

THE ALUMNI VOICE

FALL/WINTER 2023
VOLUME 44 * ISSUE 1



WILDCATS

SO, WHAT'S GOING ON AT MY ALMA MATER?



Hello readers! It is a great honor that I have the opportunity to write in the Alumni Newsletter. I wanted to start my first entry in the newsletter by giving a small introduction to who I am. I am Gianna Condelli, an eleventh grader at Mayfield. I have been in the district since preschool. I enjoy staying active in our school community by participating in various clubs, sports, and activities. I am a regional

qualifier for track and field and the captain of our Varsity A tennis team. I have participated in clubs such as the Student Council, National Honors Society, Cats Cabinet, Environmental Club, Principals Advisory Committee, and the Alumni Hall of Fame Committee—enough about me. Here's the recap of what's been happening at Mayfield High School.

At the start of the 2023 school year, Mayfield students and staff welcomed **Mr. Brian Linn** into the high school as the new principal. Mr. Linn is constantly greeting students in the hallways with a wave and a broad smile. He creates a welcoming atmosphere in our school and strives to make school a safe place for every student every day. This year, Mr. Linn has implemented Students of the Week over the announcements to recognize those who show positive attitudes and outstanding behaviors in school. In addition to one student, one teacher is selected along with one preschool student. Mayfield has had a fantastic first semester with Mr. Linn and is looking forward to many more semesters to come.

The Mayfield football team led by **Coach Ross Bandiera** strongly persisted through an injury-plagued season. Wildcat football ended the season with a 4-6 record, winning their last game against Willoughby South (14-10). Despite not making the playoffs, the team fought hard for their wins, and grew from their losses. Our home stands were always jam-packed with our supportive wildcat fans, even on the coldest nights of the fall football season. With our student section clad in many different themes, the Wildcats had students proudly cheering for them throughout the entire season. The Pride of Mayfield Band always gave top-notch performances during games. Led by **Mr. Brad Trieber** and field commanders **Alex Hliatzos** and **Connor Levak**, the band had lively musical showcases during half-time every game.

The Wildcats celebrated a Homecoming victory against Garfield High School with a score of 40-13, ending the week before the Homecoming dance on a high note. The Homecoming parade was a hit, with tons of floats and a huge community turnout. The floats display clubs and sports representing Mayfield in the procession. This year, the Homecoming theme was Disco Fever, the gym adorned with vibrant colors and disco balls. The show-stopper decoration for the assembly was the interactive dance floor. Student council skillfully plans and executes Homecoming every year. The long-running tradition of the Sweet Sixteen Homecoming Court continued this year, giving nominated students a chance to be recognized by their peers during the assembly. Our crowned Homecoming King and Queen were **Savon Harris** and **Ziann Vincent**, proudly recognized during the assembly. Homecoming week concluded with students dancing the night away at the disco themed dance.

Mayfield students earned many achievements during the first semester. The girl's soccer team came out on top as conference champions this year. Their conference win was against Riverside High School, with a sweeping score of 9-0. Their overall record this year was 12-3 with two ties. The team had upperclassmen leading the team this year to victory. Mayfield had three individual All-Ohio honorees this year. **Joe Barch** was the first-team all-Ohio linebacker, **Nico Traczyk** was the first-team all-Ohio defensive line, and **Cami Stella** was the second-team all-Ohio honoree in soccer. Regarding fine arts, Playhouse Square representatives honored Mayfield students with prestigious Dazzle awards, which recognize students in theater programs around Ohio. **Graham Wilde**, **Savon Harris**, and **Cidney Little** won individual Dazzle awards, and Ragtime won Best Musical. Regarding an academic-based club, our Model UN team proudly received multiple awards at the end of their conference, such as best position paper and several honorable mentions. The achievements displayed so far this year have made our high school community overwhelmingly proud.

The Musical Theater Department showcased a very talented cast of students in their production of Rent, Teen Addition. The show follows a group of musicians, artists,

THANK YOU 2022-23 SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

The following people donated to our scholarship drive during the 2022-23 school year. The scholarship categories represent the cumulative donations made by these contributors since the inception of our scholarship program in 1981. Any donations made after August 31, 2023 will be recognized in *The Alumni Voice*, Vol. 45, No. 1.

Please Note: Our fiscal year and scholarship donation year end on August 31st of each year.

