

Bethlehem Catholic High School Class of 1970 Alumni Newsletter

April, 2018

How about a “(P)reunion” meeting to get ready for our 50th?

We’re sneaking up on it. That slow, steady ticking of time toward our Golden (Hawk) Anniversary! Many of you have indicated a desire to get reunited, so I thought it might be good for us to set up a time when we could get together and begin the process. We still only have less than 70 e-mails for our classmates and you can see from the distribution list those who may be missing. So, let’s think of collecting some names and information, and if you’d like to get together to begin planning, let me know and I’ll coordinate the responses.

I know some of those grads from the class of 1969 are looking for information for a potential reunion for their class, too. Maybe we can join them? And maybe later, join the class of 1971? So much to discuss. Let me know if and when you’d like to get together to toss some ideas (and beverages) around.

...And please let the Advancement Office know of any revision or correction to your contact information. Their contact information is on the last page.

Other tidbits and head scratchers from our class (taken from the Sceptre):

- Q. The most last names in our class begin with the letter...
 - B, C, M, or S?
- Q. How many members of our class have/had a sibling in the class of '69...
 - 20-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40?
- Q. How many parishes were “feeders” for our class
 - 15, 16, 17, or 18?
 - (BTW, the Class of 1950 came from 11 different parishes. Care to guess their parish names?)
- I have not found (and I’m not sure if any were printed,) yearbooks for the years 1931 through 1949. I do have information between the years 1950 and 1970, and it looks like there were 2,589 Becahi graduates during that time. There were 262 graduates in our class.
 - Q. Alphabetically, who in our class was the 2,500th graduate?

Answers on last page...

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1970 and other Newsmakers, other notes, findings and such:

- **Rick Cassidy**, who is a Computer Science grad from East Stroudsburg University, holder of a Master's Certificate in Program Management from George Washington University's School of Business, and a Distinguished Graduate of the US Army Intelligence School, just marked his 16th anniversary as a project management consultant with Systematic Productions, Inc. in the greater San Diego area.
- **Bill Doncsecz**, a proud Penn State University graduate, retired after some 40 years of teaching math and serving the students in the Bangor Area School District. Congratulations and thanks Bill!
- **Tina Hudak**, who graduated from Moravian College, received a Master of Arts from the George Washington University, and her Masters in Library and Information Science from The University of Maryland, College Park, serves as the Head of Libraries at the St. Alban's School in D.C. Read any good books lately, Tina?
- **George and Betsy (Horvath) Kane** were recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering for their efforts as corporate champions of recruiting CEE students for their employer, Turner Construction Company. Betsy was our class Salutatorian. Smart move George.
- **Rick Ressler**, who graduated from Princeton with a BA in Economics and earned his J.D. from the Harvard Law School, is the Managing General Counsel at RWR Legal in Austin, TX. Rick was our Valedictorian (and a classmate of mine at SS. Simon and Jude.)

If you're now living or heading down to the Sarasota/Bradenton Florida area, you gotta read this...

...excerpts from an e-mail I received from **Carmen Spagnola '74**, who was my "little brother" growing up...

"We moved ... and we again are living in a golf course community which is also on the Manatee River having a marina for boating. The ironic thing is that Robin and I don't golf or own a boat. It's just a beautiful place to live. Still in the Sarasota/Bradenton area. The short version is that we moved down to this area the end of 2006 after I retired from the FBI with over 28 years of service. Robin retired three years later after 30 years with IBM. We opened the wine shop and wine bar in Lakewood Ranch in August of 2008, so it's almost ten years. People can check out our place, Cheers to Wine, online at cheers-to-wine.com The store is open six days a week at 11:00 AM, closed on Sunday. Please tell any BECAHI and Moravian alums to stop and see us if they live or are visiting this

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area. Besides the store/bar, I got back into martial arts training on a regular basis about seven years ago. I study White Tiger Kempo under sifu Clark George. It contains aspects of Chinese, Okinawan and Japanese arts. It sure beats golf. :)"

Carmen is a graduate of Moravian College and earned his M.A. in Criminal Justice from the John Jay College of the City University of New York, and more importantly, **Jo's cousin!**

Don't miss the movie *Getting Grace*, "A darkly funny and inspirational film about a girl with cancer and the lessons about life and faith that she teaches others" starring Becahi graduates **Dan Roebuck '81**, and **Madelyn Dundon '16**, that opened nationally in theaters on March 23rd. Much of the movie was filmed in the Lehigh Valley.

