

The Tradition

Parma Senior High Alumni Newsletter



Spring 2005 • Vol. 12, No. 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, spring finally made it!! The trees, flowers and bushes in the Alumni Garden are in bloom and it is a refreshing spot in the media center area.

With the onset of the 4th marking period, we find school winding down and activities coming to a conclusion—some possibly for the last time. Claudia Fontana, a health and physical education teacher at Parma Senior, was awarded the Alumni Teacher's Grant for her health project on reinforcing positive behavior in students. This year we are awarding six \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors who also have at least one parent or guardian that is also a Parma Senior Alum. (Names will be printed in the Fall, 2005 *The Tradition*).

For this quarter, the alumni Association has donated to the following: Drama Department for the Spring Play—Anything Goes, After Prom, 2005; PTSA for red geraniums around the front school sign; Amber Electra, a graduating senior that has been selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.

Many classes are getting ready to hold reunions and are in the planning stage or are finalizing their events. Please make sure you contact the Alumni Office so we can advertise your reunion in *The Tradition* and on the website: www.pshalumni.org.

Because of 9/11, we now have more paperwork that needs to be filled out and filed to insure everything runs smoothly.

Our annual Scholarship golf Outing is coming up June 30, 2005 at Ridgewood golf course. If you want to participate in a fun time, renew friendships and make some new ones, please join us.. OR you can sponsor a hole...

We are now accepting nominations for the Hall of Fame. They need to be submitted by April 30, 2005. The induction will be in the Fall, 2005.

We are always looking for alums to help out, so give a call: 440-885-3700.

Have a great Spring!!!!
Nancy Fedak, President.

From the Editors Desk

A. DeMarco '62

Your Alumni Association is constantly evolving as it grows. We have continued to expand our scholarship program and this year we gave 6 \$1000 student scholarships and 1 \$300 Teacher grant. We work even closer with the Reunion committees to help them organize and run their reunions. We are an intragroup part of school activities contributing to the music department, school plays, homecoming, the winter dance, sports booster, art displays and teacher projects. *The Tradition* newsletter and the online web page are two of the most important offerings we provide to alumni. All these activities are important and all of them cost money.

We have two basic ways of raising money for the operation of your alumni Association. The first is receiving life membership money from graduating seniors. In the 1950's a student's life membership was only \$1.00.

See Editor's Desk on page 5

Class History of 1964

by: Jan Rais Rosche

The following is one of the best of the class histories sent to us for the 50th Anniversary of the opening of PSH. PSH teachers remembered the Class of 1964 as one of the best. Thanks to Jan Rais Rosche for her submission.

We, 1964 graduates started our senior year in September 1963. That month 4 girls were killed in a Birmingham, AL church at the hand of the KKK. The month before, MLK had delivered his now famous "I have a dream" speech to civil rights marchers in Washington, D.C. John F. Kennedy was our President until that tragic day in November when he was assassinated. Lyndon Johnson became the new President, carrying on JFK's efforts toward improving civil rights. In June 1964 the Civil rights Act was passed. The cold War and Communism was still a major threat to Democracy.

Locally, John Petruska was Parma's Mayor, Mr. Bassett

See 1964 on page 4

Reunion News

- 1940** - Contact Red Drenski, 7450 Bartholomew, Middleburg Hts., OH 440-243-2428 or Betty Kircher- 440-572-8484. Wants to start bi-monthly meetings at Hometown Buffet.
- 1945** - 60th reunion June 18th, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select in Strongsville on Route 82. Contact: Mel Burkey 440-885-4995 email mburkey@hotmail.com or Dorothy Miller Rumes 330-225-7346
- 1950** - 55th Contact person Shirley Tomko Merlino 440-845-4768 In the planning stages.
- 1955** - 50th June 10, 11,12, 2005 at the Quality Inn at Bagley and Engle Roads in Middleburg Hts., Oh. Contact Bob Funk 440-886-3775 or Rita Comko at rcomko@neo.rr.com. Friday June 10th cocktail party 7:00PM at the Quality Inn. Saturday, June

11th tour of the building at PSH at 9:30 AM. Saturday Dinner at the Quality Inn at 6:30 PM- Sunday June 12th, Breakfast at the Quality Inn at 10:00 AM. Breakfast meeting for the class of '55 is April 27th at Katherine's Restaurant 7533 Pearl Road at 9:00 AM.

