

Tidings

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

Our 50th Reunion News!

A survey was recently sent out to our class in order to arrange a time, place, and date that is preferable to most of our classmates. If you haven't already done so, it is appreciated if you spend a minute or two to answer the survey and provide any feedback or suggestions. It will assist the committee with a decision for our 50th reunion in 2020. Please send your responses back before March 15. We'll report back on the outcome in next month's newsletter. Meanwhile, a follow-up meeting will be held in mid-March to go over the results. Stay tuned for more.... Betsy Horvath Kane is leading the effort to herd us cats. Her number is 412-400-0240 or elizabeth.j.kane@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Special prayers for our classmate Jim Fink...

...whose dear wife Mary passed away on February 5th. Please also remember Jim's and Mary's son Dave in your prayers.

This month I heard from...

Gus Concilio '47, Mary Maroney Marzec '51, Sister Regina (Mary Catherine) Kropp, S.S.J. '52, Harry Mitchell '57, Dorothy Keating Steltzer '60, Al Ortwein '61, Dick and Kay (Lippey) Kondash '67, Pat Bellew Kottke '69, Andy Kametz, '69, Rita Manone Frey '69, Angel Rivera '71, Elizabeth Talian '71, Phil Demyan '72, Frank Mitman '72, Chuck Keeler '74, Drew Karabin '79 and Maria Concilio Barr '84.

I also heard from **Sister Adele Solari (formerly Sister Anita David), S.S.J..**

From our class, I heard from **Denny Andrew Karpy, Mike Audet, Mary Jane Bartos Sickonic, Dan Brady, Jim Brennan, Dave Cech, Kathy Demyan Czap, Bill Doncsecz, Jack Eckenrode, Bernie Gallagher, Kathy Gaydos Bickert, Ann Gerber, Bernie Gillen, Joan Greenfield, Trish Holly Zechman, George and Betsy Horvath Kane, Tina Hudak, Jeff and Collen Quarry Jennings, Joanne Lesko, Pat Lynch, Corliss Kuzmin Reed, Greg Ortwein, Sue Peters Crawford, Karen Raykos Fatzinger, Kathy Ripper Grasso, Linda Talbot Keefe and Betsy Vreeland Lavelle.**

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

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Interesting observations...

Over the years, I have read through the yearbooks since 1950 that are now kept in the Advancement Office. A consistent notation in those yearbooks, although there were some exceptions, was the listing of each senior's home parish.

For the next few newsletters, I'll show you what I found out about the parishes "we" all came from. This month, I'll start with the 1950s.

I have the names of 848 scholars who were listed as seniors in the 1950s. In the 1951 yearbook I didn't find a reference to any of the 57 seniors' parishes. So, the following data/information is based on the 791 students.

- 783 seniors came from 18 parishes
- 8 seniors did not have a parish reference

The 18 parishes and the number of seniors were:

Parish	Seniors	Seniors	Parish
Holy Infancy	138	26	Holy Rosary
SS. Cyril and Methodius	107	26	Sacred Heart
St. Ursula	103	9	St. Stanislaus
Holy Ghost	101	5	Assumption B.V.M.
SS. Simon and Jude	71	5	Notre Dame
St. John Capistrano	62	3	Holy Family
St. Joseph	54	2	SS. Peter and Paul
St. Anne	38	1	Our Lady Help of Christians
St. Theresa	31	1	St. Catherine of Siena

Interesting, yes? I think you'll find that the demographics reflect the population of the city at that time, and over time, you'll see the gradual diaspora of the students' families' homesteads.

There is no scheduled Alumni-Student mass this month.

Other Reunion Years... Attention Class years ending in 4 and 9! If you'd like some advice and assistance, contact the Advancement Office. Their contact info is at the end of the newsletter.

