
"Share Our Pride"

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MCKEESPORT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2005



2004 Class MHS Hall of Fame

- **John "Dink" Ulm**
Class of 1926, (dec.) artist and longtime art director at The Daily News, McKeesport.
- **Herbert G. Breitinger**
Class of 1938, McKeesport businessman and civic leader.
- **John D. Mench**
Class of 1938, member of The Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, N.M.
- **Helen Rose Basch**
Class of 1940, (dec.), revered missionary nurse and educator in India and Africa.
- **Darlene Scott Payne**
Class of 1952, pioneer cable television businesswoman and community volunteer.
- **Rudolph A. Antoncic, Jr.**
Class of 1961, McKeesport physician and community advocate.
- **Christine Johnson Davis**
Class of 1962, archaeologist, consultant and community volunteer.
- **Lisa Feldman Brill**
Class of 1964, community leader, philanthropist and dedicated volunteer.
- **Joseph J. Hoffman**
Class of 1965, law enforcement professional at the local, state and national levels.



Left to right (front row), standing behind fellow inductee Herbert G. Breitinger, are Lisa Feldman Brill and Darlene Scott Payne. At far right is Doris Davis, who represented her aunt, the late Helen Rose Basch. At rear with Alumni Association President Linda Croushore, second from left, are John D. Mench, Christine Johnson Davis, Rudolph A. Antoncic, Jr., and Joseph J. Hoffman.

NINE MORE GRADS JOIN HALL OF FAME

There were laughs and cheers, tears and poignant moments as the 2004 class of nine distinguished Tiger graduates was inducted into the McKeesport High School Hall of Fame at the 17th annual Alumni Recognition Night.

The honorees reflected on their experiences in grade school and high school, on the neighborhoods in which they grew up, on their fellow classmates, and especially on the teachers who helped shaped their characters and prepare them for the success they've enjoyed in life.

Inductee Christine Johnson Davis, Class of 1962, remembering AP English teacher Foster Beatty, said, "He was known as very difficult but I couldn't wait for his class...He opened up the wonder of learning...and encouraged us, especially the girls in the class, to excel."

She left high school with "the courage to follow my passions" and chart a course that led to a ca-

reer in archaeology and her own consulting company.

Joseph J. Hoffman, Class of 1965, recalled that it was football coach Charles "Ding" Schaeffer who pushed him to succeed. On the football field, Coach Schaeffer "taught men to reach deep to their inner spirit...to strive for 110 percent...It's a concept that has stayed with me my whole life."

Mr. Hoffman, who's now chief of police in White Oak, looked back on the "diverse wonderful neighborhood" around Centennial Elementary School and said his experiences growing up gave him an appreciation for diversity that has stood him in good stead in his life and in his career in law enforcement.

Longtime McKeesport businessman Herbert G. Breitinger, Class of 1938, said McKeesport was "a wonderful place to grow up" and added that he takes "great pride in my school and my community."

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HALL OF FAME 2004

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“Whether you’re a graduate of Tech High or the current high school, you are a McKeesporter,” he said to the crowd of 275-plus at Youghiogheny Country Club.

The crowd responded with a standing ovation for Mr. Breitinger, who’s battled declining health over the past several years.

Mr. Breitinger’s classmate and fellow inductee, John D. Mench, said the teachers he had in high school “contributed to my success in life.” And, he added, McKeesport High School gave him “the greatest gift anyone could ever receive...my high school sweetheart, the girl I took to the prom, the mother of my children.”

Doris Davis, niece of the late Helen Rose Basch, Class of 1940, accepted her aunt’s award. She remembered her as a courageous young woman who went to India on her own, “leaving her family and not knowing when or if she would see them again.”

“She was pleased that the hospital (where she served as a missionary nurse) named its school of nursing for her...and she would have been equally pleased to have been here tonight,” Ms. Davis said.

Elmer C. Brewer, retired photographer at The Daily News, accepted the late John “Dink” Ulm’s award. Mr. Brewer and Mr. Ulm were long-time friends and colleagues at the newspaper, sharing the same interests and the same birthday. His voice breaking, Mr. Brewer said, he was “honored and humbled to accept this award on behalf of Dink.”

Mr. Brewer noted that the birthday he and Mr. Ulm shared was that day, Sept. 18.