1960 - 45th Contact Janice Hornak Hartman. No Information or updated address.

1965 - 40th Contact Tim and Melanie(Froehlich) Brown, 7384 Bal-lash Dr., Medina, OH 44256 330-769-2985. No information at this time.

1970 - For information contact Irene Slobodiuk Kugler at hairwhiz@aol.com. No information on the 35th reunion at this time.

1975 - 30th Contact Susan Massari Wa-lik, 13441 Tradewinds Dr. Strongsville, Oh 44136 440-572-2472, walsu@aol.com or Linda Bandler Beveridge at 330-487-0311. Planning for Friday, November 25, 2005 at Ridgewood Golf

Course, Saturday, November 26 at St Michael's Woodside in Broadview Hts and also a tour of Parma High on Saturday morning at 10:00 or 11:00 AM

1980 - 25th Contact Marty Pytel at mpytel@zoominternet.net or 330-725- 2915. In the early planning stages and tentatively scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend 2005.

1985- Contact Cynthia Daniels Se-jka, 735 Westwood Dr. Medina, OH 44256, 330-723-6999. In planning stage

1990- Contact Mark Blubaugh, 6833 Willoughby, Westerville, OH 43082, 614-895-0857. There will be no 15-year reunion.

1995- Contact Amy Taylor, 20437 Wil-liamsburg Ct, Middleburg Hts, OH 44130, 440-243-0552. Committee is planning for the event on the Satur-day after Thanksgiving 2005

IN MEMORIAM

- 1938-**Anita Dreyer Ellis**-February 22, 2005
- 1939-**Jean Eschbacher Lampe**- July 23, 2004
- Janet Lindsey Peck** - March 27, 2005.
- 1939- **Melvin Lampe**-October 27, 2004 in Sun City Center, Florida- survived by his sister, Virginia Lampe Sill
- 1952- **Mike (Big Mike) Skowronsky** -Jan 21, 2005 Survived by sons Michael and Mitchell, 4 stepchildren and 12 grandchildren He and his wife Jan (deceased) owned "Jan and Mike's Tavern in Strongsville for many years. Mike was remembered fondly by his classmates in the latest issue of the 1952 newsletter (52 Pick-Up) put out by Pat Topping Gilley.
- 1952- **Harry Williams** -Jan 20, 2005 He and his wife Wilma (Neumaritis PSH 54) had 6 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.
- 1954- **Charles Cline**- February 20, 2005. "Chuck" Cline was the class President of 1954. After graduation

he came back to his Alma Mater to teach business from 1958 to 1988. In addition to teaching, Chuck had a travel business, a horse supply company and raced horses at North-field Park. Chuck was a wonderful teacher, devoted family man, and a good friend to many. He is survived by his wife Donna, son Greg, and daughter, Cathy. From all the teachers at PSH - we will miss you.

1956-**Gary Mates**—March 18, 2005. He is survived by his wife Gretchen Schwartz Mates. Also survived by sons Mathew and Dean and daughter, Amy Piorkowksi. Gary was a strong supporter of the Alumni Association and participated in almost all of the Scholarship Golf Outings.

1961-**Ronald Abraham**—January 6, 2005. Survived by mother, Pauline, wife Catherine, daughters, Lori '86, Cathy '89 and son, Ron '94. One of his fondest memories was making a bench in shop class that was pictured in his yearbook. He drove a school bus for the Parma system in the 80's and 90's.

HOMECOMING

PSH will have its Home-coming Game on Friday, October 21, 2005.

Your Alumni Association

The reason we exist is to serve the alumni of Parma Sr., Schaaf, and Ridge Rd. High Schools. Our goal is to provide information about classes, your fellow alumni, and to keep the TRADITION ALIVE. Help us do that!

Notice

If you do not want your name in the web directory, please send a letter to the PSHALUMNIASSOC. stating your preference by Feb 28th 2005.