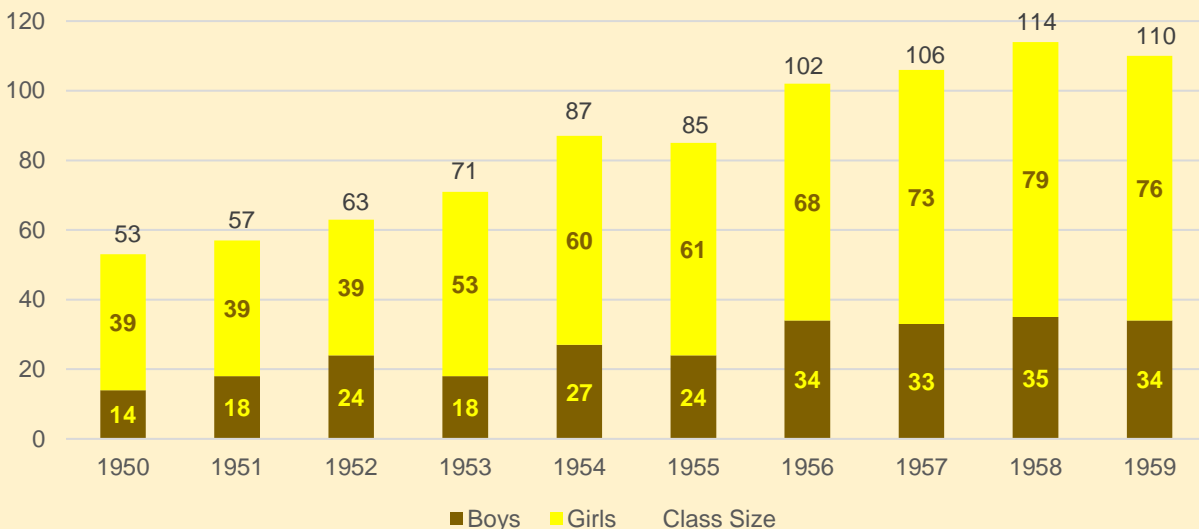
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More Interesting observations...

The Boys and Girls of the Fifties

Of the 848 seniors in the 1950s, ever wonder what were the numbers of boys vs. girls who graduated each year? The numbers were 261 Boys (31%) and 587 Girls (69%) ...



A Reunion every day?

I recently received a note from **Gus Concilio '47**, and he informed me that at Sterling Heights in Bethlehem, *“besides **Mary (Anderson) Concilio** and I from the **Class of '47**, we have **Mike Dalton, Class of '47, Maryann Dalton Vidumsky, Class of '48, Bernardine Anderson Yost, Class of '49, Anna Marie Delgrosso Zieger, Class of '58 and Josephine Sersen Barkis, Class of '57. We can have our own reunion!!!! Peace. Gus.”*** Seems like an unlimited happy hour to me!

I read that:

A “**Class of 1967 Turns "70" Get-Together**” will be held **October 5, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm** in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend. Four persons have signed up so far. More details to follow...Anyone have any? You know, like where?

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Annette Yasko Ruhe '69, is the Coordinator in the Administrative Services Group within the Library & Technology Services sector at Lehigh University.

Nancy Farris Davidson '72, who received a BFA from The Tyler School of Art at Temple University, is the artist in residence of Windchime Alley Art Studio in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Nancy's work has been exhibited in Charleston galleries since 1999, and her work can also be viewed in Pawleys Island, SC. She has received numerous awards in juried competition, and her work resides in private and corporate collections throughout the United States and abroad.

Mary-Margaret Bierbaum '73, who received a BA in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from the University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, is a Certified Specialist in Criminal Defense, and has been trying cases for more than 30 years. She practices in all San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area counties in California.

Heidi Chiles-Wheeler '73, is a Platinum Real Estate Agent with CB&A Realtors in the greater Houston, TX area. Her motto: "Helping people find their way Home!"

Mike Coulter '73, who received a BS in Biology from Xavier University and his DDS from Temple University, specializes in general dentistry and offers standard dental treatments, including teeth whitening, veneers, cleanings, crowns, cosmetic dentistry, denture work, and much more at his office in Emmaus.

