

Tidings

Bethlehem Catholic High School – Class of 1970 Alumni Newsletter
January 2019

Happy New Year! 2019!

Can you believe it?

Our 50th Reunion News!

Our initial 50th Reunion planning meeting is set for Friday January 25 at 2 pm at Panera's on Rt. 512 near the Rt. 22 intersection. Those with interest can call, text or email Betsy Horvath Kane... with her contact info (in case of cancellation due to weather): 412-400-0240 or elizabeth.j.kane@gmail.com

This month I heard from...

Gus Concilio '47, Molly Brady Mommessin '48, John McCarty '58, Francis Peters '59, Dorothy Keating Steltzer '60, Rosemary Holetz Krauss '65, Yogi Eddinger '67, Pat Bellew Kottke '69, Fran Farris '69, Andy Kametz '69, Dorene Kortvely Darabaris '69, Bobby Halbreiner '71, Sally Kammetler '78, Dan Reisteter '78, Bernie Bellew Elchin '79, and Debbie DeSanto '85.

From our class, I heard from **Bobby A, Dave Cech, Kathy Demyan Czap, Bill Doncsecz, Rosie Esparza, Joannie Greenfield, Trish Holly Zechman, Betsy Horvath Kane, Jeff and Col, Dorothy Kerecz Midash, Joanne Lesko, Sue Peters Crawford, Josephine,** and from **Chris Wright.** And I saw **Bobby A, Mary Jane Bartos Sickonic, Alice Finn Freeh, Corliss Kuzmin Reed and Kathy Ripper Grasso** at the Alumni mass on December 22nd.

Thanks for your messages...they keep me motivated!

... from a previous issue of **Tidings**...Vol. XVII, No. 3, February 1969:

"Famous Last Words"

"I ain't no Albert Einstein" – Mr. Rij
"This is where it's at, baby" – Fr. Pfeiffer
"Well, well, well" – Fr. Smith
"I'm from the old school, I still believe I'm right and you're wrong" – Mr. Bukvics

"Huh" – Brother Austin
"Dearie" – Sr. Anita David
"Come on now" – Mr. DeFilippis

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50 Years ago: Camelot

The beginning of our second semester, Junior year

Let's (try to) think back...

- Co-editors of the **Tidings** (you remember, the student newspaper) were seniors **Mary Ellen Finn** and **Bob Gangewere**
- Boys basketball
 - Head coach Paul Calvo retired after his 15-year magical run, with a record of 260 wins and 155 loses. He coached the 1960 and 1962 teams to PCIAA State Championships and multiple conference championships.
 - **Jim Chassar '69** finished his stellar career as a 1st team All-State selection with 1,181 points, 1 more than **Dan Dougherty '66**, and is ranked 10th in all-time scoring.
- Girls basketball
 - Heidi Hydusik was the head coach
 - **Janice Brugger '69** was the Captain and her teammates included our own **Lisa and Maki**, along with **Patty Hesener '71**, **Melanie Ulans '71**, **Sue Laughlin '69**, **Anne Sinnott '72**, **Susie Bartos '72**, **Anita Budinetz '72**, **Debbie Torok '72**, **Anne Rouse '71**, **Claire Brugger '71**, **Mary Sinnott '72**, **Marianne Schnalzer '71**, **Barbara Bednarik '71**, and with **Barbara Fejes '69** (manager) and **Marge Terry '69** (manager)
- Wrestling
 - Tony Iasiello coached
 - State Champions! ...including **Tim Cassidy '69**, **Greg Karabin '69**, **Don Lonergan '69** and **Tommy Sculley**
 - National Champions! ... the team's grapplers included **Marty Lynn '71**, **Pat Fenton '69**, **Billy Farrell '69**, **Tim Cassidy '69**, **George Fidmik**, **Tommy Sculley**, **Mike Kozo '71** along with **Rick Ressler**, **Mike Foley '69**, **Don Lonergan '69**, **Billy Kametz '71**, **Greg Karabin '69**, **Larry Gasda '69**, **Joe Pearl '69**, **Fran Zellner** with **Mike Ruggeri '71** (manager)
- Boys' Tennis Team formed
 - Br. Richard Arnold C.S.C., was the first coach
 - Members of the inaugural squad were...**Chris Wright**, **Pete Gerra '71**, **Tim Walls '69**, **Greg Benz '71**, **Tom Barnett '69**, **Bob Palumbo '69**, **Tom Kozlowski '69**, **Doug Bossert '72**, **Pat Donchez '71**, **Jim O'Leary '69**, **George Wieland '72**, **Dick Beier '72**, and **Tom Hundersmarck**.

