



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

This Bulldog is 55 Years Old!!!!

The Garfield Heights High School Class of 1967 celebrated their 55th reunion on August 20th this year. As it turned out, some of the alums wanted a little “get together” prior to the “big event”. Therefore, on August 19, 2022, 14 alums met at the Tavern of Independence on Brecksville Road at 6pm to get reacquainted. Below is a photo (compliments of **Audrey Sopko’s** nephew) of those who participated.



Chuck Angello



Jim Blank



Linda Wike Calkins



Bill Chylik



Ray D'Eusanio



Sharon Patyk
D'Eusanio



Ken Dankowski



GHHS
Class of 1967



Casey Lesiak



Joe Mack



Jim Matowitz
(not photographed)



Alan Novello



Sue Baranovic
Slesnick



Audrey Sopko



Ruth Mendala
Thompson



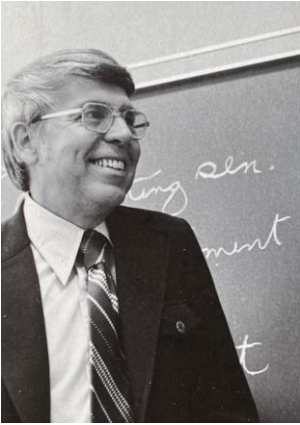
As our reunion chair said, “...the image of a 55 Year Reunion became a reality on August 20, 2022. A gathering of 62 Alumni & 27 Guests joined together to feast, celebrate friendship, mark losses, share fond memories & relax in the company of fellow Bulldogs. A big shout out to Committee 55 & many others for all the input, the time, and the effort necessary which made this special event a fun evening for everyone. *Love all my Bulldogs, Janice Wroblewski Hola.*”

From comments received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves both Friday & Saturday! Keep going, Bulldogs!!!

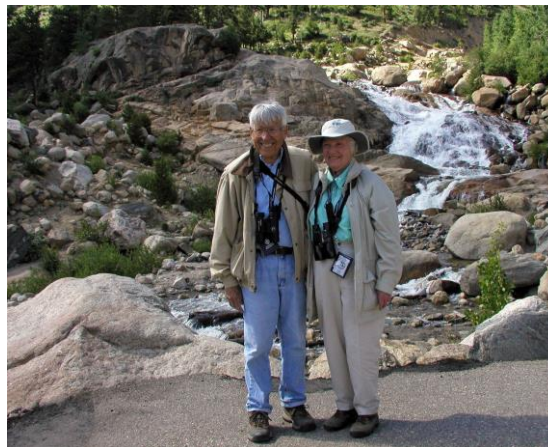
IN MEMORY



It is with sadness that we report that another of our alumni, **Nancy Parker Petrov**, 72, passed away on August 29, 2022, ending nine months of a struggle with Covid-19 & its complications. While attending GHHS, Nancy participated in Block "G", Booster Club, Future Teachers, Intramurals, Spanish Club, Ski Club, Showboat and was a Homeroom Officer. She was also a member of the National Honor Society. She had moved to the Cleveland area as a teenager & graduated from GHHS & Cleveland State University. She also earned a master's degree in social work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences of Case Western Reserve University, and then worked for many years as a social worker at the Cleveland Clinic. Nancy is survived by her husband of 49 years, Alan, and three children. She was also blessed with three grandchildren.



