

Generally Speaking...

NEWS FROM THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2015

U.S. Grant High School Alumni Association
www.grantalumni.org

P.O. Box 13291, Portland OR 97213-0291
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Grant Remodel Project

Grant, built in 1923, is one of the centerpieces of a \$482 million bond measure to rebuild and renovate schools. The district's 78 schools are on average 65 years old. The bond reconstruction plans to focus on Roosevelt, Franklin and Grant. The district will spend an estimated \$95 million to give Grant "full modernization."

Official planning for Grant's restoration will begin the summer of 2015. Construction will begin in February 2017, but major renovations will wait until June that year, allowing Grant students to finish their school year in the building.

The Grant building as we know it today will be closed, gutted and rebuilt on the inside for a period of two years. If everything goes according to plan, the new, improved Grant will be finished just in time for the 2019-20 school year.

The plan is for Grant to be a totally brand-new, state-of-the-art, 21st century high school. The new school will include elevators and ramps for accessibility, and won't have classrooms or a cafeteria in the basement.

According to a 2006 seismic rating from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Grant has a "Very High" potential risk of collapsing in an earthquake. A ten-year PPS bond that passed in 1995 gave Grant minimal seismic strengthening upgrades on its structural systems, which includes columns, walls and roofs. But the 2012 bond plans to renovate much more completely.

Grant High School classes, programs and activities will move to the Marshall campus in Southeast Portland during the modernization work at Grant. As a parent commented, "It's a community that makes a school and no matter what building we end up in it is still our community."



Grant Hall of Fame

The largest turnout ever attended the October 20, 2014 Grant Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony chaired by **Gerry Spencer, '59**. Speakers and presenters included Principal Carol Campbell, Hall Member **Judge Robert Jones, '45**, **Thelma Ray Rueppell, '59**, **John Mears, '70**; Diallo Lewis, **Debbie Englestad, '82**, **Christi Rollwage Knutson, '64**, **Lloyd Robinson, '59**. Other committee members were **Rodger Eddy, '47** **Scott Jackson, '71**, **Denny Haaland, '59** and **Butch Lumby, '62**.

Three state championship teams were honored: 1958 baseball, 1961 track and field, and fall 1963 football. The individual athletes inducted:

Coach Carolyn Fitzwater, at Grant for 18 years was named coach of the year by the Oregon Athletic Coaches Assn, was a member of the American Softball Hall of Fame and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame, and shortstop on the national championship Erv Lind Florists team 1950-1964. She coached softball and basketball and taught PE at Grant.

Coach Janice Shaffer Wall, at Grant for 25 years was an All-American swimmer at U of O where she was the first female to be awarded an athletic scholarship by the school and had to wait over 30 years to receive her letter. She taught PE at GHS and coached six different sports.

Eric Armstrong, '39, five varsity letters, All City and All State honors in football and soccer and also played baseball.

Don Hoff, '41, five varsity letters, All City and All State in football, City champ in shot put.

Bob Morrison, '41, five letters, All City and All State football, ran sprints in track.

Marlis Claussen Carson, '53, two varsity letters in swimming, had first place finishes and set PIL records. Her brother George is also a member of the HOF.

J.D. Brown, '58, four varsity letters while winning swimming championships and high school All American status.

Richard Lewis, '68, six letters in all four major sports, All City football and basketball, All State football.

Patty Jensen, '69, eight letters in golf and swimming with city and state championships in the 200 yard freestyle, and was a member of the championship golf team.

Greg Schukart, '70, eight letters in basketball and track; excelled in mile, discus, decathlon and cross country.

Robert Bates, '70, seven letters in football and track, All City football for three years, City and State champion sprinter.

Susan Nozaki Lamont, '74, four letters and City and State championships in swimming as well as a junior Olympian.

Jay Kirschenman, '80, five letters in football and basketball, All City and All State quarterback two years, Shrine player.

Andre Broadous, '08, nine varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball, Player of the Year, All City and All State in football and baseball. He is freshman football coach at Grant.

