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# Generally Speaking...

## **Alumni Association News**

U.S. Grant High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Association P.O. Box 13291, Portland, Or 97213-0291 www.grantalumni.org——— Grantalumni@aol.com
501c3 Association—dues and donations are tax deductible

#### **Hall Of Achievement**

The first and honorary inductee was **Ulysses S. Grant** himself, now recognized by historians as a man of special character and integrity, the first president to travel the world, and the author just prior to his death of a military history unequalled in modern times and compared with Julius Caesar.

Then the first four inductees were named in 2012: **Colton Meek**, and inspirational Grant principal in the forties; **Beverly Bunn Cleary, '34**, famed author and literary award winner; **Gordon Fullerton, '53**, astronaut and air force honoree; and **Don Hodel '53**,a cabinet member, energy consultant, and evangelist.

The honor is based on the realization that Grant graduates have left lasting marks in many fields of endeavor, and should be recognized to inspire today's students in the Grant spirit of doing one's best and striving for excellence. Full life stories will be available later on the alumni website, www.grantalumni.org

Four notable graduates of Grant High School comprise the second group to be inducted into the Hall of Achievement and honored as "Five Star Generals". They join the first four named in 2012.



The new foursome: **Edward Curtis Wells '27** (Grant's second graduating class) graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford in 1931 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in engineering. Edward held numerous positions in the Boeing Company as vice president and general manager of several divisions, and recipient of the Lawrence Sperry Award from the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences (1942), Fawcett Aviation Award (1944), and the Daniel Guggenheim Medal (1980), Inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame (1991). Edward designed the Boeing 747 and was known as an "elder statesman of aviation". He died July 1, 1986 in Bellevue, Washington.

Connie Averill McCready '39, a lifelong northeast Portland resident until her death, started in the forties as an Oregonian newspaper reporter, was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1966, was appointed to the Portland city council in 1970, and served as a commissioner until 1979 and she was the second of three women to hold the post becoming Portland's second female mayor in 1979, completing Neil Goldshmidt's term after he resigned for a federal position. She died December 22, 2000 in Portland, Oregon.





**Gert Lamfrom Boyle '43**, a member of a family of German refugees of 1937, the family started a hat-making business that later became Columbia Sportswear, and internationally renowned apparel manufacturer and distributor. Gert and her late husband turned the business into a profitable and well-known entity, of which she was the CEO and remains chairman of the board at age 90 with a daily work schedule. Her son is now CEO. She is a Portland area resident, still famous for her "one tough mother" television commercials.

**J. Michael ('Jack') Carroll '62**, a Shrine football player among other athletic achievements at Grant, football player at Portland state, medical school graduate from University Of Oregon, Michigan, and Utah. He began practicing as a physician in 1977, moved to Fairbanks, Alaska where he was active in philanthropy and was honored there. He married grant classmate Ginger Josephson in 1967. Following his death on April 1, 2011 while vacationing in Seattle, Washington the Cancer treatment Center in Fairbanks was named in his honor.



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### From The President



**Bob Stayton '61** 

It has been satisfying for your Alumni Association to get the Steinway Grand Piano rebuilt. The celebration event on March 5th was our opportunity to share the beautiful sound of the instrument with donors who made it possible. We also were fortunate to enjoy the talents of alumnus and piano recording star **Tom Grant '64**, singer Shelly Rudolph, and student pianist Kenny Regan. In addition, the Royal Blues, the Musical Theater ensemble and the Grant Jazz Band demonstrated the variety and depth of the talent that is worthy of this world class piano. Thanks to all of the donors.

Our 2014 alumni scholarship recipient is **Madison Moskowitz'14**, a talented Grantonian, who was awarded \$2,000. The scholarship fund is supported entirely by dues and donations from alums. Our goal is fund one term's tuition to further the recipient's education at an Oregon institution. In order to do that we need to increase funds from membership dues and/or donations for the scholarship fund to a higher level. For example if we have 500 dues paying members, that will generate \$10,000 in dues each

year and we could raise the scholarship amount substantially. Given that there are many thousands of Grant alums out there, a goal of 500 paid members seems a modest objective to me. **My request to you**, join the GHSAA if you haven't already, encourage other alums to do the same, pay your annual dues and/or donate to the scholarship fund, (this can be done on line on the website) it is tax deductible. If many chip in a little, the Alumni Association scholarship will grow.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter out the upcoming remodel of the Grant High School building originally built in 1924. The hallowed halls we all remember are about to morph into a twenty-first century learning center that will be very different from the one we remember. The Alumni Association will be planning events to remember the old building and give those interested a chance to visit the building before it changes.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the annual All-Alumni Picnic July 27th at Wilshire Park. Mark the date on your calendar.