Inductee Darlene Scott Payne, Class of 1952, credited the late Vivian Bowles Gessner with “convincing me I could do more in the business world.” That confidence led her to attend Robert Morris Business College, leave a dead-end



Inductee Christine Johnson Davis poses with her aunt, Marie Dillen.

job at radio station WEDO, and apply at a newly established Tex Video cable office.

“I didn’t know what cable TV was then...I know today...and I love my job,” the Comcast executive said to cheers from her many friends, colleagues and family members in attendance.

Dr. Rudolph A. Antoncic, Jr., Class of 1961, generated laughs and applause as he ran through a gallery of teachers who impressed him the most at McKeesport High School: Latin teacher Mary Auld, “the epitome of grace and sophistication”; Julia Loya, “the opposite of Miss Auld” but a teacher who encouraged students to think and debate; chemistry teacher “Abby” Fallquist, “a wonderful guy...I was terrified of him”; and administrator Jim Steel, “who always gave me so much support.”

In later years, as a physician at McKeesport Hospital, he encountered both Mr. Fallquist and Mr. Steel in their last days. While those were sad experiences, Dr. Antoncic said he was glad for the chance to provide comfort and to say thank-you one final time.

Lisa Feldman Brill, Class of 1964, remembered the late 1950s and early 1960s as a time “when families and friends came together and watched out for us.”

“What I learned growing up here shaped me and made me what I am today....I was created in this town in both body and spirit,” Ms.



Dr. Rudolph A. Antoncic, Jr., left, was surrounded by friends and well-wishers at the dinner.



Master of ceremonies Harold Hayes of KDKA-TV paused to have a word with honoree John D. Mench and his wife, Vera.

Brill said, adding, “The friendships I made as a child continue to this day.” Many of those friends were present to see her inducted into the Hall of Fame and further honored her by making contributions to the library at Centennial Elementary School and the Sam Liberatore Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 2004 Hall of Fame dinner and program on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Youghiogheny Country Club drew one of the largest-ever crowds of friends, family members and supporters. The night before, the alumni & friends association hosted a reception for the honorees at the high school’s Tiger Inn.



Honoree Lisa Feldman Brill, at right, visits with her cousin, Lynne Gabriel, left, who nominated her for the Hall of Fame, and Phyllis Lhormer.

MHS HALL OF FAME 2004



Several former and current employees of The Daily News attended on behalf of the late John "Dink" Ulm. Left to right are Elmer C. Brewer, who accepted Mr. Ulm's award; his wife Roberta (seated); Joyce Jackson MacGregor and William B. Kost.



A large group of friends and family members turned out to honor inductee Darlene Payne. Ronald P. Sandmeyer, right photo, a fellow member of the MHS Hall of Fame (1996 Class), added his best wishes.



Inductee Herbert G. Breitinger accepts congratulations during the reception that preceded dinner.



Nancy F. Anderson

Estate of Nancy Fortune Anderson, Class of 1943, includes memorial bequest to alumni association

Nancy Fortune Anderson, a 1943 McKeesport graduate who was an active member of the reunion committee for her class, died unexpectedly in 2003. Her will contained a \$50,000 bequest to the alumni association.

Mrs. Anderson, who loved to travel, was a welcome visitor at the alumni office every Fall, whether stopping in to say hello or, periodically, to work on reunion plans with alumni association administrative assistant Ginny Dunsavage.

"We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Anderson for remembering us but sad to lose her as a friend and loyal fellow alum," said association president Linda L. Croushore.

McKeesport High classes make donations

McKeesport Area High School Classes of 1963, 1964 and 1965 made a \$200 contribution to the alumni association. The classes held a joint reunion in July, 2004. The MHS Class of 1954, which marked its 50th reunion in September, 2004, also made a contribution, of \$100. Both groups thanked the association's Ginny Dunsavage for her help.

Lisa Brill establishes fund honoring Helen Malseed

Lisa Feldman Brill, a member of the Class of 1964 and a 2004 inductee into the Hall of Fame, and her husband Ron have endowed the Helen G. Malseed Memorial Fund to support the speech, debate and forensics program at McKeesport Area High School.

Funds may be used for such activities as the children's play and for expenses related to forensics competitions.

Others are welcome to donate to the fund, which is named for Helen Malseed, the longtime head of the speech and forensics program at the high school.

A+ Alumni

New scholarships remember civic leader Walter C. Shaw, young tragedy victim Misura

Two more people have established scholarships for McKeesport Area High School seniors.

