

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S POSTAGE
 PAID
 CLEVELAND, OH
 PERMIT NO. 362



Highlighting the Past, Illuminating the Present, Sparking the Future

Brush Alumni Association



 **your NEWSLETTER**

This is **your newsletter!** Although we are here to facilitate its publication, we can not be entirely responsible for its content. That's up to you! Doing something interesting that you think other alumni might want to read about? Getting together with some classmates for a dinner? Weekend? Vacation? Take some pictures, write an article, and send it in! Articles and photos can be submitted to our email: **office@brushalumni.com** We look forward to hearing from you and ask you to help us keep the ARC spirit alive!

 **Join Us!**

To Join the Alumni Association and/or to sign up for our electronic newsletter, visit <https://www.brushalumni.com/>

Alumni Association

TRUSTEES:
 Debra DiLillo Betz '76
 Neil Brofman, '73
 Chris Ricchiuto, '76

PRESIDENT: Norm Rogozin, '63

TREASURER:
 Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey, '68

SECRETARY:
 Joyce Takacs Simmelink, '60

Alumni Arc-Lite

Sally Shortle Miller - Editor
 Deb DiLillo Betz - Design & Layout



Brush Alumni Association
 5044 Mayfield Road
 Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124
 office@brushalumni.org
 www.brushalumni.com
 216-691-2108



Unless otherwise indicated, all articles written by Sally Miller or Deb Betz

GRADUATION 2022

The Alumni Association would like to congratulate the 2022 graduates of Brush High School.

On June 1, 2022, the annual commencement ceremony was held in Welser Gymnasium. The ceremony was originally scheduled to be held on the Korb Field and was moved inside due to inclement weather.

Two hundred fifty students received their diplomas in a traditional ceremony. Many of the students graduated with honors: There were sixteen Summa Cum Laude graduates, fourteen Magna Cum Laude graduates, and sixteen Cum Laude graduates. There were fifteen students who were awarded a Diploma with Honors. This diploma is designated by the state. There were thirty-eight students earning the Presidential Educational Award of Excellence and eleven students graduated with a GPA of 4.0 or better.

In his speech, Mr. Karl Williamson described the class as "special and unique." There were \$9,467,000 dollars awarded in scholarships and one student earned an associate degree while attending Brush. Five students have committed to the military. Truly a special class.

Brush High Alumni Wall of Achievement

The Brush High School Wall of Achievement Dinner and Induction Ceremony is taking place on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at the Venue at Stonewater in Highland Heights, Ohio. Alumni Inductees this year include:

Simone Jelks, 2004; Joe Hennes, 2000; Robert Kain, 1979; Barbara Roman, 1968; and Lary Bloom, 1961. We will also be honoring long-time Brush Assistant Principal **David Nichting**. The event will begin at approximately 6:15 PM. Ticket price is \$40. Reservations must be made in advance, no later than October 26. If you would like to join us to support and celebrate our inductees, your classmates, please contact Deb DiLillo Betz at betz@sel.k12.oh.us.



2022 Brush Alumni Association Senior Scholarships

May 12, 2022

Total Alumni Scholarships Awarded: \$19,500

(unless otherwise noted Alumni Association Scholarship Committee selects recipient)



Lillian Kiefer
\$1,500
Class of '61 Scholarship



Kennedy Williams
\$1,500
Class of '61 Scholarship



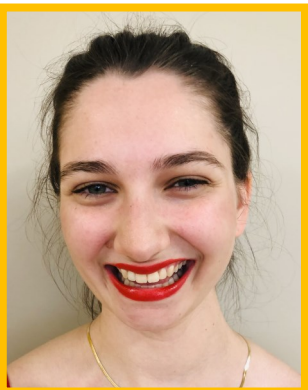
Timothy Trepal
\$1,500
Class of '61 Scholarship



L. Ladaika
\$500
Eugene A. Torok Scholarship
\$1,000
Theodore Bell Mathematics Prize



Arthur Bargainer
\$1,500
BAA Scholarship for Teacher Education



Brune Boukobza
\$5,000
Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer Scholarship for Excellence in Physics and English, Class of 1960
Selected and presented by Jo Ann Soderquist, Class of 1960

Commemorative Pavers...A Perfect Gift for Your Brush High Alum

What? A personalized, engraved, brick paver that will bear an alum's name, a family name, or good wishes for past/present/or future generations.