## All Alumni Picnic In the Heat of the Day

The All-Alumni Picnic is five years old and has become the target for classes to schedule reunions. This year the classes of '54, '64, '69 and '74 have included the picnic as one of their reunion events. We have been lucky the last four years with the best weather possible for this fun filled afternoon. With the umbrella of trees and subtle breeze blowing, even the first year of 90 plus degrees was very comfortable. It is too early to know what the temperatures will be on Sunday, July 27th but it really does not matter because the fun will go on no matter the degrees! Join in the fun Sunday, July 27th starting at 1:00 p.m. in Wilshire Park. Bring your own lunch, we will bring dessert! Photos will begin at 2:00 p.m.

## Athletic Hall Of Fame Ceremony Scheduled For October 20th

The sixth annual presentation for the Grant High School Athletic Hall of Fame will again be in the Grant Auditorium on Monday, October 20, 2014 at 7 PM, announces Chairman **Gerry Spencer** '59.

The selection committee also includes Rodger Eddy '47, Thelma Ray Rueppell '59, Denny Haaland '59, Butch Lumby '62, Christi Rollwage Knutson '64, John Mears '70, Scott Jackson '71, Debbie Engelstad '82, and Diallo Lewis. In addition to the usual group of about a dozen individuals added to the hall, three separate teams will be singled out for special honors, although not added individually to the hall. They are the Oregon state champion 1958 baseball team, the 1963 football team that was state titlist, and the 1961 boys track team, also tops in the state that year.

The committee jointly sponsored a school assembly on April 18, 2014 during which students heard of the athletic traditions since 1924 along with current achievements, vintage news clips and period dancing exhibitions.

The public, as well as previous honorees are invited to the October 20, 2014 evening ceremonies. The event follows the previous evening's PIL (Portland Interscholastic League) Hall of Fame ceremony that adds members from all Portland schools, including five from Grant.

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## Madison Moskowitz Awarded The Alumni Scholarship



Bob Stayton'61, Madison Moskowitz'14, Christi Knutson'64

Grant has a strong tradition of graduating outstanding Generals. One of this year's finest, Madison Moskowitz '14, was awarded the alumni scholarship at the annual awards breakfast, June 5. Maddie's resume is

not only full but impressive as well.

A member of the Constitution Team (GHS was the national champion in 2013), a

Mock Trial member (and captain), part time assistant legal secretary, senior editor of the Memoirs, a volunteer for the Native Fish Society, for Waterwatch and for the Blanchet House and if that isn't enough, Madison found time to be a varsity cheer leader! We say three cheers for her!

Madison will attend the University of Oregon in September, majoring in political science and social work. We wish her every success!

## 2013 Alumni Scholarship Recipient By Vincent Budak

As I prepared to embark on my exciting journey at Willamette University, I was showered with advice from teachers, mentors, and parents about how to survive your first year in college. By far the most frequent recommendation was to try new things and step out of your comfort zone, a goal I am proud to say I accomplished this year. Willamette turned out to be more wonderful than I could have imagined!

Music has always been a big part of my life, but I took my musical experiences to a whole new level my freshman year. I starred in Willamette's

opera The Marriage of Figaro, exposing myself to opera for the first time. I joined the Willamette Chamber Choir and all-male acapella group "Headband" to further my ensemble singing experience. I took classes on politics, ethics, language, and economics, enriching my learning from a liberal arts perspective. I lived with a native Japanese roommate for a semester which provided its challenges and rewards. Most importantly, I stepped out of my comfort zone to experience all of these wonderful opportunities, and I am so happy that I did.

