Alan S. Kolsky '88
Francis "Frank" D. Guy '52	William J. Weber Sr. '60	Michael Patrick Mackey '79
	Charles R. Winther III '67	



Virginia "Ginny"
Bell '59



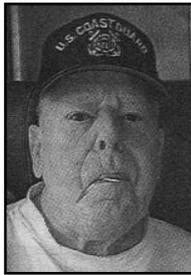
Carol M.
(Meenan) Carr '67



Linda (Walleisa)
DiGiulian '79



Anna Lorraine
(Herritt) Sozanski '54



Leonard P.
Ridge Jr. '53



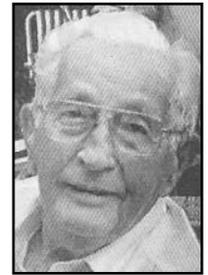
Ethel M. Harrar
Dransfield '37



Thomas Robinson
II '60



Joseph W. Fox '53



Glen R. Cobleigh
'06 (1928)

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.

Dear BAA:

Thank you so much for the recent Bensalem Alumni Association Award.

I don't know how you "pulled it off," but came as a complete and total surprise, and while I was somewhat embarrassed by all of the fuss and attention, I truly appreciate the sentiments that prompted it.

As the Mayor of Bensalem Township, I try my best to support all of the many organizations and associations that operate within my community, and luckily, I have a great team to work with and they help me to get things done.

In any event, please know that I truly appreciate the loyalty and support of the members of the Bensalem Alumni Association, and I thank each

Letters to the Association...



Mayor Joseph DeGirolamo (l), Bensalem Alumni Association President, Ray Guim (c), and BAA Board Member Jim Bogan.

and every one of you; God Bless and Best Wishes to all.

Mayor Joseph DeGirolamo

Dear BAA:

I would just like to thank everyone involved in choosing me to receive The Chris Jones Memorial Scholarship. It is a great honor and I'm extremely appreciative.

Melanie Litvinenko
Class of '09

Dear BAA:

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient for the Cecelia Snyder Memorial Scholarship. I will use this scholarship towards my tuition at Temple where I will be studying mathematics/secondary education.

Jamie Bauman
Class of '09

Dear BAA:

Enjoy "The Owlmanac"; just would like to receive it more often. Keep up the good work!

Pat (Tither) Malloy
Class of '54

Dear BAA:

I am the recipient of the Jack and Dolores Tilley Hansen Scholarship. Thank you very much. I am proud and honored to have the opportunity to represent the Bensalem High School Alumni Assoc..

Jacqueline Deegler
Class of '09

Dear BAA:

Thank you very much for the Mat's Pharmacy Scholarship. It is absolutely appreciable. These funds really helps every child in high school and encourages them to go far.

Ujjaival Pat hak
Class of '09

Dear BAA:

Thank you very much for bestowing me the honor of being named the Thomas Jerome Mitchell Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Matthew Nathan
Class of '09

Dear BAA:

I certainly appreciate all the effort that everyone is putting into the association. Thank you!

Jacklyn (Walker) McCrimmon
Class of '66

Dear BAA:

The longer I live and interact with the society around me, the more I appreciate the kind of education Bensalem High offered.

Helen Cassile
Class of '34

REUNION NEWS



Class of 1999

Let's get back together! We know it's been 10 years, but we've missed you A LOT! So let's rekindle what we had back in high school – even if it's just for one night. Meet us at **The Buck Hotel**: 1200 Buck Road, Feasterville, PA 19053 (We'll be the ones in "dressy casual" attire) on November 28, 2009. Registration: 6:30 PM-7:00 PM; Reunion: 7:00 PM-11:00 PM. There will be plenty of **yummy hors d'oeuvres, a DJ and a cash bar. ENTRANCE IS \$45 PER PERSON** (Payment must be received before November 16; Payment WILL NOT be accepted at the door.).

Class of 1962

Thanks to Clara Eggert Eckelmeyer



The Class of 1962 held a luncheon on June 24, 2009 at Michael's Family Restaurant, 3340 Street Road, Bensalem. It was "a great success," as more than 60 classmates and friends were on hand.

