

Generally Speaking...

NEWS FROM THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUMMER, 2018

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

P.O. Box 13291, Portland OR 97213-0291
grantalumni@aol.com

The Grant Tradition Continues...

Some of you will remember the March 1954 Pageant Magazine article about Grant High School that was titled, "The Best High School In America...How does it Compare with Yours?" Educators could not select one school out of the entire country, but agreed that Grant, which was always in the top ten, should be the focus of the article.

Grant had a phenomenal 2017-2018 year of firsts, championships, awards and recognition and could easily have been the focus of any article written today.

- The Grant Magazine replaced the weekly Grantonian in 2011. The magazine, professionally produced monthly, is written and edited by students. It is a very impressive publication that tackles current subject matter and has won the prestigious Gold Crown award from Columbia University Scholastic Press Association five years in a row.
- The Constitution Team participated in the We the People competition offered by the Classroom Law Project. Twenty-five students form a team of six groups with each group tackling a specific topic. The competition begins locally with the winner advancing in April to the national competition in Washington DC. The Grant team won this year's national title for the 11th time.
- The jazz ensemble won first at the state competition in May.
- The intermediate/advanced ceramics and sculpture classes created 4 poles as part of the Peace Pole Project one of which was chosen to be included in a permanent collection in Sapporo Japan.
- Into the Woods was the spring theatre production.
- Grant continues to produce great athletes with wins in every sport. In February the Grant Generals became the State basketball champions after beating the Jefferson Democrats by one point.
- At the same time Grant won the OSAA "We Are Number 1" student fan section competition for the basketball playoffs.

The Grant tradition really does continue!

The 9th Annual All Alum Picnic

The annual GRANT ALL ALUMNI PICNIC is coming up on Sunday, July 22, 2018 from 1pm-4pm. This year we will meet at GRANT PARK. The picnic will be held in the Hollyrood School shelter near NE 36th and Brazee. The new venue offers a covered pavilion area and lots of trees for shade as well as a great view of good old GRANT HIGH as it undergoes the remodel project.

Plan to attend, meet your classmates, and have fun visiting and catching up with friends and the activities of the Alumni Assn.

At 1:45 alum **Judge Robert Jones '44** will honor us with a short talk. Photos by decade will commence between 2:00 and 2:30.

We have arranged with PPS and the construction supervisors for two groups of 20 to tour the remodel site to see how the new Grant is taking shape. We have been hosting tours of the building for \$20/person to raise funds for the restoration of the historic murals in the auditorium. Sign up for a tour by contacting grantalumni@aol.com

Old Gym Bricks

Do you need another reason to come to the July 22 picnic? Do you want a piece of Grant history? Do you remember the "old gym's" elevated track or the moldy locker room? Do we have a deal for you!

The alumni association will have 50 authentic bricks from the old gym for sale for \$20. Each brick will come with a blue aluminum tag engraved with wording designating the brick as authentic and from Grant's 1923 gym. The bricks were donated by the Grant remodel construction team to help raise funds for the Fletcher mural restoration.

There will also be Memoirs for sale from 1965, 1966, 1967, 1973, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2014.



WILLIAM THOMAS FLETCHER MURALS RESTORATION PROJECT

Your Grant High School Alumni Association has embarked on a major fundraising project to make sure that the two murals in the auditorium of the newly remodeled school are preserved and restored to their original glory. The murals have been designated as the most valuable cultural asset of the high school. Their historical significance cannot be ignored so the fundraising has begun. See more information on our website at <http://www.grantalumni.org/fletcher-murals.html>

History of W. T. Fletcher and the Murals

W. T. Fletcher was the first principal of Grant High School. He died in 1928 at the age of 53 after contracting Cerebral Spinal Meningitis that had only been diagnosed five days earlier. The school and the whole Portland education system was deeply saddened by his sudden death.

In 1931, the artist Carl Hoeckner of the Art Institute of Chicago began painting the murals that were to become the Fletcher memorial murals that we all know. At a ceremony in September 1932, the murals were dedicated to W. T. Fletcher's memory. The murals have graced our auditorium for 86 years.

