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*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 alum 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!

**Lost & Found** 

LOST: 1970 Brush Class ring with the initials WFG  
 FOUND in the Chagrin River near Bentleyville, Oh by Bill Cutshaw.  
 Please contact him to get your ring back: 770-587-4159

 **Join Us!**

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

**Alumni Association**

**TRUSTEES:**

Neil Brofman, '73  
 Nancy Redmond Brown, '59  
 Chris Ricchiuto, '76

**PRESIDENT:** Norm Rogozin, '63

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Pete Vaughn, '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

**ALUMNI ARC-LITE**



**Highlighting the Past, Illuminating the Present, Sparking the Future**

***A Little "Pomp" in the Midst of Unusual Pandemic Circumstances***

*By Sally Shortle Miller '71* ~ The Brush High School Alumni Association proudly welcomes 246 new graduates. On June 9, 2021, Brush High School held graduation ceremonies in the Welser Gymnasium.

For decades Brush has held graduation at a remote site. In the past, it has been held at Cleveland Public Auditorium, Blossom Music Center, the Front Row Theater and most recently at the Palace Theater. This year the ceremony was held on campus. Originally planned for Korb Field, the ceremony was moved to the Welser Gymnasium due to inclement weather.

It was an eventful year, but the Class of 2021 persevered through remote and hybrid learning. In true Arc style, they finished the year with millions of dollars in scholarships and many honors. The class completed over 14,000 hours of community service. Eighteen graduates received honors diplomas and three received their associate degrees. Eleven chose to join the military. A class of distinction.



This graduating class was cheated out of so many familiar traditions that have been part of the history of Brush. This class has met their challenges and continued the proud Brush academic tradition.



**Congratulations to the Class of 2021!!**









**Upcoming Class Reunions**



**CLASS OF 1964  
75th Birthday Events!**

**Friday, 9/10, 2021:** Casual Meet & Greet, Hilton Garden Inn, Beta Dr., Mayfield Hts. Graduates of '63, '64, '65 welcome. Class will pay for snacks, attendees purchase beverages

**Saturday, 9/11, 2021:** Class of '64 private gathering. Contact Jim Simpson at Brush1964@gmail.com

**CLASS OF 1971  
50 Year Reunion**

*See Jeff Staker article on previous page!*

**Friday, 9/24, 2021:** Casual Meet & Greet TBD.

**Saturday, 9/25, 2021:** Reunion at Dubrovnik's, Eastlake, Oh Contact: Steve Brofman at 216-906-9589 or unclesteve1353@yahoo.com

**CLASS OF 1970  
50 Year Reunion**

**Friday, 10/15, 2021:** 1-4 PM Tour Alumni History Gallery

2nd Floor Admin Building, 5044 Mayfield Rd. **Friday, 10/15, 2021:** 5 PM—??

Tavern of Chesterland, 8190 Mayfield Rd.

**Saturday, 10/16, 2021:** 10 AM Tour Brush High. Park in front of building, meet in lobby

**Saturday, 10/16, 2021:** 5 PM Chagrin Valley Athletic Club, \$75 / person Send payment to: Neal McCormick, 11978 Sandgate Dr., Chesterland, OH 44024

**Sunday, 10/17, 2021:** 10:30 AM Picnic, Orchard Hill Park, Chesterland Contact: Larry Woods:

lwoods352@yahoo.com

**Local Alumni Business Spotlight**

**Marianne '89 + Darren '89 = Michael Christopher Salon**

*By Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey '68 (25 year MCS client!)* ~ Marianne Welsh and Darren Nicolli met and became friends at Memorial Middle School in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and remaining friends through high school. Both graduated from Brush in 1989, Marianne from the Brush Cosmetology program. Marianne began styling hair while Darren went to work with his brother at his company.

Three years after graduation, Marianne and Darren reconnected through mutual friends and started dating. Their love story progressed, and together they founded Michael Christopher Salon in June, 1995 opening in Lyndhurst. Marianne cut, styled, and colored hair, while Darren worked behind the scenes, growing the salon from three employees to ten.

Darren and Marianne got married in May, 1997, and in September of that year, they moved MCS, an Aveda Lifestyle Salon, to another location in Lyndhurst. Darren left his brother's company and started full time at MCS. Their business grew in that location from ten employees to twenty-five. In 2008, Darren and Marianne purchased a new building and relocated MCS to Highland Heights, beginning with twenty-five employees and growing to the current fifty-five!