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- Camelot was the musical
 - Directed by Sr. Catharine Immaculate, S.S.J.
 - Starring **George Yasso '69, Sandy Check** and **Jack Downing**
- Graduation was held on June 8
 - The largest graduation class (**'69**) ever... with 274 scholars
 - **Mary Ann Seaman** was the Valedictorian
 - **Tom Barnett** was the Salutatorian
- Other notes and tidbits about the class of '69...
 - The first group of students to spend four years at “the new school”
 - The class represented 21 different parishes in the area, with 5 parishes contributing 69% of the class including...
 - St. Anne's (51 students)
 - Notre Dame (40)
 - St. Ursula's (32)
 - SS. Simon and Jude (28)
 - Holy Ghost and SS. Cyril and Methodius (19 each)
 - Thirty-eight graduates had siblings in our class!!!

Notes about the Class of 1929... 90 Years Ago

This was the third graduating class of the “new” high school.
Rev. Charles E. Bowles was the Rector of Holy Infancy Parish.
Rev. William Grubb, Rev. Joseph N. LaRue, and the Sisters of St. Joseph were recognized for their service.

There were 30 graduates including:

Cecelia Regina “Nina” Braucci
Joseph Patrick Brogan
Anna Rita “Ann” Byrne, Class Secretary
Mary Veronica “Mare” Byrne
Philip Francis Byrne, Class Vice-President
Thomas Joseph “Tucker” Casey
Generosa Marie “Gen” Coyle
Esther Cecelia “Es” Dougherty
James Simon “Jimmy” Dougherty, Class President
Joseph Thomas Gehringer
Katherine Mary “Kay” Hartigan
Joseph Garrett “Reds” Hildenberger

Loretta Veronica “Pet” Lucas
Leo Aloysius “Mackie” Mack
Tihamer Nicholas Manaylovich
Edward Joseph “Eddie” Merwarth
Neil Joseph McNamara
Francis Zellis “Frank” O'Donnell
Rudolph Joseph “Rudy” Preletz
Louis Aloysius “Louie” Schuster
Josephine Cecelia “Joe” Schleifer
Mary Lourdes “Mol” Schwartz
Louis Francis “Louie” Shamenek
Mary Margaret “Mae” Smith

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Elizabeth Helen “Bet” Keating, Class Treasurer
Julia Catherine “Sheila” Kelly
Sara Rose “Sis” Kelly

John Gabriel Soltis
Fred John Tatarsky
Margaret Mary “Peg” Trimble

Neil McNamara was Yearbook Editor
Leo Mack, Assistant Editor

Joseph Gehringer, Art Editor
Joe Hildenberger, Sports Editor

Anna Byrne, Generosa Coyle, Esther Dougherty, Loretta Lucas, Literary Staff
Sara Kelly and Rudolph Preletz, Advertising Managers
Mary Byrne and Edward Merwarth, Sales Managers
Margaret Trimble and Philip Byrne, Patron Solicitors

Football Record: 5 wins – 2 losses

Offense Scored 223 points (31.9 pts/game); Defense Allowed 44 points (6.3 pts/game)

Boys Basketball Record: 13 wins – 3 losses

Offense Scored 587 points (36.7 pts/game); Defense Allowed 333 points (20.8 pts/game) “...in fact, in eastern Pennsylvania, brought our boys the recognition of being one of the two teams selected to represent the (Philadelphia) diocese on the State Tournament held at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.”

Catholic State Tournament results:

Semifinal: Becahi 20, St. Francis Prep 14

Final: Becahi 14, Altoona Catholic 15

Source: Yearbook “Brown And Gold”

Word from the Becahi Class of 1947’s 70th class reunion...

I received a message from **Gus Concilio ‘47** and his wife **Mary Anderson Concilio ‘47** that their class reunion was held April of 2017 at the Prime Restaurant in Bethlehem. Nine classmates attended including: **Michael Dalton, Mary Reiser Fitzpatrick, Mary Flecksteiner Hunsberger, Joseph Machain, Ray McFadden, Anne Fabian Sopko Jeanette Lazarus Orwan, along with Gus and Mary.**

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Interesting observations...

I still haven't received the correct guess for the question from last month about which is the only state in the country that does NOT have a Becahi grad living there? The info came from a copy of the 2013 Bethlehem Catholic Alumni Directory.

As mentioned above, **thirty-eight** grads from the Class of '69 had siblings who were in our class. Anyone want to take a crack at who they may be?

I read that:

Gus and Mary (Anderson) Concilio '47 celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last September. The lucky couple have four children who graduated from Beca... **Gus '74, John '77, Ian '79 and Maria '84.**

Sr. Nancy Iampietro CPS '64, MA, is currently the provincial secretary for her order. Sister Nancy ministers in the US and internationally. A trainer of spiritual directors and formators, she gives conferences and workshops in spiritual direction, formative spirituality, discernment, religious life, charism, vows, renewal, etc. Sister taught at Regina Mundi Pontifical Institute in Rome and for ten years was the Superior General in Rome for The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood.