W. T. Fletcher began working for the Portland Public Schools in 1910. He started as the principal of Couch School before being reassigned to James John High School which was torn down and replaced by Roosevelt High School. In 1924 he became Grant's first principal.

He graduated from Pacific University in 1900. He taught Math and Latin there until 1904 when he left for New York to pursue a Master's degree from Columbia University which he received in 1906. He then taught in Pueblo, Colorado from 1906 to 1910.

Fletcher's wife died in 1927 leaving three children, Donald, 19, Elizabeth 17, and Robert 9. After Fletcher's death, Robert was sent to live with his uncle in Pueblo. After one year, his two unmarried aunts, Jessie and Leah Lieser, brought him back to the Portland area to live with them. Jessie Lieser taught English at Grant until her death in 1956.

John Hamnett's '63 research for family descendants found a grandson William Fletcher, a Judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Fletcher was pleased to learn of the association's efforts to restore the murals named in his grandfather's honor. He contacted his siblings, retired professor Susan Fletcher French, environmentalist Katherine Fletcher, and Paul Fletcher, MD along with their spouses/partners. The association is deeply touched by the enthusiastic response from Robert's children who never knew their grandfather. Each of Robert Fletcher's children has made generous donations to help us reach our goal to get the murals restored.

You, too, Can Help!

Take a tour.

We decided that tours of the construction zone would be interesting to many of us and would be a good way to start. We have had four sold-out tours thus far to very favorable reviews. The construction team and the school district have been kind to give their time to lead the groups on a 60-90 minute tour of the site. We ask for a minimum donation of \$20 from each person. The tours will continue through December, but sign up soon if you want to join in since they fill up quickly. On our annual picnic day, Sunday, July 22, there will be two tours, one at 1:30 and one at 3:00. There are a few spots still available. The remaining tours will take place at 3:00 pm, Thursday August 30, September 27, October 25, November 29 and December 20.

<http://www.grantalumni.org/ghs-tours.html> for tour information.

Buy a brick.

Bricks will be available at the All Alumni Picnic on July 22, 2018. Anyone with an interest in helping in our fundraising effort is encouraged to contact us at GrantAlumni@aol.com.

Donate.

You can help. Most obviously by your donations, but also by spreading the word to your classmates, friends, and others. To donate, use the form at the end of this newsletter, mail your donation to US Grant Alumni Assoc., PO Box 13291, Portland, OR 97213-0291 or go to <http://www.grantalumni.org/dues--donations.html>. There you will see buttons for US Mail and at the very bottom of the page a link to PayPal Mural Restoration Fund.

We are grateful to the Class of 1965 which had money from their 50th reunion left over and wanted to help with a deserving cause at Grant. When they learned of our mural restoration project, they were happy to share that money. Thank you very much to the class of '65 for their donation of \$1337.11. They suggest other classes do the same.

Spread the word.

Talk to your classmates, friends, family. Can you help with grants? Do you know people in the arts community?

Bea Osgood Krauss '61 has written a concept paper that any one can present to a potential donor. Or contact us with the potential donor's contact information and we will take it from there. Contact grantalumni@aol.com for a copy of the paper or find in on our website www.grantalumni.org

President's Letter Gerry Spencer '59

Happy Summer!

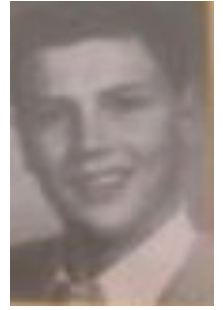
All months in Oregon are great, but June, July, August and September are the winners...the crack of the bat, a 7-iron tight to the pin, lazy days at the coast, family vacations...it makes us appreciate even more the splendor of this great state we live in.

The GAA will host their annual Alumni Picnic on Sunday July 22nd in the Hollywood School shelter, starting at 1:00 p.m. The pleasure of seeing old friends and classmates makes it a gathering you don't want to miss. Plus, our guest speaker is one of America's most distinguished jurists; the Honorable Robert E. Jones of the Federal District Court and a graduate of the Grant Class of 1944. Judge Jones is a must hear!