Breakfast and a Show!

Becahi's Theatre Group invites us to join them for their presentation of ***Godspell*** on Wednesday April 11, 2018 at 9:30am in the auditorium. The play will be preceded by breakfast at 8:30am in the gym.

Reserved parking will be by the auditorium (on the "girls' side".) Look for the orange traffic cones. Due to the popularity of the event, they can accommodate the alumni and their guests on a first come-first served basis. Please notify Connie Druckenmiller by email at cdrukenmiller@becahi.org or call 610-866-0791 Ext. 323 as soon as you can, preferably by April 3rd.

Cocktails and a Show!

If you are attending the production of *Godspell* on April 20th, Becahi will be hosting a VIP cocktail reception for our alumni in the Media Center at 6pm. Reserved tickets for the show are available at our online box office www.bit.ly/becatheater. After purchasing your ticket please RSVP to the Connie Druckenmiller in the Advancement Office to let her know if you will be attending the VIP reception. A limited number of spots are available for the VIP reception. If you were in a past production of *Godspell* please considering coming and getting pictures with the cast.

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Sixtieth Reunion Set for the Class of 1958

The long-awaited day and location have been set!

Saturday May 19, 2018
11:30am – 3:30pm

Prime Steak house 325 Stoke Park Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-882-4070
www.primesteakhouse.com

The class of 1957 has held successful reunions there for the past several years.

A \$10.00 deposit/person is requested in order to purchase appetizer platters and offset costs. Each person will order from the restaurant menu and pay for their own food, drinks and tips. Individual tabs will be run by the servers.

Please contact as soon as you can:

Anna Marie DelGrosso Zieger amzi@ptd.net
2042 Montgomery Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Other Reunion members are: Frank Almer falmer@ptd.net
Joan Balik 610 868-1369 Marian Alexander Cohen marianjc@verizon.net
Peggy Napravnik Derhammer pderhammer1@verizon.net
Don Schoenen shardon276@gmail.com

A 20th Century look back - in the decades before and after our class graduated...

When I stopped in to the Advancement Office at school after some alumni masses, I took a look at yearbooks for a glimpse into the classes of 1930, 1950, 1960, 1980 and 1990. Some observations...

There were 45 members of the **1930** senior class including 22 boys and 23 girls at the high school's fourth annual graduation at the Fourth and Webster Streets' location. The yearbook was called ***The Brown and Gold***. One of the graduates was Ruth Rose Showers who, I think, later became Mr. Culver's mother. There was also a Clement Michael Repsher, James Philip Talbot, and Mary Bernadette Willey who may be ancestors to Lee (Repsher), Linda (Talbot) and Sue (Willey)?

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There is/was no printed yearbook for the Class of **1940**, so I was unable to find some factoids. **Does anyone have (or can get) information about this or any class from 1931 through 1949?** I'm pretty sure some of your ancestors have roamed the halls of Beca at the Fourth and Webster location.

There were 53 members of the **1950** senior class at the Fourth and Webster Streets' location including 14 (26%) boys and 39 (74%) girls. Father Joseph V. Sangmeister was the principal. The first printed yearbook in 2 decades was printed. The new nickname "**Golden Hawks**" was introduced. The boys' basketball team won the Eastern PA State Championship.

There were 146 members of the senior class of **1960**, including 50 (34%) boys and 96 (66%) girls. It was the largest class of seniors at the Fourth and Webster Streets' location. Fr. Sangmeister was the principal. Bob Bukvics was a member of the senior class, scored 1,467 points, and was an integral member of the 1960 State Championship basketball team. Sr. Irma Loreto taught art and math.

There were 263 members of our senior class in **1970**, including 133 Boys (51%) and 130 girls (49%). It was the first class to have more boys than girls in the school's history...at least in since 1950. Brother Frederick McAuley, C.S.C., was the principal. Bob Bukvics taught world cultures and coached boys' basketball. Sr. Irma Loreto taught math and was the senior class moderator. Dick Culver taught math.