Paul Coulter '73, Is an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) in the San Bernardino, CA area.

Janice Yanushka Bunn '73, who received a BS in Biology from Penn State University, a MS in Physiology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a PhD in Preventive Medicine from the Ohio State University, is a Research Associate Professor in the Medical Biostatistics Unit of the University of Vermont.

Joseph Fritz '75, Dance Director of New York's Metropolitan Opera, marked his 30 years with the Company during the 2017-2018 season.

Sean Lynch '75, is the President and Founder of Living Care Home Services, LLC., that is "committed to assist families in finding compassionate, reliable, and affordable home care of the highest quality for loved ones in the safety and comfort of their own home", located in Doylestown, PA.

Gene Waas '78, a Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame member, is the District XI director of (wrestling) officials. - Morning Call 2/13/19

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Rosemary Egan McPherson '84, who received a BS in Biology/Physiology from Penn State University and a Doctorate in Optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, serves as part of a team of doctors with a focus on primary eye care with an emphasis on the diagnosis of diabetes, cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration at Kennett Square Eye Care.

Five members from the **Class of '84** gathered at Vero Beach, FL on Super Bowl weekend for some fun and relaxation. They were **Maria Concilio Barr, Mary Frances Dundon Hart, Rosi Egan McPherson, Patti Robinson Morehouse and Sue Steele Hoelzer**. These women have maintained their close friendship since graduation, and are looking forward to their 35th reunion this August.

Jason Bell '94, who graduated from Midwestern University – Arizona School of Osteopathic Medicine, serves as an endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism specialist in the Hendrick Health System, the first name in healthcare in Abilene, and the Texas Midwest.

Strange but true, strange but false.

Remember in last month's newsletter we learned that astonishingly, 88% of our class had the same last name of at least one other Beca alum? Just to put it another way, that's 231 out of 263 of us! Only 32 of us had a last name that no other alum had... like **(Ed) Delluva** and **(Betsy) Vreeland**.

For example, from my list of over 13,000 alums, there are 52 scholars with the last name of **Gallagher!** (including the 3 in our class...**Bernie, Dan, and Jack**)

OK. So, here are two "Strange but true, strange but false" statements...

- 1) "There are over 1,850 grads who have the same last name as someone in our class."
- 2) "We graduated 17,802 days ago." – As of March 1st, 2019

Strange but true? Strange but false?

Lost and Found

Our 50th reunion committee has reached out to over 100 classmates for whom we had no e-mail contact information, and reconnected with over 30 of them. Welcome back!

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Sports Update...

Boys Basketball

- Coach Scott McClary's first year
- The team is currently 24 – 3
 - **East Penn Conference Champions** (2nd title in a row)
 - **Justin Paz '19** is Beca's all-time scoring leader, surpassing the 59-year record held by **Bob Bukvics '60**
- Next up: District XI 4A Championship vs. Allentown Central Catholic, March 1

Girls Basketball

- Coach Jose Medina's fifth season (121 – 23)
- The team is currently 22 – 4
 - **East Penn Conference Champions** (5th title in last 6 years)
- Next up: District XI 4A Championship vs. Jim Thorpe, March 2

Wrestling

- Coaches, Rick Thompson (6-1); Jeff Karam (10-0)
- The team finished its season with a record of 16 – 1, including:
 - **District XI 3A Team Champions** (4th title in 5 years)
 - **PIAA 3A Team Champions** (2nd straight title, 7th in last 9 years)
- District XI 3A Individual Championships
 - 106 Dante Frinzi, 2nd
 - 113 Matt Mayer, 3rd
 - 126 Dillon Murphy, 4th
 - 132 Kenny Herrmann, 2nd
 - 138 Matt Lackman, 4th
 - **145 Ryan Anderson, 1st**
 - **152 Cole Handlovic, 1st**
 - 160 Luca Frinzi, 2nd
 - 285 Jase Crouse, 4th
- Next up: PIAA 3A Northeast Regionals for all of the above qualifiers
 - March 1st and 2nd

The Angels for Alex are (still) coming!