Two brothers were named during the same ceremony this year:

John Bakkensen, '61, three track letters while setting City and State discus records; AAU champion.

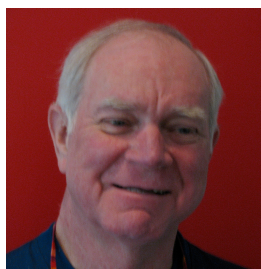
His brother **Ralph Bakkensen, '69**, three letters in shot put and discus, held a Grant shot put record for 36 years.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Fred Meyer continues to offer a reward incentive to nonprofit organizations and all you have to do is link your personal reward card number to the alumni association's number (91610) and go shopping! This connection in no way affects the rewards that you are already earning and receiving. This reward is above and beyond your personal rewards that you will continue to earn and receive. Fred Meyer has \$2.6 million that they will be sharing with nonprofits in AK, ID, OR and WA and we would love to receive some of those dollars. Please go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards to register your reward number to our number. 91610. Thank you!

The Alumni Assn. Loses a Good Friend

Several years ago the alumni association received an email from a gentleman who offered a new and improved website. He said he would create and maintain it for us ... at no cost. We were surprised and thrilled at such a proposal! Our working relationship although long distance, was the best! When you search the alumni website, grantalumni.org, you will see his exemplary work. Tragically and suddenly we lost this man last July. Our website has been static since. Not only did we lose a friend but also an integral part of your alumni association. This kind and generous man was **Bob Burdett, '63**. We miss his friendship and his expertise.



From the President

Bob Stayton '61

Your Alumni Association is gaining members and supporters. There was a large crowd at the Picnic in July. These are good trends. Efforts are underway to improve our ability to contact members and supporters by email or USPS so that we can more efficiently communicate with you. Currently two newsletters are published each year. For paying your \$20 annual dues, members (for whom we have no email address) will receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail. An email copy of the newsletter will be sent to our email contact list and a copy will be posted to the website. We do not share our contacts with any other organizations.

Website: The site has been in limbo due to the sudden passing of our Alumni webmaster **Bob Burdett, '63** last summer. We hope another talented alum will take over the website.

Piano: With the generous support of an anonymous donor the piano's exterior will match its restored interior. Students in music and theater arts classes will not only have a world class sounding Steinway, it will have an appearance equal to the sound of the music it makes.

The real benefactors are the students and performers who now have a first class piano on which to display their

talents maintaining a tradition of excellence at Grant, and that was our goal all along. Don't miss a chance to witness a recital or musical at Grant to see for yourself the pride of student artists demonstrating their musical talents on this beautiful instrument. Be proud of what we have done.

Scholarship: The annual Alumni Scholarship has been set at \$1500. We have been able to increase that amount to \$2000 in the last couple of years due to one-time donations and bequests from estates and from classes who contributed funds left over from reunions. The Alumni Assn. Board voted in December to increase the base amount to \$2000 in 2015 because we have sufficient funds to maintain that level. Our goal is to increase the annual Alumni Scholarship amount to equal one term's tuition at an Oregon public school (target \$5000). To achieve that goal we need to continue the trend of adding dues paying members and gaining more donations for the scholarship fund. Given that there are many thousands of Grant alums out there, every additional 100 paid members adds \$2000 to our resources.

My request to you, join the GHSAA if you haven't already and encourage other alums to do the same. Pay your annual dues and/or make an annual donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. This can be done on line or by mail and is tax deductible. If many chip in a little, the Alumni Association scholarship will grow large enough to support a larger scholarship amount.

Save the date: The annual all **Alumni Picnic July 26, 2015 at Wilshire Park**. Mark the date on your calendar now.

**GHS Alumni Assn. annual dues are payable by mail at
Grant Alum Assn. PO Box 13291 Portland OR 97213-0291
or paypal at www.grantalumni.org on the Dues and Donations page
Lifetime: \$250.00 Single: \$20.00/year Grant alum couple: \$30.00/year
See back cover for form**

Class of 1954 - 60th Reunion

The Class of 1954 had a wonderful 60th reunion on July 26 at the Portland Yacht Club. A tasty buffet was enjoyed by 100 people who came from all over the country to celebrate. There was a brief program and Ray Johnson played the piano but the main event of the evening was conversation! There was an enthusiastic committee of sixteen who planned the memorable evening and because they love a good party, will probably organize additional class reunions!