MCS has a 12-month hands-on apprenticeship program to train and grow future beauty professionals, allowing those trendy, energetic, and fun new talent stylists to offer services at a lower price point while they are finishing the program. Marianne continues in her role as artistic director, trainer of new hires, marketing director, ambassador for business education/hair for the Aveda Corporation, and she still continues to style clients behind the chair! Darren takes care of the "business" side of MCS: payroll, inventory, finances, human resources, and day-to-day operations.

Marianne states that the secret to their success is "commitment to continuing education and growth, working together as a team, and supporting each other, the community, and families around us, and always putting guest care and comfort first." Darren and Marianne have five children, the first of whom is off to OSU this fall! Fond memories of Brush remain in their hearts as the place that fostered the friendship that turned in to a life long love story and the start of a successful local entrepreneurial adventure!



Rick Gianntonio graced the greens in the latest in Brush ARCS spirit wear.

Celebrating long time friendships, but keeping each other safe, required an addition to the typical golf outing dress code! The spirited Class of '76 does what it takes to stay connected. COVID 19 and a worldwide pandemic were no match for these ARCS!



Jack Pavlik Dave Rossi Nick Paris John Davis



Tom Meredith Byron Garvey Gene Minichello  
Joe Dittoe Ron Shickler



Ed Knapp (guest) Jeff Teringo  
Byron Garvey



Big thanks to Gene Minichello and Byron Garvey for this contribution to the Alumni Arc-Lite!



Bob Kassai and guests

Frank Casarona Bob Hampton  
Gene Minichello Doug Cercek (guest)





## Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall

By **Deb DiLillo Betz '76** ~ Not to be outdone by the guys, the gals in the Class of '76 personify what it means to be life-long friends. It was the 1970's. A young songwriter from Brooklyn decided it was time to start singing her own music instead of writing songs for others to sing. In 1971, *Tapestry* was released and would go on to be No. 1 on the Billboard charts for a record-breaking 15 weeks, staying on the charts for a stunning six years. Carole King spoke from her heart and she happened to be in tune with the mass psyche. She delivered exactly what we wanted to hear...so, in 1976, as we were about to leave Brush High School, these lyrics became the anthem of our graduating class. In some way, the underlying spirit of these lyrics have followed and defined our class for the 45 years that have passed since we walked across the stage at Blossom Music Center.

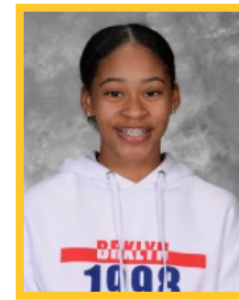
**You just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I'll come running to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call, and I'll be there, yes I will...you've got a friend.**

Over the years, small groups of our classmates remained friends...but we had our careers, our children, and our parents to care for. We were navigating marriages and relationships. In 2009, our kids were beginning to "adult" and the time we spent invested in their daily lives was less and less. This left us more free time to reconnect. One day, I was perusing Facebook and saw a post from Kathy Disodoro Rapp. With a class of close to 750 kids, we certainly didn't all know each other. I knew who Kathy was, but I didn't know Kathy.

According to Facebook, she was looking to see if anyone knew of any way that she could get a 1976 yearbook. I had some connections with the Alumni Association and managed to find her a yearbook. I also knew, through Facebook, some of the friends Kathy hung around with at Brush and I contacted them and asked them if they wanted to sign Kathy's yearbook before I mailed it to her. They did. Kathy was so thrilled to receive a signed yearbook that she sent me a lovely "thank you" gift and contacted me to meet her for lunch the next time she was in Cleveland. Thus, at the age of 51, we became "new high school girlfriends". The togetherness and relationships that have formed, been reestablished and blossomed since that Facebook post have been an amazing blessing.



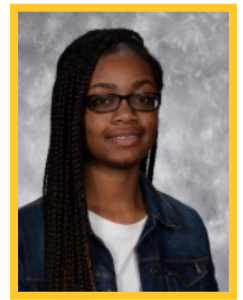
In 2013, some of us started to gather annually on a Saturday night in the middle of winter to attend a fundraiser sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Mentor. Paula Paradise Stuebbe is a member of this volunteer organization whose mission is to create change and contribute to community improvement through volunteerism. The evening includes raffle baskets, sideboards, dinner and dancing. And, of course, lots and lots of chatter and laughter. Then, in October of 2016, to celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun, a group of us gathered, to spend a fabulous fall weekend in my summer home at Atwood Lake. Both the fundraiser, and the Atwood weekend, have become annual events that everyone looks forward to. A smaller group of us have spent time together playing in Florida. We meet for lunches...we meet for dinners...we meet for beverages. The ensuing stories, laughs, tears, and conversation are priceless.