Alumni Addresses:

Check our web page for all reunion news
Web Page: www.pshalumni.org
e-mail: pshalum@pshalumni.org
snail mail: PSH Alumni Associa-tion

6285 W 54th St

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am an Alumnus from the class of 1935 and a graduate from Case School of Applied Science-class of 1939—That was long ago. Thanks for the complimentary copy of *The Tradition*—I was not aware I was not up to date so here is my check for another 3 years. I would like to hear from any and all the '35 folks who care to contact me either via e-mail or slow mail. Thanks a million.

L. J. Tarnay P. O. Box 582 Penn Valley, CA 95946 e-mail Yanrat@aol.com

My favorite memories of Parma Senior High were of band and orchestra. There has been no class that I have ever taken that has shaped my life the way those music classes did. Mr. Sentz and Mrs. Phillips provided me with a vast array of life skills. In 4 years: I learned how to be a leader, I learned how to get along with others, I learned how to perform for an audience... So great was the influence of Mr. Sentz and Mrs. Phillips, that I have dedicated my life's work to teaching instrumental music. I can only hope that I have half the impact on y students that they had on me.

With much gratitude Melissa Vaughn
Class of 1995

I would appreciate receiving a 1950 Yearbook. Thank you for making them available.

P.S. The murder of Miss Foote and Miss Wolfe was unknown to me until your "history" article. And never solved, what a travesty!! Any more clues? Do keep up your interesting features such as this.

Marge Kunart Steiner '50

Thank you for the complimentary Alumni Newsletter -some of it brings back many good memories.

Elaine (Rennert) Beeson '51

My husband and I are both graduates of Parma High School-Earl C Sill (1935) and myself, Virginia (Lampe) Sill (1936). We have lived in California since January, 1943. Lived 60 years (1943-2003) in our home in Westchester, and area next to the LA Airport within Los Angeles. We moved to Fullerton, California almost 2 years ago to be near or 2 sons, David and Timothy Sill, who live in Anaheim, California.

I am writing to you to let you know to include my brother's death, also a graduate of Parma High School, class of 1939, on October 27, 2004, just 3 months after his wife's passing on July 23, 2004. His wife was Jean Eschbacher, also class of 1939. Jean's death was listed in the edition of *The Tradition* newsletter of Winter 2005-Vol 12, No. 1, but wanted it to be in your next edition—my brother's death. My husband and I both lived on Sheraton Drive in Parma, moving there in early 1920's and grew up there attending State Rd Elementary School, Schaaf Jr. High School and Parma High School. Earl graduated in June, 1935 and myself in June 1936. We have many happy memories spent at Parma high. Earl was a member of the "Boosters Club" in his senior year and sent his Booster jacket to the high school for display a few years ago. We have many happy memories of our years spent in the Parma Schools and of our teachers.

Sincerely Virginia (Lampe) Sill and Earl Sill '36 and '35

I would like to find a relative of Frank Nemeth (Class of 1938) who introduced me in 1941 to the one I married 2 years later. Frank was a US Marine who was killed on Iwo Jima in 1945. My wife and I attended a closed casket wake service at a funeral home on Ridge Road when his body was returned in 1950. I have been unsuccessful after contacting funeral homes to find any record. Any assistance would be appreciated. Many thanks Cliff Burk Class of 1937 Update:

Last night I received a phone call from Florida from Norma Nemeth where May Jane Englehart (her sister in law was visiting (class of '42). She was one of several names of Nemeth you gave me and she received my letter in Parma Hts, where she resides. We had a nice conversation about Frank Nemeth, class of '38. He died in Iwo Jima on March 9, 1945 and his body was brought back to Schuster Funeral Home on Denison Avenue in 1950. He is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery at Clark Avenue and W 41st St. Frank was married in 1944. Mary Ann has his purple heart. Thanks a million for your help.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Bob Steidl, Class of 1962 Served in Viet Nam and Panama—married with 3 sons and 4 grandchildren—retired from Rocky river fire Department as a Captain. We enjoy leisure time and travel as much as we can.