My time at Grant High School was a terrific precursor to my college experience. I felt prepared and geared-up for my freshman year at Willamette. In short, I am very lucky to have had the education that Grant offered. I am also extremely lucky to have the love and support from friends, family, and especially the Grant Alumni Association. Your generous support has been invaluable and wonderful. I thank you for all you have done for me and my family.

## **Grant High Remodel**

With the passage of the PPS Capital Improvement Bond in Nov. 2012, funds have been appropriated to renovate Roosevelt, Franklin and Grant High Schools and replace Faubion Grade School. Among the high schools Roosevelt will be done first followed by Franklin then Grant. Each project has several phases including, planning, design, bidding, and construction. The measure calls for a complete interior renovation while preserving the historical exterior of Grant High School. It could be the only remnant of Grant will be the brick façade facing 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

The extent of the modernization will be addressed in the planning and design phases and will include input from the Office of School Modernization as well as a Design Advisory Group unique for the Grant project, comprised of parents/guardians, teachers, students, neighbors, business leaders, and other interested parties.

The time line for the Grant Project begins with the planning phase Jun - Sep'15, followed by the design phase from Oct '15 – Nov '16; bidding will occur Nov'16 - Feb'17. Construction is planned for 27 months Feb'17 - Jul '19.

Students will be shuttled to the Marshall High School campus during the construction phase. Classes will resume at a renovated GHS in Sept 2019.

The renovation plans call for seismic upgrades as well as improved handicapped access, improved heating, air and service systems, improved accommodations for modern learning methods, tools and techniques (i.e., computers and digital tools). These ideas have changed quite dramatically since the current building was erected in 1924. There are plans to integrate Grant students into the renovation project through curriculum, internships, job shadowing, career fairs, research, and inquiry projects so that the project itself can supply a learning opportunity for interested students.

Obviously the Grant High School that we all remember will be much changed. The Alumni Association has begun to plan for an event to celebrate the old building and create an opportunity to stroll the halls one more time prior to the closure. We all have memories, experiences, romances begun and ended, curiosities piqued, challenges met, friends made, in those halls during our time at Grant. It may be worthy to remember these moments once more before the building morphs into this century. We are thinking of a fall 2016 date.

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## Ode to Grant by Dylan Leeman '91

They say they can fix you But the surgery will be rough. In case something happens, I need to tell you how I feel.

Dear Grant, You inspire me Ever since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, afraid myths of gangs, freshman in trash cans Tumbling down the stairs of the '80s.

When I was 14 and you were 63 I felt lost in the wrong basement that doesn't connect to anything That's how I felt sometimes

lost and disconnected behind the bricks

when I met that girl in PE who wouldn't give me her phone number Depressed and alone in center hall crowds

Failing favorite subjects migraines so bad I couldn't see trying to stop spinning

by holding a staring contest with a name scratched into a blue toilet stall on the second floor.

But trying to do high school right I got a girlfriend, ran cross country, Clubs like an addict 10<sup>th</sup> grade, I kissed a girl in the baseball dugout

Nothin' more in common than the need to be kissed You were already becoming an old building behind us 11<sup>th</sup> grade I grew comfortable in my own skin inspired in English, history, physics

Editor in yearbook Lettered in speech, (When 227 had green shag carpeting)
After the Army and college,
When I was 30 and you were 79

I came home to you I mentored in 129 and 135 ran a computer lab in 145 for \$13 an hour with spices in the cupboards
And dress patterns in the drawers

Stitching together 80 years of Home Ec. I was a secretary in counseling taught without a license in 16 first real classroom 19 where I was laid off with 3 days left in the year

and 9<sup>th</sup>-graders piled presents on my desk like it was you saying goodbye For 11 years Newspaper or yearbook kept me late pizza on paper plates in student desks

Like me, you taught too hard At 42, as my hair recedes and my belly grows and my back cracks like your paint I feel your age At 91 your library roof leaks, ideas percolating

Like drops of water into poetry slams
I need to tell you how I feel
I love the veins of curved wood on stairwells from 1924,
I love your seams, scars, and wrinkles

And the half-erased tattoos in painted-over murals you can still see I've watched gravity and time sag your

heavy auditorium bad sound because it still echoes from 90 years of plays and songs.