A few months back we set out to help Alex Tucker, a Beca junior who lost his father in 2010 and his mother to cancer last July, raise money to complete his education at Beca. (Tuition is \$10,200/year). **I am pleased to report that we have now received \$5,295 from multiple donors to date.** **THANK YOU!** If you have been thinking

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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 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
Elizabeth Geseck DeSort*	1947	10/22/18	
Ceferino "Chip" Orta*	1947	10/19/18	90
Kathleen Szulborski Gessitz	1977	2/18/19	59
Mark Tantsits	1981	2/11/19	55

* Source: Gus Concilio '47

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Family and Friends Passing

Mary Fink, wife of **Jim '70**, on 2/5/19

Ernest Kortvely, father of **Doreen '69**, on 2/5/19

Robert Stuber, father of **Ethan '01** and Leslie, on 2/2/19

Mark Tantsits '81, brother of **Frank '73** and **Kristine '84**, on 2/11/19

Please remember our classmates who passed away in the month of March:

Barry Astel, 03/04/07

Walt Dozer, 03/04/11

I also just heard that... another of our classmates, **Roseann Pammer**, who married **Fred Szvetecz '68**, passed away in 1996 at the age of 43. Prayers.

“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 our school and her alumni. (...and because they are Becahi Grads, I call it “BLinkedIn”). I found the following grads on LinkedIn this year:

Paula Ripper Olexa '65, who received a BA in Business Administration from DeSales University, and who served as an IT Security Professional for the Lehigh Valley Health Network, is now retired. Enjoy every second, Paula.

Sharon Baca '69, who received her Diploma in Nursing from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing and a BSN from the University of Bridgeport, is the Epilepsy Program Coordinator at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown.

Lucy Bednar '69, who received a BA in English Language & Literature from Moravian College, and both an MA and PhD in English Language & Literature from Lehigh University, is Faculty Emeritus, Associate Professor at James Madison University Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Bill Keating '69, who received both his BA and MBA from Lehigh University, is a Management Consultant at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP in Annandale, Virginia.

Barbara Lang Yates '69, who received a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a JD from Duquesne University, is an Attorney at the Law Office of Alfred G. Yates, Jr. in the greater Pittsburgh area.

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Nancy Fielding Mikitka '71, who received her Bachelor's Degree in Library Science from Kutztown State College and a Master's Degree in Education from Cabrini College, retired after 41 years as a School Librarian in the Bethlehem Area School District. Congrats, Nancy!

Steve Cichelli '72, who received a BA in Business Administration from Loyola University in Baltimore, is Senior ERP IT Program/Project Manager for private and public sectors in the greater Baltimore area.

Phil Demyan '72, who received a BS in Accounting from the University of Scranton and an MBA from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, is an Experienced Internal Audit Director & CAE at Southern Company in the Birmingham, Alabama area.

Sally Morrison '72, who received a BS in Education, Speech Pathology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a MS in Speech Pathology from the University of Maine, is an SLP (Speech-Language Pathologist) Professional at South Bay Early Intervention in the greater Boston area.

Georgine Sabolick Fontaine '72, who received an AAS in Nursing from Northampton Community College and a BSN from Hahnemann University, is a Patient Care Manager at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

James Balshi '73, who received a BS in Biology from St. Joseph's University and a MD from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, is the Chief Medical Information Officer at St. Luke's University Health Network in Bethlehem.

Catherine Bauer Hageman '73, is the Practice Manager, that includes responsibility for all operations of the PCP office, budget, communication between staff, providers and network, at the Lehigh Valley Physicians Group in Saylorsburg, PA.

