



THE OWLMANAC

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

Spring, 2010

www.BensalemOwls.org

Vol. 2, No.5

From the President's desk ...

Thank you for taking the time to review our newsletter. We know there are lots of causes to support in this world, and we appreciate your supporting ours.

First, before I start rambling on, I would like to mention the upcoming golf outing on June 23, 2010. This is our 24th Annual Golf Outing. We have had great success each year, and it has only continued to improve. This year there will be swingshots of each golfer printed on 8.5" x 11" photo paper that will be handed out at dinner. This is a very unique gift and one that I am sure you have never received from any other golf event. As always, the pictures will be posted online. Bensalem Township Country Club looks great as they continue to improve not only their course but the dining area, too. So come join us for our 24th Annual Golf Outing and Fundraiser. All proceeds go to our scholarship fund.

As most of you know, we had our very first All Year Reunion Fundraiser on April 30, 2010 at Fisher's Tudor House. Personally, this was the best reunion I could have imagined. It was great to see so many people from so many different classes. I am not sure about you, but when I was in high school I knew many people from classes above and below me. I was also friends with my classmates' siblings. It certainly made me feel good to see these folks again. I saw some people at the reunion that I may have never seen again for the rest of my life if it hadn't been for this gathering. I think it was impossible to have gone to this event and not have known anyone! We had classmates as far back as '38 and as young as '07. We had many teachers that were alumni and even some who were not alumni, too. The nice bonus for this event was that there were many families there, including grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

As everyone entered the reunion, we had the Bensalem String Orchestra playing some really soothing music. Thank you to all of the students who participated and to Mr. Nespola, the director, and his assistant, Mr. Flagg. Also featured at the reunion was the magician Jim Straub who wowed the crowd. I am not sure how he does his tricks, but whatever he does sure works. We had Marlin Disc Jockeys' Dave Kim playing some music from all the years. When we made the arrangements, we were told that there was no way anyone would dance at this event since no one had ever danced at any of the others. Well, they were wrong about this one! We had lots of people on the dance floor having a great time. Not that I danced, I was way too busy yakking up a storm. We also had a photo booth that was pretty cool, too. You can check the site to see everyone's pictures. Look for the All Year Reunion Fundraiser tab and then for our gallery. (Remember, extra points for getting the "B" right, bunny ears

Continued on back page



24th Annual Golf Outing Slated for June 23, 2010



The Bensalem Alumni Association will hold its 24th Annual Golf Outing on Wednesday, June 23, at the Bensalem Country Club. Last year the BAA raised more than \$6,000 for its scholarship fund, and we're looking for an even better result from this year's event.

Registration begins at 7am, with complimentary coffee and doughnuts served prior to the 8am shotgun start. The \$100 fee also covers golf with cart, on-course Swing Shots and refreshments (soft

drinks, water, beer), a barbeque buffet lunch in the Rose Room (beer, soft drinks and water included plus a cash bar), and prizes for all golfers. If you're only interested in lunch, the cost is \$20.

If you'd like to volunteer to help during the outing, or for sponsorships and/or register information, please visit the alumni website (www.BensalemOwls.org) or contact Ray Guim, BAA President, by phone at 215-245-2106 or by email at president@bensalemalumni.org.

New Gym Construction Underway



Construction on "Gym 3" has begun, and is expected to be completed in 2011. The new facility is located behind the North-end gym, over what had been the tennis courts.

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

Alumni Update

Email information and photos to Ray Guim at president@BensalemOwls.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.



Alumni in Winter Concert

Alumni choir members join members of the current Bensalem High School choir to perform *Carol of the Bells* at the Winter Concert last December.

Relay For Life

The Bensalem Relay for Life Society has been happening in Bensalem for 11 years now. This 24-hour event is held at Bensalem High School stadium on the last Saturday in June (this year it is June 26). It is for everyone to attend; you do not have to be part of Relay to come to the event. Please visit our website to sign up or for more information. Thank you.

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=25280

Mary Ann Ruggiero-Griffin, '71
215-499-4648;

bensalem1971@verizon.net

Alumni an Eagles Cheerleader...Again!

Congratulations to Ayva Wolset '07 for being selected as a Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleader for the second straight year. Ayva is the daughter of alum Joe Wolset '77 and



Gayanne DeKoyer Wolset '76. She received her dance training at Bucks County Dance Studio, which is owned by alum Rex Henriques '76 and Sandy DeKoyer Henriques '85.