Elizabeth Shaw Gamble, a member of the Class of 1937, has endowed a fund in memory of her father, Walter C. Shaw, one of the founders of the G.C. Murphy Co. and a major figure in the business and civic life of McKeesport for decades.

The number and amount of Walter C. Shaw Memorial Scholarship awards will vary. Preference will be given to those considering a career in the medical field.

Justin R. Misura Memorial Scholarship

Parents and family members of Justin R. Misura, a 2001 MAHS graduate who was killed in a tragic accident in early 2004, have established a fund in Justin's memory. It will help a McKeesport Area High School student who intends to enroll in the culinary arts program at Westmoreland County Community College. Justin, the son of Lisa and Edwin Misura of White Oak, attended WCCC and worked at Cavanaugh's on Long Run Road in McKeesport.

Casturo Educational Award Winners

Heather A. Jones and Sylvia Zepeda were the winners of the 2004 Educational Achievement Awards underwritten by McKeesport alums Charles and Gail Casturo and their family. Heather, a McKeesport Area High School graduate who attends Waynesburg College, received \$500. Sylvia, a student at CCAC-South Campus, received \$250. She is a South Allegheny High School graduate. The Casturos have been funding these awards since 1993.



Heather Jones



Sylvia Zepeda

Neenie Campbell Fund Donations Sought

Contributions still are being accepted for the Neenie Campbell Memorial Fund. Hall of Fame members Lanny E. Van Eman, Judge Bernard E. Revak and Dr. Rudy Antoncic are spearheading this fundraising effort to support the high school basketball program and the athletes who participate in it. The trio, all former cagers, have named the fund for the longtime, legendary McKeesport coach, C.P. "Neenie" Campbell. An initial mailing has gone out from the alumni association to former basketball players, but donations are welcome from all who knew "Neenie" and want to honor his memory. Contact the alumni association for details on how you can support this new fund.

Alumni support Great Idea Grants in McKeesport Area schools

Alumni continue to underwrite Great Idea Grants given by the Mon Valley Education Consortium, the parent organization of the alumni association. Ann Louise Steele-Buck, MD., MHS Class of 1948; the late Nancy Fortune Anderson (1943); Darlene S. Payne (1952); Hartley C. King (1951); Gary L. (1960) & Sharen (Gibbons) Thomas (1961); and the MHS Class of 1976 combined to fund innovative classroom learning projects at five McKeesport Area schools.

The grants totaled \$2,424.42, and went to teachers at the high school, Founders' Hall, McClure Middle School, George Washington Elementary and Centennial Elementary. More than \$1 million has been channeled to educators and students across the Consortium through the Great Idea Grants program.

MHS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Judge Baldwin tapped for college governing post

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin, chair of the 32-member board of trustees at Penn State University, has joined the board of directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

The Association of Governing Boards, which is affiliated with 1,800 colleges and universities, helps define the responsibilities of governing board members and provides guidance to regents and trustees. Judge Baldwin is a member of the MHS Class of 1962 and a 1990 inductee into the Hall of Fame.

MASD Superintendent of Schools stepping down

Dr. Frank A. McLaughlin is stepping down as superintendent of schools in McKeesport Area School District. He is a 1964 MHS graduate who has spent his entire professional career in the school district. He replaced longtime superintendent Stephen J. Tomaino when he retired in October of 2003.

Hall of Famer LaRosa dies

Samuel R. LaRosa, who devoted his life to the McKeesport Boys and Girls Club, passed away in October of 2003. He was a 1932 graduate of McKeesport High School and was a member of the first class inducted into the Hall of Fame, in 1987.

Alumni leader Linda Croushore recognized for education work

Linda L. Croushore, Ed.D., alumni association president and executive director of the Mon Valley Education Consortium, was one of the top 12 leaders in education in western Pennsylvania listed in The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Oct. 20, 2004, special section on the 48 men and women most influential in the field. People working in a variety of education sectors nominated the people they thought had made the most significant impact on education in western Pennsylvania.

JOINT REUNION CLASSES OF 1963-64-65

It was two years in the making, but the McKeesport Area High School Classes of 1963, 1964 and 1965 pulled off their first-ever joint reunion on July 16, 2004, at the Pittsburgh Hilton. More than 300 people attended.



Left to right are Caryn Harden Bell, Linda Swanson King, Linda Wunderley, Pat Raymer Macchiarolo and Shirley Kessler Beamon, all members of the Class of 1964.