Patricia McAndrew '64, who graduated from Moravian College, is the former General Manager at Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley / Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and is now the Coordinator of Museum Education and Visitor Services at Lehigh University. Former Provider Relations Consultant at Capital Blue Cross

Maureen Dressen '65, who majored in Sociology at Muhlenberg College and studied at Rosemont College, is a former Provider Relations Consultant at Capital Blue Cross and the former Director, Benefits Planning and HRIS at Bethlehem Steel

A "**Class of 1967** Turns "70" Get-Together" will be held in October 2019 in conjunction with the Bethlehem Catholic High School Homecoming Weekend. The dates are yet to be determined, but should be in October 2019. More details to follow on <https://www.classmates.com/reunions/Bethlehem-Catholic-High-School/Class-of-1967/2563326>

Roseanne Cech '71, who graduated from Allentown College of St. Francis DeSales and Hahnemann Medical School, has been practicing medicine in Northeastern Pa. since 1984, specializing in pediatric and adult Allergy and Immunology. Roseanne resides in Clarks Summit, Pa with her husband Dr. Gregory Borowski, and she is the mother of 3 daughters.

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A message from a 1978 Grad...

I know it may seem weird, but I have a special bond to “my kids” from Becahi’s classes of ’78, ’79, and ’80 because I was their guidance counselor and took a special, parental-like interest in their futures. (It’s really funny because they’re only a few years younger than I.)

I received a message from **Dan Reisteter ’78**, that I’d like to share...

“I’ve been married for 26 years to my wife Lisa, who is from Mechanicsburg, where we live... I’ve been blessed and privileged to serve on the Board of the Central PA Food Bank, based in Harrisburg, for the past 6 years and chair its public policy advocacy committee. It’s one of the largest food banks in PA, geographically, covering 27 counties from the NY to MD borders, with over 900 agency partners (soup kitchens, food pantries, etc.) to whom we distribute food for those that are food insecure.

I’ve also gotten very involved in our parish, the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Harrisburg... I serve on the Cathedral’s Finance Council, as a Lector, chair a newly formed parish social justice committee, and on the Cathedral’s elementary school development committee. I was even in the choir for 6 months, but it got to be just a bit too much, so took a hiatus from that.

Regrettably, as I lost touch with two of the institutions, whose priests, nuns, lay teachers and other staff provided the foundations and growth in my faith earlier in life – Becahi and the UofS[cranton] - I regressed into a “lazy” non-active Catholic and just fell away from Mass attendance and any involvement in the Church during that...period.... I was drawn to reconnect with Becahi and the UofS, hence my visits over the past couple years. And the “giving back” thing has really kicked in for me... I just wish it had happened earlier in life!

Count me as one (of your many, I’m sure) success stories!”

Sports Update...

Boys Basketball – Season one for coach Scott McClary;

- The team is currently 6-2
- **Justin Paz ’19**, has moved in to second place in all-time scoring, 14 points behind **Bob Bukvics ’60** (1,485)
- Next Up: Nazareth on January 3rd

Girls Basketball – Fifth season for coach Jose Medina (100-19);

- The team is currently 7-0
- Next up: Nazareth on January 3rd

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Wrestling – Season one for coach Rick Thompson

- The team is currently 4-0
- Next up: Liberty (7-0) on January 4th

The Angels for Alex are coming!

A couple of months ago we set out to help Alex Tucker, a Becahi junior who lost his father in 2010 and his mother to cancer last July, to raise money to complete his education at Beca. (Tuition is \$10,200/year). **I'm happy to report that we have now received \$4,200 from multiple donors to date.** THANK YOU! If you have been thinking about helping out, now is your chance. Please know that each gift is important. No gift is too small, but a sacrificial gift is greatly appreciated and will compensate for those not in a position to donate at this time.

If you are willing to commit to a pledge with a one time or recurring payment, the Advancement Office notes that there are many ways you can donate to Alex Tucker's Bethlehem Catholic High Schools tuition and become an Angel Sponsor:

1. Call the Advancement Office and pay with a credit card. Call Tina Giordano at (610) 866-0791 ext. 321 and pay with a credit card. **Be sure to say that this is for Alex Tucker's Tuition.**
2. Use this link to donate using our online form - all major credit cards are accepted. Click the link <https://becahi.org/advancement/> and then click on "Donate Today!". **Be sure to note in the "Tribute" field - Alex Tucker.**
3. Mail a check payable to "Bethlehem Catholic High School" to "Bethlehem Catholic High School, 2133 Madison Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017. **Be sure to note "Alex Tucker's Tuition" on the subject line.**
4. Or, stop by the Advancement Office at Bethlehem Catholic High School if you wish to pay with cash and say hello!

Below is a bit more information about Alex.