REMINISCES

By Lee Bailey

I have written a number of articles telling our readers how it was when I attend our only High School in Parma, Ohio in 1928 and 1929. I graduated in the Class of 1929.

Our former President, Tony De-Marco, and our present President, Nancy Fedak, came to Wooster, Ohio to visit me on March 15, 2005. They suggested that I continue writing articles. I decided to call the articles I write "Reminisces"—I hope you will like them.

Parma High School in 1929—76 years ago

When the property was purchased from the Uhnick family to build our New High School, Byers Field was an apple orchard. Carl Uhnick, who graduated with me in 1929 and is now

96 years old, helped to cut many of the apple trees down to make room for the new athletic field. "Byers Field" is named for Carl Byers, a Superintendent of the Parma Schools at that time and a respected educational leader. The "Dinkey" streetcar traveled from Brookpark and Pearl Roads to Bean Road. It required no turntable as each trolley had controls and a trolley mast at each end of the car. All you had to do was to change the controls and the direction of the trolley. The fare was 3 cents from any point on the route. Ridge Road at that time was half brick and half dirt and the trolley track was on the west side of the road.

There were no buildings north of Parma High School on Ridge Road to Bean Road (now Ridgewood Drive), and no buildings on Bean Road all the way to York Road. This was land that formerly was farmland, had been surveyed, and an allotment planned; but because of the depression years, the plans were cancelled. Commercially the area has grown and is now a major shopping area of Greater Cleveland.

1964 From Page 1

was our high school principal and Mr. Briggs, the superintendent of schools. We drove the streets of Parma, then in second hand cars or our parents' Oldsmobiles and Chevrolets to Parmentown, Brookpark Bowling, Putt-Putt, State Road Park and to the Whip.

In sports, we cheered the whole team and our stars, Bob Maresh, Ron Freeman and Larry Fedak in football; Rick Lubinsky in Cross Country; Tom Demo, Dave Brzygot and Art Garik in basketball; Chuck Sanfilippo, Craig Grether, and John Shuleva in Wrestling; Bob Cejer and Ron Linard in Bowling; Denny Zamberlan and Ken Bako in Tennis; Dave Wilson, Jerry Reece and Don Suszko in Track; and Wally Wytrzes, Loree Soggs and Bill Bauer in Baseball. A walk through the pages of our yearbook will bring back memories of so many other athletes in our class.

School club participants provided service and were given the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Our officers, Chuck Germana, Denny Zamberlan, Kathy Matlock and Janice Rais oversaw senior class events, and our Student City Manager, Jim Noble, led the schools; government. Our class was so very talented, yet we recognized those with noteworthy abilities. We recall Anita Malames as Cleopatra in our Junior Class play, and Sue Kogler and Bob Zadrozny in *The Crucible* our senior year. The musical talents of Lola Weir, Jane Pilot, Meg Clark and Donna Lucas became a source of school pride. Our cheerleaders, Diane Majher, Maureen Smith, Peggy Murray, Karen Valtman and Bobbi Rice were all wonderfully athletic, sincerely friendly to everyone, down to earth girls who had the skills and zest to lead their classmates. So many leaders we had, it was hard to select the two Top Teens, but we did—Marty Wolf and Sheryl Saunders became Mr. and Miss PSH. Of course we were all "beautiful" (and young), but we knew unusual beauty when we crowned Karen Palumbo our Homecoming Queen, and voted Bob Ondercik the "Most Handsome Male".

Girls' and Boys' Boosters, Canteen Committee, and National Honor Society were popular organizations, which required specific qualifications, but admittance came on the day we were "tapped" in our Junior Year by a departing senior. We became their "little sisters: or "little brothers", and when we became seniors we couldn't wait to "tap" our younger underclass friends. Other clubs—Math, AVA, foreign language and debate all had their share of gifted members. Our marching band, with drum major, Dave Fiala, led a wonderful group of musicians and Majorettes. The beautiful voices of so many—Ellen Huntington, Noreen Psenicka and Dave Stironek blended so wonderfully in Concert Choir.