Where? These pavers are prominently located between the circle drive and Korb Football Field, adding to the beauty of Brush High School.

When? You may purchase these pavers at any time during the year. Pavers are generally placed in the summer.

Why? To commemorate that special person, family, or class. Anyone may purchase a paver. You don't have to be a Brush alum.

- Choices are:** ~ Alumni Paver 4" x 8" (1-3 lines) \$50
~ Premium Paver 8" x 8" (1-6 lines) \$100

All orders must be accompanied by a check made payable to: Brush Alumni Association. Proceeds will be used for operating expenses, special projects, and/or scholarships. Call the Alumni Office at 216-691-2108 if you have questions.



MEMORIAL WALKWAY PAVER ORDER FORM

Please use a separate form for each order. Copies are acceptable.
Mail completed form and check to: Brush Alumni Association***5044 Mayfield Rd.***Lyndhurst, OH*** 44124

Purchaser's Name: First _____ Maiden (if alum) _____ Last _____
Purchaser's Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Purchaser's Phone # _____ Purchaser's E-Mail _____

Print name or message as you wish it to be engraved. Be certain to leave blank spaces between words.
Adhere to either 3 lines for \$50 or 6 lines for \$100. Each line has 14 spaces. Do not exceed these spaces.



CLASS OF 1983
40th Reunion
Saturday, **8/5/2023**
7 PM—11 PM
Zeppe's Tavern & Pizzeria
Bedford Hts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28481691266>

Upcoming 2023 Reunions

SAVE the DATE
CLASS OF 1973
50th Reunion
7/1/2023

CLASS OF 1968
55th Reunion
Saturday, **7/29/2023**
Contact:
Bonnie Abbey
blabbey@aol.com





Local Alumni Business Spotlight ~ Village Trends Boutique

Village Trends Boutique is owned and operated by Elizabeth Tarkowsky (Class of '99) and has been in business since 2018. The boutique was online until she took the leap and opened her first brick and mortar store in Chesterland. She has since opened additional stores in Chardon (fall 2020) and Mayfield (July 2022).

After college, Elizabeth dreamed of owning her own business. She earned a degree in communications and worked for State Farm in her Dad's local agency. While working for State Farm, she returned to school earning an MBA. This degree gave her the knowledge and confidence to start Village Trends Boutique.

The boutique offers a great selection of clothing, accessories, gifts, and locally made items. When selecting merchandise for the boutique, she says, "I don't go overboard with trends. That's why we appeal to such a broad age range. Trends can be too specific to one age group or body type. I buy from many different vendors to keep things fresh and have plenty of options for everyone." Outside of just shopping, the boutique offers craft nights, cookie decorating nights, and other events that give local women a place to enjoy. There are also opportunities to do private shopping events as well.

Elizabeth credits much of her success to her loyal staff. She is also very proud that some of her staff, local vendors, and class instructors are Brush alumni!

One of the main things she enjoys about being self-employed is the flexibility her business provides so that she can be available for her family. Elizabeth's husband, Greg, and children, Ryan, Brendan, and Molly, are her driving force to be successful.

The stores are currently gearing up for the holiday season. Stop by and see the exciting holiday merchandise, or sign-up for one of the many classes directly through the website. She states "supporting local entrepreneurs and small businesses is what will keep our communities thriving."

LOCATIONS: 8177 Mayfield Road, Chesterland; 105 South Street, Chardon and the newest store at 5864 Mayfield Road. <https://www.villagetrendsboutique.com>



CLASS OF 1963 Stay Tuned

Upcoming Class Reunions

CLASS of 2000
 Friday, 11/11/2022
 6 PM—9 PM
The Big Bang Cleveland
 Heavy Apps,
 open bar until 9 PM,
 live music all included for \$55/person.
 RSVP and pay by 11/1/22 by clicking on Venmo link below:
<https://account.venmo.com/u/BrushClassof2000>

By Cherie Thomas Pencak '76 ~ On May 12, 2022, in the Performing Arts Center at Charles F. Brush High School, a special event was held for the Annual Senior Scholarship Awards. Proud seniors who earned a GPA of 3.5 or greater and their parents and families were invited to celebrate their seniors' accomplishments. Monetary scholarships were presented to many of these students. The Brush Alumni Association is always proud to participate in this celebration, awarding scholarships this year that totaled \$19,500.