**Cayla Cecil**  
\$1,000  
Frank P. Gill  
Business Administration  
Scholarship

By contributing to these scholarships, Brush Alumni have not only provided monetary help to these recipients' futures, but also to the future of Brush High School and to the South Euclid/Lyndhurst community. We thank you, Brush Alum, for your years of loyalty and caring.

If you would like to create a scholarship in your name, your class, or someone else's name, please contact Bonnie Abbey at [blabbey@aol.com](mailto:blabbey@aol.com) and if you wish to contribute to any of the named scholarships, please note that on your envelope when you return it with your dues contribution. **Thank You!**



**Jayda Glass,**  
\$1,000  
Frank P. Gill  
Business Administration  
Scholarship



**Gwyneth Seddon**  
\$1,000  
Brush Alumni Association  
Scholarship for Teacher Education



**Sean Pierce**  
\$1,000  
William L. (Bill) Kopf  
Class of 1960



**Matthew Kendig**  
\$5,000  
Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer Scholarship  
for Excellence in Physics and English



## Remembering Jeff Staker '71 in Partnership with First Tee-Cleveland

Reprinted from *First Tee-Cleveland* ~ Jeff Staker was on the ground floor during the inception of *First Tee-Cleveland*. Jeff ran First Tee Life Skills program at Shawnee Golf Course during the first years of the chapter. When Jeff became the PGA pro at Washington Golf, the course that First-Tee Cleveland built and turned over to the Cleveland Metroparks to operate, Jeff stayed passionately involved in helping the chapter thrive. Patricia LoPresti, Executive Director of First-Tee Cleveland said, "Jeff was always giving of his time and talent to help everyone involved in First-Tee Cleveland. He came to events and always had that beautiful smile shining bright. He helped orchestrate golf challenges and never ever uttered a no in his vocabulary." The Brush class of '71 suffered a tremendous loss when Jeff passed. First-Tee Cleveland is grateful to work in partnership with class of '71 leadership to permanently honor Jeff's memory at Washington Golf and help even more kids gain the core values that Jeff embodied. He set the example of living life to the fullest with compassion for others.

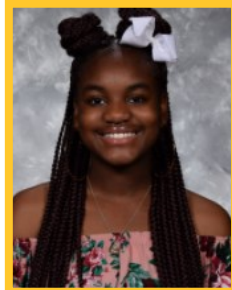
**First Tee** is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, they create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and resilience that kids carry to everything they do. **Mission**~to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.





## Brush High School Alumni Association Class of 2021 Senior Scholarships

By **Cherie Thomas Pencak '76** ~ On May 13, 2021, in the Welser Gym at Charles F. Brush High School, a special event was held for the annual scholarship awards. Proud seniors who earned a GPA of 3.0 or greater and their parents/families were invited to this special COVID safe evening. All students were recognized for their accomplishments, and monetary scholarships were presented to many of those students.



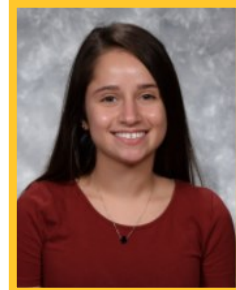
**Niah Johnson**  
\$3,000  
Class of '61



**Vincent Baioni**  
\$1,000  
Eugene A. Torok



**Olivia Hamilton**  
\$1,000  
Thomas J. Murnick



**Isabelle Lashley**  
\$1,000  
Blaze N. Bernstein



**Gabrielle Repko**  
\$2,000  
Class of '61

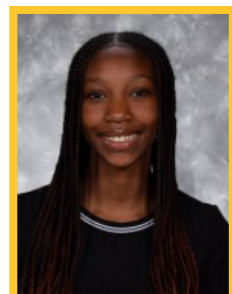
The Brush Alumni Association is always proud to be a part of this celebration, administrating scholarships which, this year, totaled **\$29,861.69!**

The first scholarship given by the Alumni Association was in 1993, when Mr. and Mrs. Alan Skinner and Mr. and Mrs. Don Lamberton (1947 classmates) established the John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship. Since that time, the Alumni Association has distributed **\$243,861.69** to well deserving Brush seniors. This year's John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Carla Wagner. Other recipients can be seen on these pages.