They say they can fix you
But worst case, I know I'll see your eyes and check bones
In grandchildren and great grandchildren
Remodeled from the same DNA

But I'll miss basement tiles swollen like terrain And the rooms that taught me lessons scars in tables from yearbook razorblades Before cut and paste was a metaphor

I'll miss the room of that bad health class where I sat next to my future wife The one who wouldn't give me her phone number. 282-3564.

When I am old, maybe 65 to your 114

we'll say goodbye again but

I will still visit in the in the slow empty of summer With the lights out but the sun on the waxed floor Maybe one of my students will teach here.

But I know my children will have graduated From where their parents met I know there will be poetry slams in a library that doesn't leak I know 9<sup>th</sup>-graders will still get lost, whether or not the basements connect Could the basements please connect?

I know teachers will still get old one graduation at a time lovers will still meet Kids who have nothing in common will still kiss Future best friends will be randomly placed next to each other Kids will still sleep in class, Or sit up, excited.

Grant, in case something happens, I need to tell you how I feel I love you.

**Dylan Leeman '91** is both an alum and current faculty member

### **Grant Rose Festival Princess**



Taylor Debnam '14 was named Grant High School's 2014 Rose Festival Princess.

Her Grant High School activities include the constitution team, president of the black student union, co-president of the diversity club, and she was a member of the National Honor

Society, and a varsity cheerleader, and on the Grant High School track and field team. Taylor intends to go to Spelman College.

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## George Robert (Bob) Schwarz



George Robert (Bob) Schwarz, '46

George Robert (Bob) Schwarz, '46 joined other Oregon WWII Navy Vets on an Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created to honor veterans by flying them to Washington, D.C. where they tour the Capitol and all their memorials. Meals, housing and transportation are provided for the veterans and their companion. The closing banquet includes "Mail Call" when the attending veterans

receive mail from family and friends thanking them for their service.

## Ken Byers By Ken Byers '62



Ken Byers '62

Sure: A Tale of Indecision.

The Writer's Journey is an indispensable book on writing. The book dissects the hero's journey by revealing the stages of dramatic structure which is how all humans tell stories. We are all the heroes of our own lives. We make our decisions, and abide by or resist them as we "tell" our stories a day at a time. The story of my life would be I Want to write, but I'm Not

I listened to radio as a kid. The Lone Ranger, Sky King, Sgt. Preston of the Mounties, X minus One, The Inner Sanctum all overheated my vacuum tubes. They inspired me to tell my own tales. In the sixth grade I wrote a weekly serial that I read on Friday to the class. Each episode ended with a cliff-hanger. I managed six chapters before I ran dry. At Grant, I wrote a sports column, The Whale Spouts Off. I had encouragement for writing as a career from some of the best teachers to ever grace the classrooms of Grant: Ruth Alcorn and Jerry Crandall. They were later trumped by key adults who said you have to earn a living, and writing is no way to do it. I gave up.

Often early in the third act of stories there is a scene where the hero reflects on his life; a "If I had a chance to do it over" moment. For me I would have questioned the

"You have to earn a living" statement. There are all kinds of living. Family aside, nothing gives me more enjoyment, nor a greater sense of accomplishment, than typing The End to a book that readers enjoy; that brings friends together to discuss the story; to write or call me and ask questions about something born in my imagination that makes the journey on to pages that finally grow into a book.

I started writing fiction seriously when I was forty-four. I had written business plans and marketing programs (another kind of fiction) for years and people told me I wrote well. Sadly, I believed them. I resisted the help of experienced writers. I knew it all. I can still prove it with three finished manuscripts that are all awful. They are self-indulgent, over written, and full of the writer's sense of how good he is. They are totally ignorant of dramatic structure; they all lack sustainable conflict, and, worst of all, they are badly written.

Each year that I wrote slowly brought the craft of writing into sight. I often thought of a friend who is a potter. She told me years ago that if you don't know your craft, your work will never hold together. I began to learn how that applied to writing. The good news to this long and painful journey filled with rejection and dejection, is that during those years the world for writers changed. Technology made it easier to bring your completed stories to life. E-books became the way more and more people read. Because they were easier and less expensive to buy, people read more books almost four times as many books.