Alex Tucker is a second-semester junior at Bethlehem Catholic High School with three older siblings who also attended Beca. He has achieved Honors each quarter, was on the wrestling team and is described as respectful and conscientious with amazing potential. He works part time, loves sports in general and the Philly sports in particular. Alex's mother Mary passed away from brain cancer on July 23, 2018. She was predeceased by Alex's father, Brian Tucker, who passed away on May 2, 2010 at the age of 53. For a student who has lost both parents, the Bethlehem Catholic family and the spiritual strength that a Catholic Education offers provide stability and strength. Freshman Guidance Counselor, Kathy Henry, said, *"I watched Alex grow up while working at Notre Dame of Bethlehem School. Now at Becahi, I see what an awesome young man he has become. Alex is a humble, thoughtful, and kind person due to the love and guidance he received from his parents, Mary and Brian, and the influence of his brothers and*

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sister. There are people in our lives who are more than friends. They are like family. Alex is that kind of person to our community. He is a special part of our Becahi family."

Recent Passings

Alumni	Class	Passed Away	Age
Ann Gombosi Brandafi	1937	Dec 2018	99
Mary Fabian Sefcik	1946	12/18/2018	91
Tony Neri*	1960	11/21/2018	75

* Toni was lost at sea off the coast of Avon, NC and the Coast Guard called off the 61-hour, 4,156 sq. mile search.

Family and Friends

- Mathilde Damhosl, father of **Jay '76, Heidi '78**, Frank, David and Kevin, on 12/15/18
- Ed Godbolt, Sr., father of **Mike '73, Stevie '76, Ed '79, Maureen '79, Becky '82, Ken '86** and **Anita '91**, on 12/17/18
- **Ann Gombosi Brandafi '37**, mother of **Nancy '67** and Maureen, in December
- Joseph Lynch, son of **Harry '41** and **Lucy Hildenberger '40 Lynch**, on 12/24/18
- Jiraporn Machain, wife of **David '67**, on 12/18/18
- George Reisteter, father of **Dan '78, Dave '85**, Jim and Joel, on 12/9/18
- Edward Stokarski, husband of **Patricia Steager Stokarski '67**, on 12/23/18

Please remember our classmate Bill Szulborski who passed away in the month of January, 2011.

“BLinkedIn” Profiles

LinkedIn is an online platform that people use to build social networks with other people who share similar personal or career interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. Many of our classmates have profiles on LinkedIn that are viewed by and shared with the public. In future newsletters, some of those profiles of Becahi grads will be posted so we can continue to share our stories and connections with each other. It's a great way to market the school and the alumni. (...and because they are Becahi Grads, I call it “BLinkedIn”). The following grads were found on LinkedIn this year:

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James Deegan '87, who received a BA Sc in Biology from Moravian College and an MS in Educational/Instructional Technology from Wilkes University, is Associate Principal K-1 at Saucon Valley School District.

Kerry McDermott Baxter '08, who received an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a PhD from Drexel University in Physical Therapy, is the Lead Physical Therapist at MultiCare Home Health and Personal Care Services in the greater Boise Idaho area.

Gian Turco '12, who studied at the M.J. Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University, is an Associate at Liberty Hall Capital Partners in New York City.

From the Advancement Office...

Mentoring Program for current students launched

The program is designed to be a light-touch, digital-based program that revolves around empowering students with insights into career paths of alumni. If you are an alumni or parent in the Bethlehem Catholic High School community who would like to share your career experience with students who may be interested in your chosen career path, then please consider joining our Mentor Program.

The link below will take you to the first step which is completing a simple online survey. You may also upload your resume if you so desire.

<https://goo.gl/forms/5lKxKSGtGTx6fsrn1>

There is a link at the beginning of the survey with four slides further explaining the program: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1N6t6d8lbq_nAAKjNh46MjC0Le2S-7f-

Essentially, by completing the survey, your name and information will be maintained in a database which the Guidance Counselors can access if they have a current student interested in your career path. They may then reach out to you for a three-way call between the counselor, student and yourself. Additionally, you may be asked to participate in a Career Day or Speed Mentoring Day.

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Reflection

As we begin a new year...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

And now...

Despite every effort to prevent errors, sometimes they occur. If I inadvertently misinterpreted a story or fact, or if your name has been omitted or misspelled, please notify me and/or the Advancement Office and accept my sincerest apologies, and...

If you have any stories, comments, concerns, opinions, etc., that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Sincerely,
JohnnieO (John O'Boyle)
jobisob1@yahoo.com

Key Points of Contact at the school:

Ms. Holly Magalengo, Director of Advancement, 610 866-0791, ext. 322
hmagalengo@becahi.org

Ms. Connie Druckenmiller, Events Manager, 610 866-0791, ext. 323
cdruckenmiller@becahi.org

Ms. Tina Giordano, Advancement Assistant, 610 866-0791, ext. 321
tgiordano@becahi.org