Ed Schuck
Dick Allen
Pat Allen
Micky Steed
Bob Steed



Judy
Bloomfield
Jim Damis '53
Pete
Charlston
Sally Knauss
Don Nash



Larry Tyle
LaVaunie
Wheelwright
Marilyn
Portwood
Jim Carlson



Joan Taylor
Jean Walker
Denise
Hedeon
Keith Hedeon

Class of 1959 - 55th Reunion

The Class of 1959 held their 55th reunion in July. The reunion followed the sixth annual **Pete Moore '59** Memorial Scramble chaired by **Gerry Spencer** at Eastmoreland Golf Club. Approximately 70 members of the class attended the casual gathering. People came from far and near to see old friends which is always a good time! Reunion chairs **Judy Hauser Bridenbaugh** and **Maggie Payne Martin** chose to retire the Class of 1959 bank account with the funds going to the **Pete Moore** Scholarship Fund established to honor their special classmate. Thus far six scholarships have been awarded to graduating Grant seniors. This year's scramble is Tuesday, July 7th at Eastmoreland and your participation is welcome. Contact: **Gerry Spencer** at 503-723-5906.

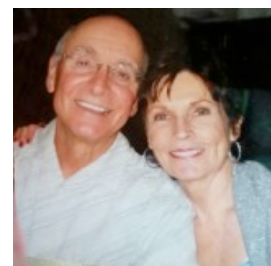
Class of 66 Celebrated their 66th

On Friday, June 6, 2014 (6/6) the class of '66 celebrated our collective 66 birthdays. The party was held, at what we all fondly remember as the Top of the Cosmo now The Red Lion Convention Center.

This was the last private event held in the roof top bar and outdoor patio before the interior demolition of the hotel. Classmates who wisely stayed overnight at the hotel were treated the next morning to VIP seating and refreshments to watch the Rose Festival Grand Floral parade. This was the last of our "birthday parties" until our 50th reunion which is already scheduled for July 22, 2016 at Edgefield's Blackberry Hall in Troutdale.

Class of 1969 - 45th Reunion

Having celebrated our 30th reunion in the main gym at Kennedy School back in 1999, we decided to return there for our 45th gathering. A smaller room was selected, the decorations were fun, the food plentiful and all attendees had a wonderful time. Unfortunately the turnout was much smaller than expected. A golf event and a barbeque followed the next day for all wanting to continue our conversation. Hoping to keep costs to a minimum and, lessen the time commitment for organizing the reunion, word of mouth and social media were used to contact classmates. It proved to not be as effective as hoped. By unanimous decision at the 45th we have decided to once again use Classic Reunions for the 50th. We hope with their help the class of 1969 will have the best turn out ever! We hope to see everyone in the summer of 2019!



John Hamilton, '69
Joanne Bonn Taylor, '69

Class of 1964 - 50th Reunion

Over 240 people partied on a Saturday night in July at the Columbia River Yacht Club in celebration of their 50th reunion! The evening was warm and clear, the food delicious, the decorations unique and the conversation nonstop! It could not have been a better time! Classmates came from Australia, Nicaragua and Toronto as well as the east coast and Alaska to be part of the fun! Many more people partied at the individual grade school gatherings that were held at various locations on Friday night. It was a three day reunion for some as they continued visiting on Sunday at the all alumni picnic. There will be more fun in 2019!