If you do a search on Amazon for Ken Byers you will find six of my creations. Find one, and click on the link to visit my Amazon Author Page. All the stories are ebooks and the novels are available as physical books as well. There are two short stories, one from my days at Grant; plus three novels, and a novella. I am half way through a four book series set in southern Oregon. I also write Thriller Brain (www.thrillerbrain.com), a blog about reading, writing, and watching thrillers and mystery stories.

I am grateful to many of my classmates that still read me. I share the writing process with one, and others volunteer to be draft readers who comment and correct first drafts. Thanks to all of you.

Getting back to the Hero's Journey, I have had a wonderful life filled with family and loved ones. I regret not pursuing my dream when I was younger, but I did finally chase it. The thrill of writing well is new enough to me to bring a smile every day. If you think it's too late to chase your dream, give it another shot. Good chasing.

If you wonder about the truth of my statement that I write well find out for yourself. Read one of my books. I thank you in advance.

#### **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?**

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## **Robert Bogardus**



Robert Bogardus '66

Robert Bogardus '66 will receive the Minuteman Award from the Sons of the American Revolution at their International Congress this July. The award, made in honor of service to the National Society, has been given to only 383 individuals since 1951. Bogardus is the first Oregon honoree.

President Ulysses Grant is the grandson of Revolutionary War ancestor Captain Noah Grant III

## **Deborah Kafoury**



Deborah Kafoury '84

Deborah Kafoury, '84 won two Multnomah County races in May: one for the seat of the former Multnomah County Chair for the remaining months of that term and the second race for a full four year term beginning next January.

After graduating from Grant and Whitman, Deborah worked on Portland Public Schools bond campaign, represented North and Northeast Portland in the Oregon House and served

on the board of Transition Projects. After taking several years to focus her time on raising three children, Deborah decided to run for Multnomah County Commissioner and took office in 2009.

As commissioner, Deborah was the board representative on the Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee, which awards competitive grants to fund early childhood and parent education, after-school and mentoring programs and child abuse prevention efforts. She also served on the county's Audit Committee and co-chaired the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee.

#### John Mears



John Mears, '70

John Mears '70 is the epitome of a loyal Grantonian. His family connection to Grant spans three generations. His father, C.R. Mears was chairman of the Portland School Board and gave the dedication speech at the opening of the "new" library. John has been on the GHS staff since 1986 and sent all three of his children to Grant, John Lukrofka '90 and his wife Leah Mears Hamilton '97 live in the Grant neighborhood with their two children Miles Lukrofka '19,

and Olivia Lukrofka '23. Adam Mears '02 and his wife Caitie McCurdy '02 are the new owners of the Red Fig. Caitie's mother Sue Ward '70 graduated with John. John's daughter Annie Mears '03 was Grant's 2003 Rose Festival Ambassador.

While on staff at Grant, John has taught Special Education, been the Octagon Club advisor, varsity sprint and relay coach for 21 years, coached seven freshman teams to City/District championships, assistant cross country coach for six years, won the Cotton Invitational all three years he was head men's track coach with his teams winning the Eldon Keller Invitational two of those years.

In 1999 John was named the PIL Assistant Coach of the Year, in 2010 as the Optimist Educator of the year and was the lead singer for Replay, a classic rock band for thirty years.

The biggest change John has seen during his tenure is in the classes offered. Many electives like drafting, metal shop or auto shop have been eliminated. The bar has been raised for college bound students with a large selection of college credit courses.

Grant will be losing a valuable asset as John retires this year but he will have more time for his second job as a DJ for weddings and special events.

#### **Alums in the News**

Do you have news to share with alums? Please submit to: grantalumni@aol.com

## Are You a Dues Paying Member of the Alumni Association?

Your annual dues and donations fund the Alumni Association and let us know you enjoy receiving the newsletter. Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31st, so if you have not submitted your 2014 dues yet this is the time to do it.

The dues are still a great bargain at only \$20/year, \$30/year for a Grant couple or \$250 for a lifetime membership. You can use a credit card on the association website: <a href="www.grantalumni.org">www.grantalumni.org</a> or send a check with the membership form found of the backside of the newsletter.