In **1980** there were 177 graduates including a ~50/50 split of boys (89) and girls (88). Dick Culver was the principal. Bob Bukvics was social studies chairperson, taught math and coached boys' basketball. Sr. Irma Loreto was a math tutor, nurse's aide and coordinator of graduation.

In **1990** there were 153 seniors in that years' 25th Anniversary class on Madison and Dewberry Avenues. There were 63 boys (41%) and 90 girls (59%). Dick Culver was the principal. Bob Bukvics taught world cultures, math and foreign policy. Sr. Irma Loreto was a math tutor, nurse's aide and then retired from teaching after 36 years of service to the students at Beca.

Pause and Reflect on teachers' past

As students, we sometimes don't realize the extraordinary life stories of the teachers who have guided and educated us over the years. We learn to really appreciate their contributions as we grow older. As I research the people who have shared part of their lives to help us be the people we are today, I find stories that makes me pause, reflect and grateful for their contribution.

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Annette Cecile Hamill

...A lawyer and corporate attorney who served in the Red Cross during WWII, she taught French II and was Moderator of the French Club at Beca from September, 1964 through June, 1967. As was the custom at that time, the Yearbook listed her as "Mrs. James Hamill." Excerpts from article as published in the Morning Call, May 17, 2011

"Annette Cecile Hamill, 99, a resident of The Highlands in Wyomissing, formerly of Emmaus and Venice, FL, went to her Lord and Savior Sunday, May 15th (2011). She was the wife of James A. Hamill, deceased, and they had been married 50 years. Annette was a 1942 graduate of Northeastern University Law School and a member of the Massachusetts Bar. She was the third woman ever to pass both the state and federal bar exams in the state of Massachusetts. She served in the Red Cross in WWII and was a member of the Women's Overseas Service League. She worked as a corporate attorney at Lever Bros. in Boston. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Reading and had been a member of St. Ann Catholic Church in Emmaus. Annette had been a French teacher at both Bethlehem Catholic H.S. and Moravian Prep School in the 1960s. She also served on the Fountain Hill and Bethlehem School Boards. In Venice, she served as secretary of the Epiphany Parish Council and President of the Women's Guild. Born in Methuen, Mass, December 23, 1911, she was the daughter of George A. Maynard and Philomene Victoria Chouinard..."

Joseph Szczepanski

He taught us Spanish. He graduated from Kings College (as had our current principal, Holly DeNofa), and he was born in Nanticoke (whose high school basketball team was defeated by our boys' team in the 1st round of the PIAA State Championship tournament). Excerpts from article as published in the Morning Call, August 2, 2012

"Joseph L "Sarg" Szczepanski, 86, formerly of Bethlehem, died Saturday in the Veterans Administration Nursing Facility, Wilkes-Barre. Born August 20, 1918 in Plymouth Township, he was the son of the late Michael and Anastasia (Luchow) Szczepanski. He graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1937. Upon graduation, he joined the Army. He defended the Philippines, serving under General Wainwright, until surrender in April 1942. He survived the Bataan Death March and spent three years, four months in a mainland Japan POW forced labor camp. Of the 95,000 soldiers captured in Bataan only 5,000 survived the war. Joseph received letters of commendation from General Douglas MacArthur and President Harry S Truman. In 1947 he transferred to the Air Force and served as an aerial photographer in the Strategic Air Command. He retired as a tech sergeant in 1959, after more than 21 years of proud service. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Kings College, he taught (Spanish) at Bethlehem Catholic High School from 1968 to

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1976. He was a member of Holy Family Parish, Luzerne. He was a past member of VFWs and American Legions in the Bethlehem and Allentown Area..."

News from other years...

- **Marion E. Doyle** and **Helen F. Polasky** were the first 2 members of Notre Dame parish to graduate from Beca... Class of 1955.
- **Richard J. Parente**, class of 1964, was the first member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish to graduate from Beca.
- **Edward "Ed" Krebs '69**, is a photographer and musician who has been living in Laguna Beach, California for over 40 years. He recently posted an old photo from 1st grade at SS. Simon and Jude School in 1957 (Becahi Class of 1969). Check it out at <http://edkrebs.com/ssjs/index.html> Thanks Ed.
- **Darian Cruz, '13**, and **Zeke Moisey '14**, earned All-American medals at the 2018 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships in Cleveland OH. Darian, a three-time collegiate All-American who wrestled for Lehigh University, finished fifth, and Zeke, who wrestled for West Virginia University, finished eighth at 125 pounds.