We are also saddened to learn that former faculty member, Mr. **William Toneff**, passed away on October 11, 2022. He was 103! Mr. Toneff initially began his career at GHHS at the age of 30 as a music teacher & choir director in 1947; his entire career was at Garfield. He was also the first director of the Triple Trio that began at GHHS during the 1956-57 school year, and was also the director or sponsor for 10 years leading the Glee Club. By the 1957-58 school year, he began teaching English and continued to do so until his retirement. He married Ann Thornton Toneff and enjoyed 68 years of marriage with her. Ann was a primary teacher of the GH Public Schools and taught there for 30 years. She passed away April 15, 2017. Mr. Toneff was a veteran of WWII. He obtained the rank of 1st Lieutenant & served in the U.S. Army Field Artillery, Battery B, 391st Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, 1st Army. He was twice wounded & received the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster & a Bronze Star for Bravery. In 2018, when 99, he led the City of Brecksville Memorial Day parade as its Grand Marshall. He was also its Memorial Day speaker & received a Proclamation of Appreciation by the City. He & Ann were also avid birders and during their retirement were always in pursuit of spying species of birds. They were members of the Kirtland Bird Club & had many bird sighting lists recorded in notebooks from many travels within the USA, Canada, and their "backyard" close to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Mr. Toneff was a special faculty member of GHHS, as well as a wonderful human being. He will be greatly missed by many, including the staff & students of GHHS!



Bulldog Banter

Our Traveling Alumni: During the last few months, several of our alums were able to travel. **Louise Pieschalski Novak** was in Conneaut, OH, viewing her grandson participating in a reenactment of D-Day. Every August, Township Park of Conneaut turns into the beaches of Normandy, with camps of Allied, German and French Resistance soldiers. Over 1,000 reenactors participate in this exercise honoring WW2 veterans and the remembering of D-Day. It must have provided everyone with some goosebumps!

Susan Goede took a three-day tour in September to Upper Michigan and visited Mackinac Island, Clare & Frankenmuth while there.

Amy Roman Kostka with husband, Bill, visited their 50th U.S. state – North Dakota on September 24, 2022! Lots of things to see while there, and they attempted to do all of them!

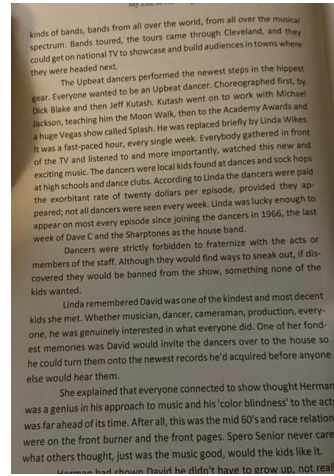
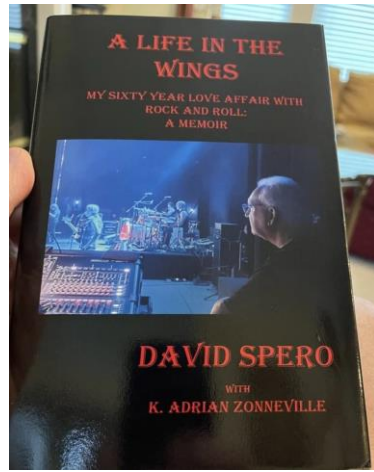
And, **Diana Trego** was in London with her granddaughter when the announcement was made of the death of Queen Elizabeth. Certainly, a memorable experience for both of them! Then they headed to Edinburgh, Scotland, where the Queen was lying in state. A car was rented in Dublin, Ireland, and it was used to drive all around the country, including North Ireland. Certainly, a trip that will be remembered for a long time!

Kudos to many who were celebrating anniversaries!! **Linda Bright Klimonek** and her husband, Joe, celebrated 43 years together on August 18, 2022; **Karen McClune Dougan** and Tom had their 51st anniversary on August 28, 2022; **Jim & Rosemarie Martinovich Spatny** were married 53 years on September 13, 2022, **Leslie Mroz Readinger** with husband, Jeff, celebrated their 51st anniversary on September 24, 2022, **Ron Kosey** with wife, Diane, celebrated their 49th anniversary in Las Vegas this September, **Mike** and Bev **Dean** had their 54th anniversary on October 5, 2022, and **Sharon Travagliante Weitzman** with husband, Paul, celebrated 28 years together on October 15, 2022, at Lockkeepers. **Congratulations all!!!**

Kudos also to **Rhea Jones Ashmore** who volunteers as a fire lookout, or a fire watcher, at the Cooney Lookout in Condon, Montana. Rhea is assigned the duty to look for fire from atop a building known as a fire lookout tower. On August 18th, 2022, she noted, "Reported smoke today, the fire crew responded quickly and successfully extinguished." Rhea, you are amazing! Here are a couple of photos she provided to us of this venture:



Also kudos to **Linda Wike Calkins** who was recently mentioned in *“A Life In The Wings My Sixty Year Love Affair with Rock and Roll: A Memoir”* by David Spero with K. Adrian Zonneville. If you remember, Linda was one of the dancers of the *Upbeat* television show that was on TV every single week for an hour hosted by weatherman, Don Webster. One can read, “.....The Upbeat dancers performed the newest steps in the hippest gear. Choreographed first by Dick Blake and then Jeff Kutash, who went on to bigger & better things. Linda replaced Jeff briefly. According to Linda, the dancers were paid the rate of \$20 per episode, provided they appeared; not all were seen every week. Linda was lucky to appear on most every episode since joining the dancers in 1966.”



What memories, Linda. I think we need to get a copy of this book and truly visit the past!

Condolences to: **Barbara Braden Orefice** and family upon the passing in August of Barbara's sister, Martha Braden Bunosky, age 74. Martha was the wife of Ronald Bunosky for 53 years. She was mother to three children and grandmother of two.

Our thoughts are with you, Barbara!

Thinking of: **Karen Kuderna Kudley** who had meniscus surgery in mid-August; **Jim Embrescia** who was released from the hospital to home on August 25, 2022, after major surgery, and **Leslie Mroz Readinger** who had medullary thyroid surgery on August 26th due to cancer returning after 15 years. The cancer targeted all the nodes in her neck so they were all removed. She, too, is now home and surgery went well.

All of you have been included in our prayers!

Newsy Reflections & Tidbits:

Your editor, **Gail Russler Meyer** & hubby, Barry, took a driving trip into Kentucky, Virginia & North Carolina. Our goal was to view the "Ark Encounter" located between Cincinnati, OH, & Lexington, KY, as well as other sights along the way. We did see it, which was incredible, and was also able to have **Marsha Grimes Oakley**, a former 1965-1966 Triple Trio Member of GHHS, accompany us, as she resides in Lexington. While there, it was a treat to be able to stay with Marsha at her home for 5 nights, rather than the two we had planned. We enjoyed discussing old times and were able to get "caught up" on everything, plus she hosted several more events for us while visiting. Here is a photo of the two of us at a lovely fine dining restaurant in her hometown.



The Lady Bulldogs met for lunch on September 17th at Danny Boy's in Broadview Heights. Those of the small but mighty group that attended are pictured below. If you are interested in attending a lunch, RSVP to Audrey Sopko



From above picture: **Leslie Mroz Readinger, Karen Parhamovich Felon, Linda Wike Calkins, Jan Wroblewski Hola, Ruth Mendala-Thompson, Karen Soika Palker, Pam Poveroni Conrad, Gayle Glowick Konet, and Nancy Levis Knowlton.**



And Now A Little Humor..... From Nico Bujak & Gail Russler Meyer, respectively:

“It’s not my age that bothers me, it’s the side effects.

“I’m not saying I’m old & worn out, but I make sure I’m nowhere ear the curb on trash day.”

“As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I’m sure of..it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.”

“As I’ve gotten older, people think I’ve become lazy. The truth is I’m just being more energy efficient”

And Her 4th Marriage

A local news station was interviewing an 80 year old woman on why she had recently got married for the 4th time. They wanted to know her secret for finding love again & again.

The interviewer asked her a few questions about her life, and about what it felt like to be a bride again at age 80. Then he asked what her new husband did for a living.

“He’s a funeral director, “ she answered.

The newsperson was surprised at her answer and wondered who else she had married. He then asked her if she wouldn’t mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. Her life had been full of exciting moments, especially with three husbands.

After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20s, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40s, and a preacher when in her 60s and now, in her 80s, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, “I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!”



And that, friends, is all that is written for this newsletter. Wishing everyone a *Happy Halloween!*

Go Bulldogs!

Your loyal editor,

Gail Russler Meyer