Teresa Byram Endresen Chuck O'Rourke Gloria Sandoz Slaughter Greg Harold
Mary Lou Oberson Gail Loback Andersen Marybeth Yerkovich Stiner
Bill Crist Ned Long Christi Rollwage Knutson Dave Decker



Patty Layton Nemer Diane Gislason Plesset Mike Bergman Patricia Soule Zimmerman Donna Richardson

Class of 1974 - 40th Reunion

The Class of 1974 did not have a 30th reunion so the 40th was a big deal and wildly successful! The July reunion was held at Sam's Hollywood Billiards. The appetizers were tasty, the 70's music played by DJ **Joanne Bowles** great listening and the over 150 attendees had a great time. **Jan Groff, Virginia McMillan-McCarthy, Cheryl and Bruce Phillips, Lisa Rieber Painter, Joanne Bowles, Mike Callahan and Yoka Wilcox** put together a memorable evening. Mike and Yoka have already decided to host the 45h reunion at Sam's! See



Cindy Jones Dill
Sue Rasmussen
Cindy Coe
Dodie Hewitt Brunton

Bob Dunn
Mike McLaughlin
Dan Dalton



Golf Tournaments

The 24th Annual **Kevin MacMillan, '79**-Tom Jones Memorial Golf Tournament & Dinner, Friday, June 12, 2015;
1:00 p.m. shotgun start at Rock Creek Golf Club

Contact: **Joe Simpson, '68** joesimp72@gmail.com, **Steve MacMillan, '81** stevemacmillan@comcast.net or
Kent MacMillan, '84 kentmacmillan@comcast.net

All are welcome! Proceeds provide a scholarship for two graduating Grant seniors.

The 7th Annual **Pete Moore '59** Memorial Scramble; Tuesday, July 7, 2015; 8:00 AM at Eastmoreland Golf Club
Contact: **Gerry Spencer, '59** 503.723.5906

All are welcome! Proceeds provide scholarships for graduating Grant seniors.

PIL Mel Krause Memorial Golf Tourney; September 2015 Details will follow on www.pilhalloffame.org/events
All are welcome with proceeds benefiting PIL athletics.

Having a reunion? Had a reunion?

We can help share the news in the alumni newsletter. Send info to grantalumni@aol.com

Class of 1965 – 50th Reunion

Saturday, August 22, 2015 6:00-11:00

Riverside Golf & Country Club

8105 NE 33 Drive Portland

Sunday, August 23, 2015 1:00-4:00

Grant High tour and Ice Cream Social

Janice Taylor Castle at jancastle@comcast.net or

425.644.1044 www.reunionswithclass.com

Class of 1995 – 20th Reunion

Planning has begun...details to follow

Katie Downing Wire GrantHS1995@outlook.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrantHS1995/>

Class of 1975 - 40th Reunion

Saturday, July 25, 2015 6:00-11:00

Sextant Bar & Galley on the patio 4035 NE Marine Dr.

No Host (Donations accepted to defray expenses)

Class of 2005 - 10th Reunion

Planning has begun for December...details later

Class of 1966 - 50th Reunion

Friday, July 22, 2016 Shotgun golf tourney at 1:00 pm

Edgefield Blackberry Hall in Troutdale

Guest rooms available for reservation now

Randi Black at GranthS1966@comcast.net

Call For Help From Grant

Library: Jay Asher's anti-bullying book tour promoting *Thirteen Reasons Why* stops at Grant on February 17. Help provide student copies by sending \$10 attn: Library Author Visit GHS 2245 NE 36 Ave Portland 97212.

Boosters: The annual auction GRANT NIGHT OUT is 6:00 pm, February 20 at the Exchange Building, 123 NE Third Avenue, cost \$75.00. The proceeds of this event help fund and support extra-curricular activities. Visit <http://grantboosters.schoolauction.net/auction2015> to donate auction items and/or to purchase tickets.

PTA: Are you an expert in English? Math? Science? Social Studies? Are you good at explaining concepts to other people who might not understand them? If so, consider volunteering as a tutor for Grant students. If you are interested and can volunteer at least one afternoon per week on a consistent basis, please contact Vice Principal Kristyn Westphal at kwestphal@pps.net.

Science classes: Anatomical models are needed for dual college credit anatomy and physiology classes. A full skeleton would be ideal but models of eyes, joints, organs would also be appreciated. Please contact Keri Pilgrim kpilgrim1@pps.net.