Left to right are ex-Tiger football stars Larry Zambo ('63), Andy Beamon ('64) and Bob Bazylak ('64).

MHS CLASS OF 1944

Eighty classmates were among the 116 people in attendance at the 60th Reunion of the MHS Class of 1944 on Aug. 28, 2004, at Youghiogeny Country Club.



Reunion Committee General Chairman Joe Gallagher talks with committee members (l-r) June Wynn Jordan, programs; Eleanor Gonzalez, publicity; and Alice Jeney Hajduk, centerpieces.



The 1939 "out-of-towners" gathered for a group photo at the reunion. Left to right, back row, are John Totin (NJ), Jack Wynn and Dr. Howard Gilchrist (SC), Steve Kanyusik (MI); middle row, Julie Isaaco Neclerio (CT), John Hromi (NY); front row, Mary Hartigan (IN), Jean Bloomquist (MI), Elsie Yonec (AR), and Doris Roderick McDonough (OH).



Among those attending were these members of the '43-'44 Tiger football team: (l-r) Al Kovacic, Al Tkac, Chester Brown, John Liptak and Roy Slack Leffard. All but Brown are 1944 graduates; Brown was Class of 1945.

MHS CLASS OF 1939

The Class of 1939 marked its 65th Reunion on Sept. 18, 2004, at Cavanaugh's. Eighty-one classmates and friends attended, with 10 class members coming in from out-of-state. The Reunion Committee is planning an informal get-together for 2005, on Sept. 1, at the same McKeesport restaurant.

Stay up-to-date on the activities of the
MHS Alumni & Friends Association
by going to www.mvec.org and clicking on
McKeesport Alumni.

**MHS
CLASS
OF
1954

50th
Reunion**



The McKeesport High School Class of 1954 celebrated the Big 5-OH during a reunion weekend, Sept. 17-18, 2004, at the Radisson Hotel in Monroeville. Among the 276 people in attendance were, l-r, Darol Traeger, Dolly Santone Bethel, Tom Traeger, Pat Liberatore Leonard and Glenda Drye Krien.



**REUNION
UPDATE
2004**

Here's the latest list of dates for upcoming reunions, as submitted to the alumni office:

2005

Class of 1945 (60th)

July 16, Cavanaugh's, McKeesport

Class of 1950 (55th)

Oct. 1, Radisson Hotel, Monroeville

Class of 1955 (50th)

Sept. 17, Radisson Hotel, Monroeville

Class of 1960 (45th)

In Planning Stage

Class of 1980 (25th)

In Planning Stage

Class of 1985 (20th)

Nov. 26, Stratigos Banquet Center
North Huntingdon Twp.

The alumni association can provide limited assistance to classes planning reunions (contact Ginny Dunsavage at 412-678-9215).



MHS CLASS OF 1959

Rock 'n Roll! Members of the MHS Class of 1959 called up memories, friends and music – all oldies but goodies – at their 45th Reunion the weekend of Aug. 13-14 at the Radisson Hotel in Monroeville. Even Elvis made an appearance in keeping with the reunion's rock'n roll theme. With "the King" are Peggy Cox Murray, left, and Charlotte Cox. Tending to last-minute details the evening before the reunion (left photo) were (l-r) Emma Slater McKenzie, Pat Hunt and Tom Ransick and his wife Marjorie.

THANKS! Ornament support, volunteers make trees event a success

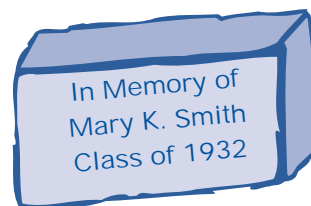
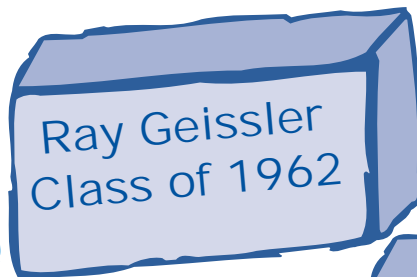
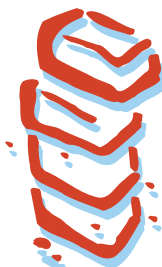
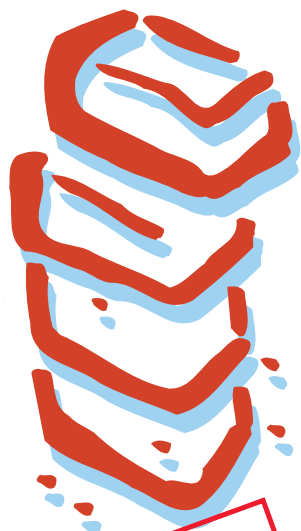
Alumni, friends, future alumni, and even pets responded to this year's Alumni Tree appeal and purchased 300-plus "Cool Yule" Tiger ornaments for the association's entry in McKeesport's Festival of Trees Dec. 2-5. Total amount raised by the ornament sale was \$670.