As for popular music, of course, the arrival of the Beatles in America in February sent their songs to the top

of the charts, yet we still loved the songs of the Four Seasons (Dawn), Martha and the Vandellas (Dancing in the Street), the Beach Boys (Surfer Girl), Lenny Welch (Since I Fell For You), Mary Wells (My Guy), the Animals (House of the rising Sun), The Kingsmen (Louie, Louie), Roy Orbison (Pretty Woman), Bobby Vinton (Mr. Lonely), Betty Everett (The Shoop Shoop Song-It's in his Kiss), Gale Garnette (We'll sing in the Sunshine), - not to forget the folksy music of Peter, Paul and Mary. We jerked, monked, ponied, slow-danced and sang along with them all.

Romance was always an important part of our teen years. We "necked" and "parked" with our boyfriends and girlfriends. We went "steady" and the boy's class ring or Booster or letter sweater was evidence of the bond. In class we passed notes to friends about our love lives.

Booster sweater, A-line, pleated, and straight skirts (to, or below the knee), with white collared blouses or wool blend sweater were popular. Girls usually set their hair in rollers each night to comb out and tease into a flip or "bubble" the next day. Guys wore button-down collared Oxford shirts or Khaki pants and a buttoned shirt—never jeans or plain t-shirt to school. We wore white socks, nylons, flats, or Spauldings. For Homecoming, we dressed in "semi-formal" attire (suits for guys and short cocktail dresses for girls) as we danced in the decorated cafeteria. It was similar for our Senior Dance (Stairway to the Stars), though the girls; short dresses were a bit more formal. For the Prom we brought out the long gowns and tuxedos. Then we stayed up all night and made a weekend affair—first the dance at the Sheraton Cleveland Hotel, then to a major restaurant (maybe Brown Derby or the Theatrical in Cleveland) and afterward bowling until dawn. The next day we picnicked at Whip's Ledges, and at night we partied or met at the drive-in theater.

Whether socializing in school

activities or private groups (the Gents, the Daesons and the Vitas), we congregated with those with mutual interest. With a class of over 700, no "one" person could tell the true high school story each experience. What we discovered 10, 20, and even 30 years later at our 3 reunions is that we had become more alike than different in so many ways.

It's the Cat's Meow

Here is your chance to get a unique momento of Parma Sr. High School. The "Cat's Meow" of the front of PSH



is a beautiful 6&1/4in by 5&3/4in. wooden mantel or table top plaque. We have a limited number (25) of these plaques for \$30.00 which includes shipping. We offer these first to our *Tradition* subscribers before we put them on our web site. To order, send a check to PSH Alumni Assoc. Plaque 6285 W54th St. Parma' Ohio 44129. All profits go to our scholarship fund.

GOLF OUTING: June 30, 2005

Once again by popular request the PSH Alumni Association will have the annual PSH Alumni Association Scholarship Golf Outing. We need golfers and hole sponsors for this event. Please send in your money and reservation for your foursome. Make your checks payable to PSH ALUMNI and send to PSH Golf Outing, Parma Senior High School, 6285 W 54th Street, Parma, OH 44129. You may also call Nancy Fedak at 440-888-6278 or e-mail her at pshalum@pshalumni.org. (Subject: golf)

ACTIVE CLASSES AND LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Anyone who have ever graduated from "The Parma Senior High School" no matter which of the 3 PSH schools you attended, is a life member of the Parma Sr High School Alumni Association. Although the Alumni Assoc was started in 1941, dues were not officially collected until the 1950's. At that time, life membership cards were given to each student at a charge of \$1.00. Currently, students pay a lifetime individual membership dues of \$5.00.

Class dues were first collected, we believe, in the 1950's. At first class dues were collected by the High School Administration and held by PSH for the classes' 1st reunion. When it was found that it was basically illegal for a high school to hold class monies, the PSH Alumni Assoc was asked in 1973 by Arch Brown, Assistant Superintendent, to hold all class funds in for reunions. Your alumni Association received 501C3 non-profit tax-ex-

empt educational/charitable status so it could hold those funds for classes. Today we hold reunion funds for all classes from 1950-2004 except for the classes of 1950 and 1959. These two classes have no funds with us and therefore, are not in active status. Some classes from the 30's and 40's currently have their class funds with the Alumni Association. Because class dues were not collected on a regular basis at that time, these classes are not required to have their class funds with us to be considered an active class. We strongly urge them to keep their money with us for their own protection and IRS purposes.