The Alumni Association has a full agenda in school year 2018-2019; mentoring for Grant students, alumni basketball games, food drive for the Grant Pantry, and growing the GAA membership. We will keep you informed of dates and times regarding the above and all other important items via our website and on Facebook.

It's a great honor for me to serve as President of the GAA. I will work hard to maintain the high standard set by my predecessors. Please feel free to contact me with ideas and suggestions.

I hope to meet and chat with you at the July picnic.



Gerry F. Spencer
President, GAA
Grant Class of 1959
spencerworld@comcast.net

Ever Wonder Where the Scholarship Funds Go?

Every year your alumni association collects funds to pay for some educational expenses for a deserving Grant student. A big thank you to Gary Powell ('72) who contacted the association with questions about our scholarships. He then arranged a donation of \$1000 from the Goudy-Powell Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Thank you, Gary!

This Year's Recipient of the Alumni Assn. Scholarship



Georgia Greenblum is the recipient of the 2018 GHSAA \$3,000 scholarship. Thirty-four Grant seniors were awarded a total \$75,000 of scholarship money by 18 benefactors at the annual awards event, which was held on June 1, 2018 at the Grant Marshall Campus.

Georgia is a member of the national championship Grant Constitution Team, contributor to the award-winning Grant Magazine and a performer with The Royal Blues. She also maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her high school career. She has been accepted to the U of O Clark Honors College and plans to continue on to medical school. She looks forward to participating in the OHSU summer internship program as well as applying to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai FlexMed Program, which will enable her to work with the World Health Organization to improve the lives of those in third world countries.

Georgia is a person who exemplifies the "Grant Spirit" with her tenacity and caring heart. Please join us in wishing her the best of luck in her future!

Mackie Mallison Awarded Highest National Honor

Each year The Scholastic Art & Writing Award gives its most prestigious national honor to 16 students in grades 7-12. **Mackie Mallison**, a 2018 Grant graduate, is the only Oregon recipient of this year's award which includes a \$10,000 scholarship. His work will be on display at Parsons & Pratt in New York City.

Mackie, a filmmaker, explains how he uses his art: "Sharing stories sparks conversation, and conversation creates change. By shedding light on topics that need to be talked about with all people, I feel that the stories shared through films can lead to that change."

"There is so much hatred and misunderstanding in this world, but if there is a way to project the perspectives of others, understandings can be made. Seeing, hearing and feeling emotions has a unique effect that filmmaking harnesses. This past year, I have been able to learn about so many different people's lives that, I think if shared, will create that change."

Mackie was awarded the 2018 Alexandre Scholarship for a graduate who will pursue a career in journalism. The scholarship was established in memory of Grant Journalism teacher Alvin Alexandre.

Learn more about Mackie and view his work at: <https://mackiemallison.com> or on his youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>



Our Rose Festival Princess



Grant's 2018 Rose Festival, Melissa Torres-Duran, was a Senior who graduated in June. She plans to attend the University of Oregon this fall, and major in Political Science. Each Princess received a \$3,500 scholarship provided by the Randall Group. Melissa's favorite Rose Festival event has been the Junior Parade. She attended Beaumont Middle School and was part of a cheerleading team which participated in the parade each year. So her interest in the Festival goes back quite a few years.

While at Grant she was a hardworking student who received honors and was in the top 15% of her class. She also participated in Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MECHA - President), Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI - Member), Young Life Organization, "Student of the Month" award recipient, Grant and SEI honor rolls. Through Young Life, she also had the opportunity to be a care provider for children of various ages.

Melissa says that since her Freshman year she has changed, from shy to more outgoing. She states "I've learned to be out there and take advantage of opportunities because you never know where they could take you". Trying out for Rose Festival Princess is a great example of one of her growth experiences. While majoring in Political Science in College, she states she may also be interested in business and sports marketing, or want to go into the field of law. She is looking forward to exploring a number of career options during her years at the University of Oregon. We know she will be a standout student there, just as she has been during her Grant years.