Class President Rich Lee can get you and a "plus one" on the guest list via: **Paypal** – His email is ryl326@gmail.com or **Check or Money Order** Make it out to "Richard Lee". Then mail to: Richard Lee, PO Box 4095, New York, NY 10163. **QUESTIONS?** Contact Rich Lee or post them on the **Ninety-nine Bensalem Owls** Facebook page.

Class of 1969



Grade School to Grads! This gang from the Class of 1969 – which got together October 3, 2009, at Washington Crossing State Park – all started out at Andalusia Elementary together. Pictured are: Leigh Pallatt Schwartz, Richard Eggert, Diane Jones Pittam, Loretta Behm Bagnell, Wayne Frankensfield, Ralph Smith, John Brown, Diane Vogel Leighton, Ida Biddle Mayer, Joe Fusaro, Todd Ruggie, and Paul Okoorian.

Alumni Cruise Recap

The first Alumni Cruise returned to port with 13 happy Bensalem alums, and \$445 for the association's scholarship fund. Many thanks to Joan Bell-Dumoff '74, Travel Manager for AAA South Jersey for organizing the trip. Details for next year's trip will appear in The Owlmanac as soon as they become available.

FALL FESTIVAL



We recently went to the Fall Festival in Bensalem which is an unbelievable day for the Township. Over 15,000 people came to this event. The festival had a tremendous amount of vendors either selling or giving away merchandise. There were singers, cheerleaders, karate demos, music, games for the kids, a giant car show, and even a big cat show. If you missed it this year, maybe you can join us next year.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

About our websites: www.BensalemOwls.org and www.BensalemAlumni.org. We need two sites to do all that we demand from the web without blowing our budget. Bob Bell III '70 manages our original site (www.BensalemAlumni.org). Bob started this site long before everyone started getting online. This site holds pictures, meeting dates, officers, golf results, scholarship recipients, links, and more. It is a great place to get familiar with what we do as a group. A big thanks goes out to Bob for all he does. The other site – www.BensalemOwls.org – is where we have 26,000 names of all who graduated. So far, nearly

3,000 people have created profiles on this site. A profile is easy to do; just click on your name and fill in the blanks. This site also has reunion announcements, "Do You Remember?" trivia, and a section to sign up for the upcoming All-Year Reunion, too. There is also the "In Memory" section, a classmate forum, and a message forum. According to the webbies, we will soon be able to do live chat on this site. Stay tuned.

An unfortunate part of running the site is that I now post obituaries. I will only do this for obituaries that are in a newspaper or some other publication. I know this is not a pleasant thing to receive in your e-mail. I suggest if you do not want to receive the notices that you filter them out by not accepting e-mails with the word

"obituary" in the title. This may sound a little complex but depending how you get your email it is not that hard at all. Just go to your e-mail help and type in "filter." I will always put this in the title so if you do not filter them, they will be easy to delete. This problem should change by the next newsletter because our webbies are working on a solution so that each person can decide whether to receive the obituaries or not.

As you can see, we are pretty busy. If you have some time, we could use your help. You will find our meetings listed at www.BensalemAlumni.org So if you have a little time to give to your community, come out and give it a try. Thank you.

Join old friends in the Bensalem Alumni Association!
visit our website at www.BensalemAlumni.org or www.BensalemOwls.org!

The Bensalem Alumni Association All-Year Reunion Celebration

Cut and return this form with payment

Please reply by February 14, 2010

Dress: Please no jeans or sneakers

Make checks payable to: Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc., P. O. Box 26, Bensalem, PA 19020

Graduate's name: _____ Maiden name: _____

Address: _____ Grad Year: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

_____ Tickets at \$_____ (\$85/person by Feb. 14; \$90 thereafter) \$ _____

2010 Alumni Association Dues (\$10) + _____

Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship Fund + _____

Memory Book thought/picture/advertisement + _____*

***Total Amount Enclosed** \$ _____*

**Please print the "thought" or picture caption you would like to include in the Memory Book below.
However, for business cards or ads, please enclose camera-ready copy. See story, pg. 1, for price options.*