Active classes are entitled to use the alumni tax-exempt number for reunion related expenses. Typically, a class will save \$800 or more in taxes on the hotel, ballroom and meals for the night. Classes also get updated class lists, mailing labels and reunion information placed in the newsletter and on the web page. Each reunion will receive gifts like sweatshirts, baseball caps, mugs and other items to give away at the reunion. We also provide guided tours of the High School for

Editor's Desk from page 1

today a student's life membership is only \$5.00. The second way we raise money is to fundraise. We have a number of fundraisers. **For Scholarships:** a golf outing, sale of yearbooks, sale of specialty item like mugs, sweatshirts, and caps, and we receive donations. **For Operating Funds:** We charge for a subscription to the newsletter, we charge for the web page directory, and we receive donations.

With all of these fundraising activities, we still need your help. Your Alumni

Association has been called by many one of the finest public school Alumni Associations anywhere and on a par with many small colleges. To continue our growth and service to alumni and the school we need your help. We can use donations of all

amounts for scholarships and for the continued operation of the organization, which includes this newsletter and the web page.

Won't you please consider making a donation to one of the following areas—you will make a difference and we will continue to serve our alumni and our school, "Loyalty Eternally."

Place an X next to the area you want your donation used.

- Scholarships for students
- Teacher Grant
- Web Page
- Tradition* Newsletter
- School Activities-General
- Art
- Music
- Sports
- Drama
- Chieftan Newspaper

2004 PSH Directory and Newsletter Order Forms

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Address _____

Email _____ Grad Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

On-line Directory__ \$10 Newsletter 1 year__\$6 2 years__
_ \$11

3 years__ \$15 CHECK ONE (must have email for directory)

Make checks (no cash) payable to: *PSH Alumni Associa-*

PSH FUNDRAISERS

SWEATS, GOLF SHIRTS, LICENSE PLATE FRAME, CAPS,
AND MUGS

Here are some items for any occasion.

Order by sending a check or money order to PSH Alumni Assoc. 6285 W. 54th St., Parma, OH 44129. State size of shirt.



Caps \$15 Golf Shirt \$25 (L, XL) Mug \$7.50 T-Shirt \$20 (M, L, XL, XXL) Sweatshirt \$30 (M, L, XL, XXL) License Plate Frame \$6.00

YEARBOOK DONATIONS

PSH Yearbooks donated to the Alumni Association will be put up for sale and all proceeds will go toward the PSH Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Donations may be dropped off or sent to Parma Senior High School, Attention: Alumni Association or call us and we will pick them up, 440-885-3800. Thanks to all those who donated.

Clairise Gardner of Parma donated 7 yearbooks to the Association. **AB Larson** of New Jersey donated 3 yearbooks to the PSH Alumni Association-1952, 1953, and 1954.

Miss Emily Wilson, former Parma Sr High English Department Chair, donated her collection of PSH yearbooks to the Association. Thank you

Miss Ruth Felt, deceased and former physical education teacher donated her entire collection of yearbooks to the Association shortly before her death.

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

1940	1	1949	2	1969	3	1983	12	1997	1
1942	5	1950	3	1972	2	1985	1	1998	106
1944	4	1951	4	1973	1	1988	2	2000	6
1945	3	1952	11	1976	1	1989	9	2001	3
1946	2	1953	4	1977	1	1991	89	2004	1
1947	2	1956	1	1978	1	1995	10	*2004	93
1948	8	1967	1	1980	22	1996	7	Special Hardbound	

Yearbook Order Form

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Yearbook Year _____ \$40.00 (50th Anniversary \$45)

Postage 5.00

Make checks payable to: PSH Alumni Association

6285 W 54th Street

Parma, OH 44129

Allow 3 weeks for Delivery

Parma Senior High Alumni Association
6285 West 54th Street
Parma, OH 44129

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