Complete details -- including venues, pricing and contact information -- are available at www.BensalemOwls.org

Class of 1955

Weekend Reunion in Cape May
October 1-3, 2010

Class of 1961

50th Reunion
October 8, 2011.

Class of 1980

30th Reunion
November 20, 2010

Class of 1985

25th Reunion
October 29, 2010

Class of 1990

20th Reunion
August 20-21, 2010

Where Are They Now?

Jack Dixon, '78

Author



Jack Dixon...now

What "school" were you in?

I was in Occupational. I went to Tech School for electronics. I didn't like it much then, because I wasn't sure it was what I really wanted to do.



...in 1978

Were you in any school activities?

I was pretty rebellious in school. I didn't participate in any organized activities. I did, however, help to organize the first real rock concert at Bensalem High, headlining my band, Nova Star, and the bands Pepe (Marc Pepe's band) and The Breeze.

Who were your favorite or most influential teacher(s)?

Shirley Shiner was pretty influential, although I know she never thought she was. She always told me I could be anything I wanted to be. I always replied that I knew that, and that I was going to be a rock star. It frustrated her, but she was right, and I have done everything I've wanted to do. Mr. Schutter was also very encouraging. I always knew he truly cared about my future.

What did you do after BHS?

I joined the Air Force in 1979. I went into intelligence as a Cryptologic Linguist. I learned to read, write, and speak Arabic, and collected, translated, and ana-

Read more at
<http://www.JackDixon.net>

lyzed intelligence data. I flew reconnaissance missions in the Mediterranean and got out of the service after 4-1/2 years. I took college courses, and got close to completing my degree in Business Administration. I never quite finished college, because my career took off more quickly than I thought it would. I was promoted through the ranks and had less and less time for school. I took my first Vice President position in 2000 as VP of Distribution for a company in New York City. That job taught me the value of a balanced life, and I left that career for one that allowed me more time to pursue my real passion, writing, and to actually have a life.

Besides *The Pict*, have you written other books?

I've started five different books. *The Pict* was my first success. I'm almost finished with my second novel, *Jerusalem Falls*, which I'll publish in 2010. It's set in 13th century Europe and Jerusalem. It's full of Templar Knights, crusades, inquisitors, conflict, drama, and eventually, resolution.

When *Jerusalem Falls* is published, I'll go back and complete the expanded version of *The Pict*, to make it into what it was originally intended. I'm looking forward to that, because it's the story that's closest to my heart.

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

The official newsletter of the Bensalem Alumni Association, Inc.
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Golf Committee	Mike Deering '71
All Year Reunion Committee	Donna Fleming '77 &
Co-Chairs	Margie Anderson Knowles '81

Bensalem Alumni Association's Inaugural All-Year Reunion A Great Night For Old Friends...and New!



The Bensalem Alumni Association held its first All-Year Reunion and Scholarship Fundraiser on Friday, April 30, at Fisher's Tudor House. Approximately 400 alumni representing nearly 70 years of graduating classes mixed and mingled, rekindling old friendships and creating new ones.

Here's What People Are Saying...

I had a great time at the reunion. Everyone did a fantastic job. ~ **Beverly Vogel Wagner '74**

It was a good time at the All Year Reunion Scholarship Fundraiser. Wish there were more from the Class of '70. Maybe next time, ~ **Nancy Ashton Anderson '70**

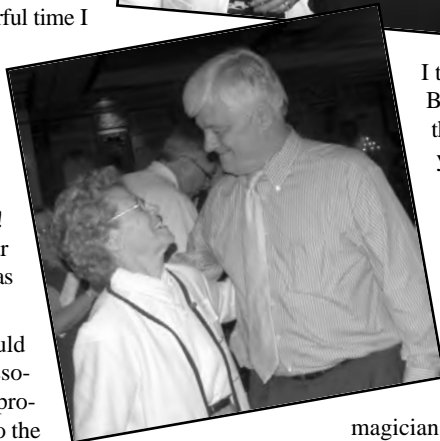
Thank you to the committee who arranged Bensalem's Alumni Association's All-Year Reunion Celebration and Fundraiser!! All of their hard work certainly paid off...all had a FANTASTIC time! The BEST reunion celebration I've been to!! Such fun memories were made Friday night!! Thank you! ~ **Luanne Ashton DiPaolo '74**