Steve Begany '73, who received a BS in Industrial Engineering from Lehigh University, is a Senior Project Manager, at Rotating Machinery Services, Inc., a company that provides the turbomachinery industry with unparalleled service based on solid engineering and technical expertise, in Bethlehem.

Chris Connors '73, who received a BA in Biology & Philosophy from LaSalle University and both a MEd and PhD in Industrial/Organization Psychology from Temple University, is a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and Director in PwC's Connected Thinking in the greater Philadelphia area.

Maureen Cosgrove Sawyer '73, who received a BS in Social Work from Moravian College and a MS in Social Work from Marywood University, is Director-Case Management at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown.

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Donna Marie Gentilcore Benner '73, is the Manager of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Sales Enablement in North America at Manpower, Inc. in the Allentown area.

John Labukas '74, who received a BA in Accounting from Moravian College, is an Experienced Accounting Analyst and a Co-Trustee at Wells Fargo in Germansville, PA

Steve Minarik '74, who studied at the North American School of Travel and Lehigh University, is a Sales Coordinator/Client Services Coordinator at Walt Disney World in Kissimmee, FL.

Diane Roebock '74, who received her Bachelor of Health Arts from the University of St. Francis, is a Registered Nurse at the Lehigh Valley Health Network in Bethlehem.

Carol Schumacher Smith '74, who received an AGE from Northampton Community College and a BSW in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, is an Instructional Assistant at Henrico County Public Schools in the greater Richmond, VA area.

Pete Stebelski '74, who received a BA in Business Administration from Moravian College, is a Customer Service/Workforce Management Professional supporting ADP in the Bethlehem area.

Martha Litsch Schumacher '75, who received a BS in Microbiology from Penn State University and an MBA from The University of California – Berkeley's Walter A. Hass School of Business, is now a self-employed Market Research Professional in Allentown.

Arash Aghevli '94, who received a BS in Computer Engineering from Penn State University, is a Senior Software Engineer at Twitter in the San Francisco Bay area.

Ruben Aragon '94, who received a BS in Spanish and a BS in Marketing from DeSales University, is now an Accountant at Greenology Products, Inc. in Raleigh, NC.

Nick Donello '95, who received a BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and a MS in Biology from Drexel university, is a Senior Scientist at Merck in Harleysville, PA.

Katie Zimmerman Keich '04, who received an AA in Business Administration from Lehigh Carbon Community College and studied Accounting and Finance at DeSales University, is Director of Credit & Collections at Worldwide Express in Macungie, PA.

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Sean Keim '08, who received a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Management from the University of Delaware, is a Sales Representative at Stryker Communications in Eastern PA.

From the Advancement Office...

Mentoring Program for current students is growing!

Bethlehem Catholic invites all alumni to participate in our new Alumni Mentor Program. Current Golden Hawks can benefit from the knowledge of our alumni. To learn more and complete our on-line form, click here: <https://goo.gl/forms/5IKxKSGtGTx6fsrn1>

“Lights, Camera, Auction” – A Night on the Red Carpet

Bethlehem Catholic's 17th Annual Auction will be held on March 30th. There are many ways our alumni can help:

- Reserve your seats, call some alumni friends and have a spectacular night at your alma mater!
- Do you own a business that would like to sponsor this event or would you like to buy a page ad to make a shout-out to a special teacher or student?
- Donate a new item or an experience for the silent or live auction.
- Buy Raffle Tickets - \$25.00 or 5 for \$100 Prizes: \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500

Contact Advancement at (610) 866-0791 Tina ext 321 (Raffle, Tickets) or Connie at ext 323 (Sponsorships, Advertisements, Donations)

Start your plans for the Third Annual Alumni Cruise to the Bahamas and Florida A Reunion at sea?

It's a perfect way to celebrate a class reunion next year, February 15-23, 2020 – 8 nights! The cruise sails out of Bayonne, New Jersey. More details will come in future newsletters, or contact the Advancement Office in the meantime.

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Reflection

“The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. ... The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred.”

“We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.”

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
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