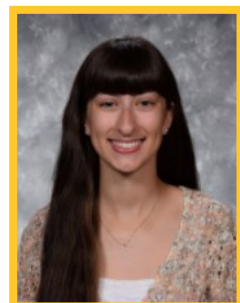
Presenters at the awards program this year were **Bonnie Abbey '68** and **Cherie Thomas Pencak '76**.



**Toni Jackson**  
\$1,361.69  
Class of 1989  
30th Reunion



**Donyette Kaigler**  
\$2,000  
Class of '61



**Carla Wagner**  
\$5,000  
Mahrer Family Scholarship in honor of William Inderwish,  
former Brush speech teacher  
&  
\$1,000

John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship



**Alexia Kumar**  
\$2,500  
Junie Speed Davis  
Blackmore Scholarship

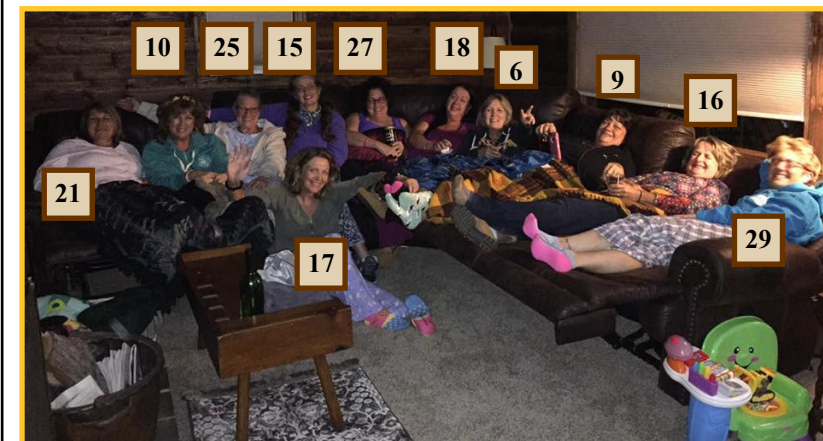


**Lillie Alsheikhtaha**  
\$1,000  
Theodore Bell  
Mathematics Prize



## You've Got a Friend

**This is what friendship looks like!** We've known each other for 46+ years. Although some of us are "new high school friends", some of us shared first beers, first bras, first boyfriends, first kisses, first marriages, first babies, first divorces. We've stood together in show costumes, athletic uniforms, caps and gowns, in bridal parties, in concert ticket lines, at bed sides, and at caskets. We are as different as different can be. In these photos are the Student Congress President, the band geeks, the drama club leading lady, the "COS Girls", the girls who smoked in the bathrooms and hung out near the shrine. We were on the Homecoming Top 25, we were National Honor Society, we cut class and hung out drinking coffee at Perkins Pancake House. Some of us were in AP classes and some of us barely made it through study hall! But every one of us cheered as SUPER ARC flew in to Welser Gym and most of us cried as the choral sound of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* resonated on the hill at Blossom Music Center, early June of 1976, during graduation.



The power and pull created because of Brush High School bonds us. Forever and always we are held together by history and heart. We grew up in the same time...in the same neighborhood...hanging out in the same pizza places and at the same parks. We crushed on the same guys! (see story on prior page!) The nuances of our high school experiences may have been different, but being together to support each other now, as we leave the "old age of our youth" to enter the "youth of our old age" has made us realize that in spite of our differences we have much to share.

Playing "remember when" can be a dangerous game. When we gather now, we are not trying to recapture the feeling of our teenage years. We often romanticize high school but the truth is, it wasn't always easy. There were tough times, broken hearts, and friends that let us down.