I just wanted to let you know what a wonderful time I and my husband had!! When we first sat down to eat my husband said, "You won't be getting me to another one of these reunions! He had gone with me to the Class of '74 33rd Reunion. But, by the end of the evening he had changed his tune. Heck, actually I didn't see him most of the night!!! The magician spent about 15 minutes at our table and was awesome!!! The food was good!!! ~ **Juanita Rowser (Finn) '74**

Val and I had a great time. We both would love to get more involved in the alumni association. Please keep me in mind for future programs as I would love to be a connection to the high school for the alumni. Thanks for all your hard work to make Friday night a great success!! ~ **Steve Louella, 9th grade Assistant Principal, BHS**

Great Night! You and your team did an outstanding job. ~ **Lee Cannon '66**

My family and I had a wonderful time. My one sister was able to sit and talk with her all-time favorite teacher, Mrs. Whitney, and it was great seeing old names with "new" faces! The bag was very nice (love the mug), the DJ was very good. ~ **Grace Gruver '66**



My sister, cousin, and I had a marvelous time at the reunion. We had lots of fun! I saw people who I had not seen for 43 years. It was great. Thanks so much. ~ **Barbara Gilmore '69**

You and your colleagues deserve our gratitude and appreciation. It was a wonderful event and a real opportunity to connect with one another. The strolling magician was FANTASTIC and the photo booth was a really neat idea. All in all, it was an evening filled with good memories and fresh opportunities to renew old friendships. Kudos to you and all who worked so hard to make the reunion possible. Pax semper. ~ **Mark E. Banchi. BHS Faculty (retired)**

What a great night!!! Thanks to the hard-working organization. It was a huge success. I hope we're going to do it again, because now that everyone knows what fun it was, I'm sure the turnout will Grow, Grow, Grow!!! Thanks for a Terrific Night! ~ **Carol Cianni '70**

I saw people I haven't seen since I left Bensalem in 1975. Look forward to the next and hope some different people also show up. Thought it was very well planned, although it would be nice if there was a cheaper option for those who don't drink or only drink one drink. ~ **Lois Patti '73**

I thought the reunion was a huge success too! As President of the Bensalem Class of 1967, I have organized many class reunions over the years and I know what a huge undertaking it can be. I think that your committee did a fabulous job and I hope that you will do it again! Thanks for a fun evening! ~ **Cheryl (Harland) Deans '67**

I have to say...I had a blast - seeing sooo many faces that I would not have seen if I were just attending my own class reunion. From my classmates, to friends of my parents, to old teachers, to classmates from the years surrounding mine, and more. And heck, I even think I made a Few NEW FRIENDS!

PLEASE email me your suggestions or critiques of the nite.

Let me know what you thought about the food, the DJ, the magician, the gift bags, all of it. Please don't tell me that the name tags were too small (I know!). All in all, it was a wonderful evening and we are already moving forward on the plans for the next one. As Always, OWL PROUD!!! ~ **Margie Anderson Knowles '81, VP, Co-Chair All-Year Reunion and Scholarship Fundraiser, margieknowles@aol.com**

Thanks again to anyone who came to the First All-Year Reunion and Fundraiser. We appreciate your supporting our organization. Please go to our website - www.BensalemOwls.org - and click on the AYRF Photo Booth link to see the pictures from our Photobooth. I hope everyone had a great time! ~ **Ray Guim '74, President, BAA**

The Bensalem Alumni Association holds meetings on the first Monday of the month (Sept. to June) at 6pm. Meetings are held in the cafeteria at Robert Shafer Middle School, and are open to all BHS Alumni. Join Us!

OBITUARIES



Robert David "Bob" Plunkett, '77



Bertha Lee (Franklyn) Green, '64



Christopher McGregor, '04



James A. Mininger, '68



Matthew S. Pinto, '77



Herman J. Birnbrauer, '66



E. Albert "Buddy" Checchia - '64



Elizabeth "Libby" Jones Griffin, '77



Grace W. VanSant, '27



Henrietta "Etta" Wojciechowski Mooney, '68



Robert J. Earl Sr., '64



James Lieberman, '38



Michael Mazurek, '86

Bryan D. Reichelt Sr. '74

Karen Ann Moran '82

Kathryn M. (Grow) Freeman '56

Russell F. Jackson '30

Harry F. Schurr '55

Kelly F. Chilcote '99

Harry J. Aikens, '48

Margaret A. Washington (80 years old) '48

John F. Tafel, *Faculty*

Toby William Tarlini '90

Roberta (Hayes) Magni '43

Bernice H. Pinto Clark

Montgomery, '60

Gwendolyn Whyte, '30

Dean Steckclair, '62

Hope Edwards, '93

Charles Fairweather, '64

Stanley Vilius, '69

Charles White, '41

Frances C. Miller (Leonard), '39

Edna T. Yost Brannigan, '42

Linda Lee Reeves, '69

Atanasios E. (Tommy) Panagiotidis, '98

Charles F. Scott, '34

James V. Elinich, '62

W. William Wharton, '36

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.