Grant Wins State Title

In January Grant won We the People state contest after 12 rounds of presentation against defending national champion Lincoln, Franklin, Lake Oswego, Central Catholic, and Junction City. The Generals, who won the national competition in 2013, will compete for the national title in April at George Mason University.

Steinway Restoration

With the return of the Steinway Grand Piano, music and theater students had the opportunity to again perform on a first class instrument. Artisan Piano Services completed an excellent job repairing, restringing, and rebuilding the piano's internal works. However, as mentioned in earlier newsletters the exterior of the piano was not addressed in the first restoration.

To our good fortune, an alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous stepped up and provided funds to restore the exterior of the Steinway Piano. The piano's return to Artisan Piano Services for its case refinishing was delayed until December so that students could complete college audition tapes during the 2014 fall term. The return of the piano to Grant will be early February after Artisan performs more than asked at their expense in order for the piano to be a prime example of their work.

This exceptional donation will finalize the Steinway restoration project begun in 2011 and includes an internal rebuild, external refinish, a proper bench, a protective blanket, and a heater that will minimize temperature swings in the unheated auditorium and better maintain the tune quality. The combined expenses for this project totaled about \$20,000.

The GHS Alumni Assn. is proud to represent all of the Piano Project contributors to the students and staff at Grant. They now have an instrument that maintains the high standards of excellence that we expect and support at Grant. Thanks to all of the alumni and donors who contributed to make this possible. Be proud of yourselves. The GRANT spirit lives on.

Are You a Member?

As a Grant alum, you are a member of a proud fraternity, but are you a paid member of the Alumni Assn?

Your GRANT HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION “express train” is moving ahead with activities, but where are all of our “passengers”?

The “ticket” for riding the alumni express for one year is only \$20 and brings you two Alumni Newsletters to keep you informed on class reunions, alum gatherings, important school events, athletic and other achievements of alums, honored status at our annual picnic, a membership card, and your knowledge that you are an important part of an active group.

Our fifth annual Alumni Picnic in July was the best attended ever! The 2015 picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 26, 2015 at Wilshire Park on NE 33rd Avenue.

We give an annual scholarship, partly paid by dues and partly by special donations. **Madison Moskowitz '14**, an impressive young woman was awarded the 2014 scholarship that she will use to help with expenses while studying Political Science and Social Work at U of O.

Homecoming will be special this year with the game in the new bowl. Look for the alumni hospitality area.

In 2011 your alumni association began restoration of the 1917 nine foot Steinway concert grand piano. Pianist **Tom Grant '64** donated his time for a benefit concert. The interior of the piano is restored and will return to school in February following the exterior restoration.

Three state championship teams were honored and sixteen athletes and coaches were inducted into the Grant Athletic Hall of Fame in October. The organizing committee, chaired by **Gerry Spencer '59**, includes eight other alums.

We appreciate the several generous gifts of funds for the scholarship and piano restoration as well as the volunteer work by all of you who have volunteered. Your board of directors meets monthly and devotes much volunteer time to keep things moving. We work with the Athlete Hall of Fame committee, the **Pete Moore '59** Scholarship and sponsor our own Hall of Achievement to recognize our heroes and to inspire today's students.

We would like to book more projects but we need your participation. Maintaining our goal of a modest annual dues is based on large membership which we don't have yet. PLEASE SUPPORT US by sending your \$20 dues and enlisting in Grant's Army. Dues can be paid by mail or on the assn. website www.grantalumni.org at the dues and donations page. We are a recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization so your dues and donations are tax deductible. If both husband and wife are alums, membership for the spouse is only \$10. Perhaps you might consider a lifetime membership for \$250.

**Please fill out and enclose the form below with your annual dues and mail to:
US Grant Alumni Assn. PO Box 13291 Portland OR 97213-0291**

Name (include maiden) _____ Grad Year _____

Address _____ City//State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

Enlist in Grant's Army by volunteering to help with the following: Publicity _____ Social Media _____

2015 Homecoming _____ Newsletter _____ Other interest _____

Enclosed: Membership _____ Donation: Scholarship _____ General Funds _____