Grant Remodel Site Tours

Aren't you eager to see what is happening at Grant? The Alumni Assn. is providing you an opportunity to go on a tour of the remodel site! Tours are generally held the last Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm for a \$20.00 donation to the mural restoration fund and can be scheduled by contacting grantalumni@aol.com. Tours are led by guides from the construction team and last 60-90 minutes. Everyone who has been on a tour has been in awe of the progress and of the future of Grant. Several tours already have a waiting list so schedule yours now! The project is on budget and on schedule for the September 2019 opening. The alumni assn. is indebted to the entire remodel team for their support.



Current and future alums

Andrew Ballard '23
Laura Whelan Ballard '93 Caroline Ballard '21
Charlie Ballard '23



Reminiscing in auditorium

Bob Weaver '61, Tom Haley '62 Bob Arnst '62
Russ Taggard '62 Karyl Loback Whelan '61
Butch Lumby '62 Wes Austin '62 Gerry Spencer '59

HAVE YOU SCHEDULED YOUR TOUR?

Contact grantalumni@aol.com

Check available dates www.grantalumni.org

Upcoming 2018 Events

CLASS OF 1953 – 65TH REUNION

Friday, September 14, 2018 Afternoon Garden Party
at the Damis Residence
Saturday, September 15, 2018 Dinner at Riverside Golf
& Country Club
Contact: Jim Damis: jimdamis@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1958 – 60TH REUNION

Saturday, August 11, 2018
Multnomah Athletic Club
<http://groups.google.com/group/usgrant58>
Contact: Linda Cook Eddy: imeddy@hotmail.com or
Virginia Perkins Graeper: vcgraeper@msn.com

CLASS OF 1961 – 75TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday, July 21, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Bottles: 5015 NE Fremont
Contact: usgrant61@msn.com
Facebook: Grant Class of 1961

CLASS OF 1968 - 50TH REUNION

Saturday, July 21, 2018
McMenimin's Edgefield/Troutdale
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Contact: Maya Adamovics: granthigh68@hotmail.com
Facebook: Grant High Class of 1968

CLASS OF 1973 – 45TH REUNION

Saturday, August 4, 2018
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Colwood Golf Center 7313 NE Columbia Blvd
\$20 per person in advance/\$25 per person at door
Facebook: Grant H S Seventythree
Contact: grant73reunion@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1978 – 40TH REUNION

Saturday, August 11, 2018
Billy Webb Elks Lodge/6 N Tillamook St
Details to follow
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/grantclassof78portland/>
Contact: grantclass78@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1988 – 30TH REUNION

Friday, July 27, 2018
Thomas Lauderdale's Home
Saturday, July 28, 2018
6:00-1100 p.m.
McMenamin's Kennedy School
Contact: GrantHS1988ClassReunion@gmail.com
Facebook: Grant High School Class of 1988

CLASS OF 1998 - 20TH REUNION

Saturday, August 4, 2018
Details to follow
Facebook: Grant High School Class of '98 Reunion

CLASS OF 2008 – 10TH REUNION

December 2018
Details to follow
Facebook: Grant High School – Class of 2008

10th ANNUAL PETE MOORE MEMORIAL SCRAMBLE

Wednesday, July 11, 2018
8:00 a.m. Shotgun at Eastmoreland Golf - all welcome
Contact: Gerry Spencer 503.723.5906 or
spencerworld@comcast.net
Proceeds benefit the Pete Moore Scholarships at Grant

9TH ANNUAL ALL-ALUMNI PICNIC

Sunday, July 22, 2018 1:00 p.m. Grant Park
Bring your lunch - dessert is provided

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Your Board of Directors meets monthly devoting volunteer time to keep the association moving. PLEASE SUPPORT US by sending your \$20 dues by mail or online www.grantalumni.org at the dues and donations page or choose the Lifetime Membership for \$250.00. The association is a recognized 501(c) 3 charitable organization.

Did you know that meetings are open to all? Meetings are normally held 10:00 am, the first Tuesday of the month in the Grant library (Marshall campus).

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(s) _____ Maiden name _____ Grad Year _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

Enclosed Dues: \$20 Annual dues _____ \$30 per couple annual dues _____ \$250 LifetimeMembership _____

Enclosed Donation: Scholarship Fund _____ Murals Restoration _____ Newsletter _____

I can help: Murals Restoration _____ Picnic _____ Newsletter _____ Other Interests _____