BAA Salutes Alumni in the Military



Gunnery Sergeant Joseph R. McIlhenney ('78)

retired from the U.S. Marines. His personal decorations include a Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy and Marine Corps and the Achievement Metal (with 3 stars), the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Military Outstanding Service Medal and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Metal (with 6 stars).



Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Donnell A. James ('91)

has returned to the U.S. after being deployed overseas at a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. James, a food service supervisor, is a member of the 328th Brigade Support Battalion based in Lancaster, PA. He has served in the military for 16 years. He is the son of Cheryl James of Bensalem.



This section of 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.

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President's Message

Continued from page 1

are worth two points, and kisses are a bonus.) We also had a 90-minute-long slide show. I am sure no one watched the whole thing, but if you did you would have seen the diversity of the people from Bensalem High School. We live not only all over the world but all over the country too. Thanks everyone who sent me pictures. They were awesome!

During the event, our guests were introduced to Sally Van Sant Sonesky '52 and Carol McCloskey who represented the Bensalem Historical Society. Sally and Carol were selling their items and making people aware of what they do as an organization. They have been a big help with whatever we have needed. Big thanks go out to them. Also during the night, our association sold various items which you can see and buy on our web site at www.BensalemOwls.org at the product gallery. We have shirts, mugs, repair tools, umbrellas, hat clips, and ball markers. If you have questions on these items, let us know.

Since everyone now knows that I am completely terrible with a microphone in my hands, I would like to take a minute now to thank the committee personally. First our co-chairs Vice

President Margie Knowles '81 and Secretary Donna Fleming '77 both did a wonderful job of keeping us on track and focused on our goals. Margie really took on a lot of extras such as personally creating the memory book. If you saw this, you will know that she did a fantastic job. I am not sure what we would have done if Linda Panuccio '72 did not jump into the mix. She not only helped with the memory book and making sure that everyone got their ticket but also with a lot of behind-the-scenes work. John Paone '79 not only assembles this newsletter but also put the memory book together, too. Secretary Pat Ferguson-Marks '72 was great in handling all the details that go along with a project like this. Jim Bogan '67 pitched in to help with the reunion, though he is our golf chairman and does a nice job with that, too! Gayanne Wolset '76 was on the prize committee and got everything together for the mugs and bags that we gave out. Nina Day-Lecuyer '74 was an all-around big help. Larry Silcox '72 and Mike Deering '71 were our sign crew and more. Natasha Triplett '96, Betty Klebe '64, Jack Klebe '65, and John Bowan '77 all helped not only on the committee but with everything that was asked of them. Deron Miller '00 was a late edition and helped Margie with all the graphics for everything. We cannot forget

Dolores Tilley-Hansen '51 who brings a sense of reason to our group. Thanks to all. I hope you will be ready to do it again! As for Fisher's Tudor house I think they did a great job. They were courteous and easy to work with, the food was great, and the place had a lot of class. Overall we were very satisfied with the hall.

We do know that there were things for us to improve next time. One of the things that we will be working on is increasing the size of the name tags. It seems like we all have trouble reading in the dark! I suggested hats with electric bill boards, but the committee decided that may cost too much! No matter what, though, we will continue to improve our party for the next time. It was a giant get-together and we thank everyone who came for making the party a big success.

Enjoy the newsletter, and I hope you will visit and sign up on our site. Dues are \$10 for 2010 and as always any donations are gratefully accepted. See you on the web!

Ray Guim

Ray Guim, '74

president@bensalem alumni.org

Township School Board Honors Guim for Service

Ray Guim, president of the Bensalem Alumni Association, was honored by the Bensalem Township School District Board of School Directors for his "personal commitment, participation and readiness to render service on behalf of the school community."

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_____ Dues for 2010 \$10.00 enclosed

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_____ \$25.00 - \$49.00 Grey Owl Club

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- _____ Contact me about becoming involved in the Alumni Association

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COMMENTS:

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

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