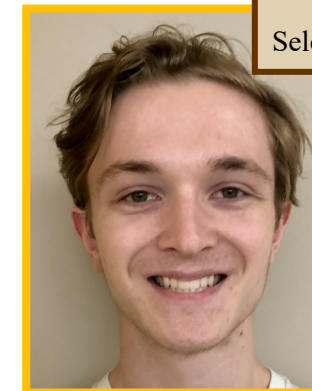
In 1993 the Alumni Association awarded their first scholarship. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Skinner and Mr. and Mrs. Don Lamberton (1947 classmates) established the John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship. Since then, the Alumni Association has distributed over \$214,000 to deserving Brush seniors. This year, the John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Aaliyah Caraballo.

By contributing to these scholarships, Brush alumni not only provide monetary help to these recipients' futures, but also to the future of Brush High School and the South Euclid-Lyndhurst community. Thanks to all Brush alumni, who through their annual membership contributions and donations, have continued to be loyal and caring members of the ARC community.

If YOU would like to create a scholarship in your name, someone else's name, or for your class, please contact me at cherietpencak@gmail.com. If you wish to contribute to any of the scholarships mentioned in this article, please note that on your envelope when you return it with your dues contribution. Thank you!



Jamir Robert Thomas
 \$1,000
Joseph Burriss Memorial Scholarship



Aiden Weise
 \$1,000
Thomas J. Murnick Scholarship
 Selected and presented by Beth DeCapite



Rheigna Gullatte
 \$1,000
William L. (Bill) Kopf, Class of '60 Scholarship for Excellence in Math and Science

Aaliyah Caraballo
 \$2,500
Junie Speed Davis Blackmore Scholarship
 Selected by Susan Heisler
 \$1,500
John V. Jacque Scholarship





ARCS 2022 Reunions

At Top Golf, country clubs and parks the Arc Alumni celebrated with reunions this year. Seven classes reconnected with their classmates to reminisce and catch up. The classes of 1972, 2002 and 2012 all had reunions this year. Due to the recent events the classes of 1981 and 1976 celebrated with a +1 added to their years.

Each class hosted a party and several of the weekends included a tour of Brush High School. The tours were definitely a highlight and the talk of the alumni.



1972



2012



2002



Choir Reunion



Welcome Back Mr. Hall





A Fabulous Brush Alumni Summer Weekend

By Deb DiLillo-Betz '76 ~ If you have ever questioned whether ARC Pride really exists, it was evident throughout the community during the first weekend of July. ARC Pride is most profound and meaningful when displayed by our alumni.

On Friday, July 1, the first-ever Brush Choir Reunion was celebrated in the Brush cafeteria. Approximately 175 alumni from the classes of 1967 through 1978 gathered to socialize, reminisce, laugh and cry over shared memories of 50 years ago. Many things made the event special. Unlike a typical class reunion, members of this group were brought together now, and then, by of a shared love of music. The event centered around the classes from 1967-1978 because during that time the director of the vocal music department was Mr. Lindley Hall.

Mr. Hall left Brush in 1976 and moved to California, where he continued his career. This weekend was the first time he has been back to Brush and it was an honor and privilege to host him. To his students, Mr. Hall was “that teacher”. He was a man who, through music, taught us about life. We learned teamwork and cooperation. We learned to be early was to be on time and to be on time was to be late. We learned how to accept disappointment when we didn’t get a solo or didn’t get a part or didn’t get a job. He did it by being kind and gentle, but extremely tough. He raised the bar. He expected perfection.

Also in attendance were Ms. Candy Clemson and Mrs. Sheila Murphy Crawford. These two beloved teachers worked with Mr. Hall on sets, costumes, choreography and a multitude of other elements that came together to make the music department at Brush one of the most respected high school music departments in the State of Ohio. Mrs. Rose Lapick, vocal music director at Greenview during those years, was also in attendance, celebrating her 96th birthday!

In 1972, several choir students attended a Sha Na Na concert at Blossom Music Center. Enjoying that genre of music, they put together a little ensemble and asked Mr. Hall if they could perform in the Fall Pops Concert. Of course Mr. Hall made them audition! They auditioned, Mr. Hall smiled, and a phenomenon was born.

Between high school and 2005, The Fabulous Blue Moons performed often. However, as these seventeen year olds found themselves turning fifty life led them to different parts of the country and it became more and more difficult for the group to coordinate schedules to accommodate rehearsals and performances. So, in 2005, they took their final bow in a blow-out bash at Normandy Party Center, proceeds of which were donated to the Brush Music Department. It was their final performance. Until this weekend!