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.

In keeping with my guidance counselor mentality, you can also increase your LinkedIn connections if you add Becahi to the Education Section of your LinkedIn profile.

- **Jim Daday '72**, graduated from Lehigh University, is a U.S. Air Force veteran, and is an Acquisition Program Management Specialist at Strategic Professional Resources, Inc. in Omaha NE.
- **Dave Felker '79**, a graduate of Temple University, is a Senior Financial Advisor, Vice-President at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Bank of America Corporation in Yardley, PA.
- **Anne Fink, '88**, is the Assistant Dean for College and Student Services at Villanova University's College of Nursing. Anne earned her BSN at Thomas Jefferson University, her MSN at DeSales University and PhD in Nursing from Villanova.

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- **Renee Mannion Pollins '89**, a graduate of Bloomsburg University, specializes in executive coaching, leadership development and change management at Renee Pollins Coaching in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- **Melissa Zeller Kiebort, '90** Class VP, is a graduate of St. Joseph's University and is an Independent Marketing Consultant at 2120 Creative in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- **Danielle Gulick Bartholomew '93**, is a Moravian College Graphic Design graduate and is the Digital Print and Pre-press Director at Strata Company in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- **Marc Schoenen '94**, an undergraduate of Franklin & Marshall College and MBA graduate from Harvard Business School, is the International Compensation Director at Google in the San Francisco Bay area, where he leads all aspects of Google's international compensation practice, spanning dozens of countries and tens of thousands of Googlers.
- **Veronica Mikitka Reed '04**, is a graduate of Elizabethtown College and is an Account Director at Maven Communications in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- **Gabrielle Lacherza '12**, graduated from Temple University with a BS in Strategic Communications, Public Relations and is a Public Relationship Specialist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia.
- **Maria Spirk, 2013** Class Salutatorian, graduated from St. Joseph's University with a BS in Psychology. Maria is a Client Relationship Specialist for Vanguard in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- **More College Graduations** (sourced from media, like Morning Call, Bethlehem Press, etc.)
...from the Class of 2012:
 - **Grady Barth** Lehigh University
 - **Christopher Blaszk** Penn State University/University of Arkansas
 - **Michelle Fartel** Bloomsburg University
 - **Cara Hackett** Temple University
 - **Matthew Lazicky** Fairfield University
 - **Michael Leddy** East Stroudsburg University
 - **Stephen Long** University of Scranton/Geisinger Medical School
 - **Nigel Mease** Hartwick College
 - **Marc Meny** Jacksonville University
 - **Jake Parrish** Lafayette College

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- **More College Graduations** (sourced from media, like Morning Call, Bethlehem Press, etc.)
...from the Class of 2013:

- **Rachel Abbott** Delaware Valley University
- **Allison Barczynski** Bloomsburg University
- **Ashley Brader** Temple University
- **Michael Chajnacki** Lebanon Valley College
- **David Derkits** Kutztown University
- **Jackie DeSarro** University of Scranton
- **Brighde Foley** Penn State University
- **Wesley Hurst** Fordham University
- **Leah John** Old Dominion University
- **Kayla Lash** Lehigh University
- **Madeline Lopez** Villanova University
- **Ryan Mortimer** Rutgers University
- **Cecilia Perez** Albright College
- **Sofia Perez** Bloomsburg University
- **Eva Rodic** Kutztown University
- **Joseph Ruggiero** Fordham University
- **Alexandra Setcavage** Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- **Bridget Smith** University of Pennsylvania / Sidney Kimmel Medical College
(Valedictorian) of Thomas Jefferson University
- **Emily Smith** James Madison University

How about bringing us up-to-date on your journey?