Kathleen Galka Miller (MHS '67) once again developed the ornament, and Joanne Leonardo Hoffman ('64) and Cheryl Stanko Chefuta ('66) volunteered to decorate the tree (see photo at right). Volunteers also stepped up to staff the kitchen at the Festival, which the alumni association operates as a small fund-raising project.

Kitchen helpers included the following:

Gina Barrett, Amelia Boutwell, Sue Carper, Sandra Chan, Vicki Creider, Jack & Linda Croushore, Ginny Dunsavage, Judy Feltz, Barb Firda, Josette Fuls, Bud Geissler Sr., Christine Hamilton, Pat Harris, Jennifer Hollinan, Nancy & Tom Hurley, Donna Isbir, Liz Jones, Karen Kost, John & Annamae Kunicky, Pat Leonard, Ron & Kathy Liberatore, Joanne Lynch, Jim & Jinx McCabe, Sharon McCann, Barb McCune, Craig & Carol McDowell, Minnie Marshall, Joan Midlo, Barry Minnicks, Geri Mitchell, Ava Oskin, Libby Paterson, David Pribish, Carolee Shivley, Joel Slater, Nancy Swanson, Pat Striffler and Gloria & Bob Stukus. Jet Distributors (Beer World) also made a donation of soft drinks.





\$100 PER BRICK
4" X 8" BRICK

SHOW YOUR TIGER PRIDE!

BUY A BRICK FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD PROJECT!



The McKeesport High School Alumni & Friends Association is spearheading plans to turn the interior courtyard at the high school into a beautiful learning "green space" that will compliment the recently renovated building (see story on Page 8). You can help by purchasing a brick for the courtyard customized with three (3) lines for your name or special message. Show your support for the McKeesport students of yesterday, today and tomorrow by adding your name to the courtyard. Call 412-678-9215 with questions or for further information.

PUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL PAW PRINT ON TIGER HISTORY! ORDER YOUR BRICK TODAY!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____
E-mail Address _____

Use the boxes to indicate the EXACT text you want to appear on your engraved brick. PLEASE PRINT. 15 CHARACTERS PER LINE. Count each space and each punctuation mark as 1 CHARACTER.

Charge my Visa/MasterCard
 Check/Money Order Enclosed

Signature required for Credit Card purchase

Expiration Date

Mail this form, with your payment, to:
McKeesport High School Alumni & Friends Association, PO Box 432, McKeesport PA 15134
Make checks payable to: MHS Alumni & Friends Assn.

COURTYARD PROJECT MOVING AHEAD



The interior courtyard as it looked in late Fall, ready for landscaping and re-design.

Plans are under way to transform the interior courtyard at McKeesport Area High School into an attractive green space that can double as an outdoor learning/performance center.

And, if the alumni association's courtyard brick drive is successful, there will be echoes of yesterday in the new design. A walkway winding across and through the space will be paved with bricks bearing the names, class years and/or brief citations (in honor of/in memory) of alumni supporters and friends.

The alumni association, working with the school district, already has committed \$9,000 to prepare the site. Funds come from the give-back gifts made each year by alumni association members and other donors.

The initial contribution went to remove large, unsightly concrete islands and several trees. The overall landscaping plan is the next step, although there have been some beautification measures on the path connecting the two wings

of the building. That work was done by Comcast volunteers led by Darlene Payne, Class of 1952.

The school district's buildings and grounds department has been overseeing the site preparation work and will continue to be involved in the development plan, according to Dr. Linda L. Croushore, alumni association president.

The courtyard project is one of the largest give-back gifts made by the association. Other recent gifts have helped the high school purchase a new curtain for the auditorium stage

and replace sports banners (denoting Tiger championships) in Neenie Campbell Gym.

Put your personal paw print on the new high school courtyard. See PAGE 7 for details on how you can support this beautification project by purchasing a commemorative paving brick.

Mon Valley Education Consortium

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