*But sometimes, if you're really lucky, some of the best things from high school stay with you forever.*

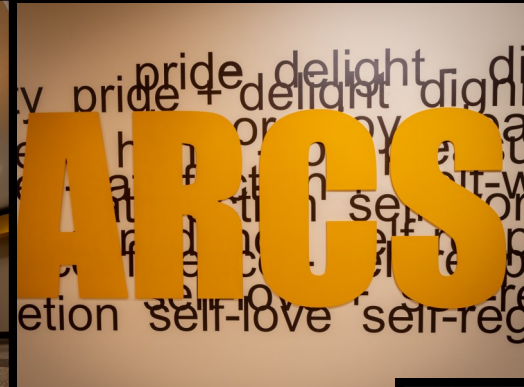


The Ladies of '76

**Representing the Gals of '76:** (1) Bonnie Allenick Schmidt ('80) (2) Lori Babin Silverstein \* (3) Debbi Babin Malik \* (4) Kim Boehler Broerman \* (5) Karen Booth \* (6) Beth Carr Cohen (7) Bea Colage \* (8) Michele Davis \* (9) Deb DiLillo Betz (10) Kathy Disidoro Rapp \* (11) Susan Egensperger Shuttleworth (12) Renee Febo DeMarco \* (13) Cheryl Gravagna \* (14) Gail Hahn Huber \* (15) Jodie Hancock Knuchel \* (16) Leslie Hanson Boveington \* (17) Kathy Harger Judy \* (18) Karen Hull O'Brien (19) Randi Kazinec Wein \* (20) Carm Lombardi Severn (21) Paula Paradise Steubbe \* (22) Laurel Riola \* (23) Holly Sandler Vadnais ('74) \* (24) Lynda Schildhouse Leciejewski (25) Jan Spector Harrill (deceased) \* (26) Barb Streng Richards (27) Cherie Thomas Pencak \* (28) Mary Ann Thomas Berkey (29) Jill Walker Eldridge



*Everything Old is New Again*



*By Deb DiLillo Betz '76* ~ As we move in to the third decade of the 21st Century, school districts throughout the Cleveland area are undergoing major renovation projects to update aging and outdated buildings.

North Olmsted High School, built in 1964 was demolished in 2018 to make way for a new building, modernized and ready for the future. In April of 2021, demolition began on the old Richmond Heights High School, originally built in 1921, as their students moved in to their new turn-of-the-century facility.

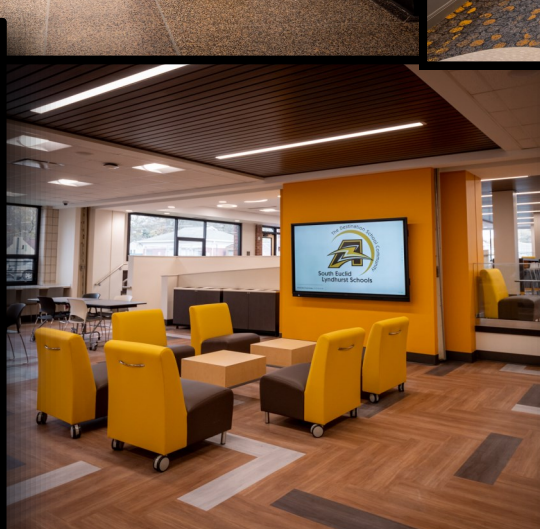
In the last edition of the Alumni Arc-Lite (Autumn 2020) we wrote about the work being done to renovate Brush High School and included some pictures of the project in process. Now, several months later, we can provide a glimpse of the finished product.

Brush High School, originally built in 1927, underwent multiple additions as the community expanded through the years, however the building was in major need of a facelift. Superintendent Dr. Linda N. Reid faced a dilemma while considering options as she kept hearing from alumni that we did not want to lose the beauty that is the front of our historic school, with the magnificent clock tower and beautiful stone monument. Adam Parris, the architect with **TDA Architecture** commented, "It's one thing to do a "renovation project" and just knock down part of the building, then rebuild it. It's a completely different task to reuse something that's existed for a hundred years." However, the district provided a clear vision and request to adapt our historic high school and renovate it for the demands of a modern educational environment. The result of the dramatic refresh is a "new, old building" that will serve our community and students for years to come.

Among the many changes was a reorganization of the athletic spaces, modernization of the student dining area, a transformed library/media center, a new and secure entrance and front hallway, and widened corridors. New wall graphics and furniture were integrated throughout the building. The result is a high school that maintains the integrity and magnificence of the school we all remember but provides everything we would want and need for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as they pursue their education in to the 21st Century. (As you plan your reunions, be sure to contact the Alumni Association to arrange for a tour of Brush High School.)



*A remodeled, modern front hallway and wider corridors provide comfortable seating and table areas where students and guests can gather to work or socialize.*



*Beautiful new cafeteria with large windows overlooking Korb Field*