Passings

Classmates	Class	Passed Away	Age
Vincent "Jimmy" Buttillo	1947*	3/18/2018	88
Bernadine Timko Duser	1951	3/30/2018	83
William Gresho	1960	3/10/2018	76
Eston "Barney" Becker	1969	3/18/2018	66
Tim Galle	1969	3/6/2018	66

* Estimated year of graduation

Family and Friends

- **Eston "Barney" Becker '69**, was **Jeannine's '70** brother
- **Vincent "Jimmy" Buttillo '47***, brother of **Rose '57**, father of **Pam '82**, **Karen '83** and **Jeff '85**

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- **William Gresho '60**, brother of **Mary '61**
- **Tim Galle '69**, brother of **Terry '67**, **Mary Jane '70** and **Tina '71**
- **Eliseo "Leo" Ocampo**, father of **Grace '70**, **Joseph '71**, **Jose '79** and **Laura '79**, on 3/20/18

It would be wonderful to have other types of alumni news to report... such as anniversaries, weddings, and births from you and/or of your children and grandchildren!

How about bringing us up-to-date on your journey?

Becahi's 2018 Winter Sports Highlights:

Wrestling:

- Coach Jeff Karam, in his 10th year, won his 300th victory
- 16 Wins – 1 Loss
- PIAA State Wrestling Tournament
 - 3rd place as a Team
 - Five Medalists
 - Champion:
 - 138 Ryan Anderson
 - Other Medal Winners
 - 106 Matt Mayer (4th)
 - 126 Kenny Herrmann (4th)
 - 145 Cole Handlovic (6th)
 - 152 Luca Frinzi (7th)
- PIAA Northeast Regional Champions
 - Nine Medal Winners
- District 11 3A Champions
 - 2nd title in 3A and 6th overall
 - Twelve Medal Winners
- East Penn League Team Champions

Girls' Basketball

- 25 Wins – 4 Losses
- Coach Jose Medina, in his 4th season, is 100-19
- PIAA State Tournament
 - 13th PIAA appearance (27 – 11 overall)
 - 13 – 0 overall in the 1st round
 - Lost in second round to Bonner-Prendergast 40-38
- PIAA Eastern Pennsylvania 4A Champions

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- District 11 4A Champions
 - 3rd straight District title and 5th in 6 years
 - 23rd title game overall, 9-4 in district finals
- Hope Brown, Sr., eclipses the 1,000-point mark
- Natalie Rhine, Sr., played in 119 games (100 wins) in her career (2nd best in school history)
- School record 133 3-pointers made

Boys' Basketball

- 28 Wins – 4 Losses
 - Ties the best season record since the 1962 PCIAA State Championship Team
- Coach Ray Barbosa, in his 3rd season, is 64-22
- PIAA State Tournament
 - 1st second round victory ever in PIAA
 - 1st quarterfinal victory ever in PIAA
 - Lost in semifinals to Imhotep Charter 65-60
- PIAA Eastern Regional 4A Champions
- District 11 4A Champions
 - Second straight District 11 title and fourth overall
- East Penn Conference Champions
 - First championship since 2003 when it was in the Lehigh Valley Conference
- Justin Paz, Jr., breaks the 1,000-point mark

Easter Prayer

“May the light of the risen Christ shine upon us this day,
And may we share in His Easter joy.

For truly,

*“This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!”*

source: University of Scranton daily Lenten Devotional.

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, accept my sincerest apologies, and...

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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. Connie Druckenmiller, Alumni Events Manager
Bethlehem Catholic High School
2133 Madison Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610 866-0791, ext. 323
cdruckenmiller@becahi.org

Ms. Tina Giordano, Advancement Assistant – Ext. 321
tgiordano@becahi.org

Answers to head-scratchers...

- Q. The most last names in our class begin with the letter...
- A. S (26 persons)
 - By the way last names and (people) with B (20), C (21) and M (25)

- Q. How many members of our class have/had a sibling in the class of '69...
- A. 37 (best I can tell)

- Q. How many parishes were "feeders" for our class
- A. 17
 - (BTW, the Class of 1950 came from 11 different parishes. Care to guess their parish names?)
 - Holy Family, Holy Ghost, Holy Infancy, Holy Rosary, St. Anne, St. John Capistrano, St. Joseph, St. Theresa, St. Ursula, SS. Cyril and Methodius and SS. Simon and Jude

- Q. Alphabetically, who in our class was the 2,500th graduate (between 1950-1970)?
- A. Dan Miller

Hopefully there's a "Fact-Checker" among you...