On Saturday, July 2, the group gathered again for a reunion concert at Legacy Village. That night, the Fabulous Blue Moons shot for, and landed, one more time, on the moon! In attendance were several hundred Brush alumni and other community members.

The lawn was too crowded, the patio tables were too full...and no one cared. The parking was difficult, the evening was hot...and no one cared. All anyone cared about was being together and celebrating their shared history. On Saturday night, the Class of 1972 also gathered for their 50th class reunion. An amazing and full Brush Alumni weekend! The gatherings were summed up by an attendee who said “I was overwhelmed by the feeling of love this weekend.”

Although life has weathered our voices, with little rehearsal, the years melted away as a newly assembled alumni choir focused on our director. Mr. Hall stood behind the music stand and led us in an encore of “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” the song that we all sang on the stage of Blossom Music Center at our graduations. Those in attendance showed grace and were generous with their critique as they enjoyed many wrong notes from these aging throats!

And so, through the tears and tributes that reunions and endings bring, we were all grateful to be a part of another amazing Brush Alumni weekend...one last time...one final show. We are now, and will forever be, **BRUSH ARCS!**



1976



1981



Welcome Debbie Cassidy

The Alumni Association welcomes Debbie Cassidy, '79. Deb received her bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University in 1983 and a master's in education from John Carroll University in 1991. She spent the years 1988-2019 teaching social studies at Brush, also serving as the Department Coordinator most of those years.

Active in the teacher's association, SELTA, from the start, she served as president from 2007 until her retirement in 2019.

Her work with the Alumni Association will focus on the Wall of Achievement program.



Michael Fording Named Brush High Principal

On August 1, 2022, Mr. Michael Fording became the new principal at Brush High School. He is succeeding Mr. Karl Williamson, who has a new position with SEL Schools as the Director of Business Affairs. Mr. Fording comes to Brush from the Garfield City Schools. In Garfield, he served as both a high school assistant principal and principal at the middle school.

Mr. Fording grew up in Euclid. He began his teaching career in the Cleveland Public Schools. He left the Cleveland Schools to return to Euclid as a social studies teacher and baseball coach.

He has experience teaching in grades 7-12. After fourteen years in Euclid, he moved to Garfield High School as an assistant principal and then to the middle school as principal.

Mr. Fording has a bachelor's degree in history from Cleveland State University. He also earned his master's degree in curriculum and instruction and his administration certificate.

Mr. Fording demonstrated excellent communication skills, accessibility, a collaborative leadership style, and innovative thinking during the interview process. He is eager to accept the challenge and work to make Brush High School a positive learning environment.



A Puppet to Share

By Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey '68 ~ Recently, the Brush Alumni Association received a gift—a Brush Arc clown puppet! This donation came from Melissa Pogir Matthews, Class of 1993. She thought it might be displayed in some way. She told me that she had never purchased any swag or spirit wear at Brush, so on a spirit table in the spring of '93, Melissa spotted this clown and purchased it. I decided to do some research on the creator of the clown (pictured). A tag on the clown indicated that Patty Jo Abbonizio, whose company was "Lit'l Guys by The Clown Lady", crafted this puppet. I tried to find Patty Jo, and her daughter Laura Miller responded. Laura told me that her mother had passed away in 2016 and she had also recently lost her father. Laura stated that her mother had attended Canton City Schools, and she frequently sold her clowns at various craft shows. Laura also said that she is in the process of cleaning out her parents' house and found that there are still a few clowns available for purchase, but not necessarily Brush Arc Clowns. If you'd like to know what is available, contact Laura at laura_lee_miller@aol.com.



The recent renovations at Brush High School were recognized with the Outstanding Design Award in the 2022 Educational Interiors Showcase by *American School and University* magazine. Forty-five thousand square feet was updated. This included the media center, cafeteria, east gym and innovation lab. Graphic design features were added in the hallways and shared spaces.

ThenDesign Architecture was responsible for the massive facelift. The renovations met two objectives: maintaining the historical architecture of the school while providing modern educational features and amenities.

To view highlights of the project, please visit the ThenDesign Architecture website. <https://www.thendesign.com/brush-high-school-renovation/>

Brush Renovations Receive Award for Design