Let us know about a change in contact information at grantalumni@aol.com

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#### **Grant 2014 Reunions**

#### **CLASS OF 1945 – ANNUAL GET TOGETHER**

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 3:00-7:00 PM (Dinner at 5:00 PM) Eastmoreland Golf Course 2425 SE Bybee Blvd

Contact: Peter Cuthbert 619-885-9620

#### CLASS OF 1952 - 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday, August 9, 2014 - 2:00 – 7:00 PM Portland Yacht Club 1241 NE Marine Drive Contact: Claudette Jenkin Joy claudettejoy@comcast.net

#### CLASS OF 1954 - 60<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Saturday, July 26, 2014

Portland Yacht Club 1241 NE Marine Drive

Contact: Marilyn Portwood nighthawk498@comcast.net

#### CLASS OF 1959 - 55th REUNION

Tuesday, July 8, 2014
3:00-7:00 PM Happy Hour following
Pete Moore Memorial Scramble at Eastmoreland
Golf Course Club House 2425 SE Bybee Blvd
Contact: Maggie Martin maggie2949@comcast.net

## CLASS OF 1964 – 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Friday, July 25, 2014 Grade School Gatherings Saturday, July 26, 2014 Columbia River Yacht Club 37 N Tomahawk Island

Contact: granthigh1964@aol.com or

www.granthigh1964.com

Facebook page: Grant High Portland Class of 1964

## CLASS OF 1966 – 66<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY

Friday, June 6, 2014 - 6:30 – 10:30 PM Red Lion Convention Center 1021 NE Grand Ave Contact: **Randi Black** 7310 SW Corbett Portland 97219 or fot1@comcast.net

#### CLASS OF 1969 - 45<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

\$25 for the two reunion event / \$75 for the two plus golf Friday, July 25, 2014 Kennedy School (Parsons Room) 6:30 PM Saturday, July 26, 2014 11:00 AM Quail Valley – must preregister w/John ASAP Saturday, July 26, 2014 Barbeque at 4740 NW Malhuer Portland 97229 6:30 PM. Sunday, July 27, 2014 at 1:00 PM. All alumni picnic at Wilshire Park Contact & Remit to: **John Hamilton** 4740 NW Malhuer Ave

4740 NW Malhuer Ave Portland OR 97229 503.997.7198

#### CLASS OF 1974 - 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Saturday, July 26, 2014 6:30 PM Sam's Billiards 1845 NE 41 Contact: **Jan Groff** 503-320-1421 or Facebook page: Grant High School Class of 1974 Reunion

#### CLASS OF 1994 - 20<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Saturday, June 28, 2014 7:30 PM Jackknife Bar 614 SW 11<sup>th</sup> at Alder in the Sentinel Hotel Sunday, June 29, 2014 2:00 - 5:00 PM Columbia Park

Facebook page: Grant High Class of 1994 Reunion

#### **CLASS OF 2004 – 10TH REUNION**

Planning has begun - Details to follow The weekend of December 26-28, 2014 Contact: <u>granths.classof2004@gmail.com</u>

## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALL-ALUMNI PICNIC

Sunday, July 27, 2014 - 1:00 PM Wilshire Park NE 33<sup>rd</sup> & Skidmore Streets Bring your own lunch ~ Dessert provided Photos begin at 2:00 PM

## The Steinway Project Continues

The Alumni Association is proud to represent all of you contributors to the students and staff at GRANT who now have an instrument that maintains the high standards that we expect. Thanks to all of the alumni and other donors whose contributions made this possible. We will continue to accept donations to the Piano Fund for the purpose of providing a heater to minimize temperature swings in the unheated auditorium and better maintain the tune quality. The Association has made inquiries for a used but correct style bench. The combined cost is about \$700.00. We will proceed as the funds become available.

The exterior of the piano needs to be cared for as well. We have elected to clean this as best we can rather than a full restoration to have an old looking well cared for instrument that sounds fantastic.

### **Membership and Contributions**

The U. S. Grant High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Association is an Oregon non-profit corporation with IRS 501(c)(3) status (36-4577438), making dues and contributions tax deductible. New memberships and renewals are due effective January 1st of each year.

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