PREMIER SOCIETY (\$50,000 or more)

Jonathan Green, '73
Albert Jenkins, '40
(In Memoriam)

CHAMPION SOCIETY (\$35,000-\$49,999)

Paul & Janet Belin
Imbordino, '68-'70

BENEFACTOR (\$20,000-\$34,999)

Mike McCartney, '84
Hal & Nancy West, '55

PLATINUM (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

Frank & Annette Alvarez,
'57-'58
Wayne & Anna Farinacci,
'63
Dr. Gregory Pavlin, '68
Michael & Barbara Rossi,
'73-'75
Kurt Treu, '78

GOLD \$5,000—\$9,999

Joe & Esther Campanella,
Friend
Robert Clasen, '62
Vince & Laurie Fultz, '83
Kelly Harber, Friend
John & Jeanette Svet, '54
John & Jennifer Vojticek,
'91

SILVER \$1,000—\$4,999

James Albrecht, '58
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Frank Brown, '73
Donna Butin, '73
Judy Delfs, '67
Annette DiCillo, '78
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Whetzel, Friend
Megan Gadke-Warman,
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Al & Kathy Hess, '72
Glenn Hodges, MD, '59
Dennis Jensen, '65
Jan Jones, '63
Neil Leighton, '55
Paul Licurs Jr., '57
Howard Maier, '62
Rick & Polly Marabito, '81
Suzanne Mayher, '65
Glenn Meden, '72/Barbara
Dudzinski
Ginny Micale, '57
Carole Morris, '57
Mary Lynn Niland, '89
Ralph Phillips, '57
Larry & JoAnn Pinto, '80
Frank & Lynn Pionno, '88
Mary Jo Rodenizer, '64
William Richards, '63
Carl & Mary Ann Rispoli,
'63
Vince & Tracey Ruggieri,
'80
Eric & Linda Sala, '75
Steve Schmidt, '72
William Sciortino, '76
Carol Shaw, '65
Mark & Judene Silbiger,
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Don Staley, '63
Robert Tribby, '62
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Mike Walczak, Friend
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Janet Botzum, '50
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Jerry Derner, '61
Al Farinacci, '61
Beverly Forristell, '59
Dennis Francis, '63
Stuart Frank, '67
Michael Grossberg, '63
Stephen Jerome Jr., '04
Norene Jones, '70
Katherine Kolcaba, '62
Phil Leuty, '52
Nancy Marella, '67
Karen Miller, '73
Gayle Mormile, '66
Susan Quiggle, '74
Lee Rosen, '65
Ellen Ryan, '90
Paul Sabatino, Friend
Janet Starrett, '62
Leslie Stevenson, '66
Gloria Strasshofer, '49
Richard Tagg, '65

WILDCAT \$100—\$499

Louise Amrine, '66
Betty Babb, '53
Betsy Baird-Alonge, '68
Rhonda Beck, '72
Mike & Melisa Caspio, '89

Joe & Cathy Catullo,
'71/'74
Nicholas Dilorio, '11
Victor Donatelli, '68
Becky Fultz-Roth, '78
Lorrie Gattozzi-Radis, '72
Nancy Hall, '57
Sherril Heneghan, '77
Antonia Kopp, '10
Richard Lash, '61
Mary Ann Lortz, '64
Linda Maskulka, '70
Bill & Sue McGrath, '71
Rose Moran, '79
Rose Newman, '57
Matt & Kayla Pinto, '06
Claudia Pollock, '71
Michael Rogoff, '64
Stephen Seiple, '74
Eugene Teachout, '52
Greg Uhland, '69

GREEN & WHITE \$10—\$99

Nancy Bird, Friend
Michael Cacolici, '91
Laura Horvath, '93
Steven & Lynne Jerome,
'73/'75

Our Alumni
Association
Scholarship Pro-
gram gets stronger
every year
because of caring
donors like you.
This is part of what
makes Mayfield
High School, and
it's alums so
special.

THANK
YOU

The Alumni Museum Helps To Put Alums' Accomplishments on Display

Many members of the Mayfield Alumni Association have asked detailed questions regarding several aspects of our organization. The Executive Board has decided to highlight many of the topics that have been submitted. This is the fourth in a series of historical articles that will appear in *The Alumni Voice Newsletter*.

****This issue's topic is The Alumni Museum****

The Mayfield Alumni Association has maintained an **Alumni Museum** for over 30 years. The Museum has been moved several times due to enrollment changes within the school district.

Late 80s - 2001: Middle School Room C-4. Our first Museum was located in the middle school (the old high school) in room C-4. After an addition was added to the back of the middle school, the old cafeteria was converted into six classrooms, identified as C-1 to C-6. The classroom at the bottom of the stairway, C-4, was given to the Alumni Association to house our memorabilia. Many old timers may remember a tunnel that ran from the old cafeteria to the auditorium. It was only about five feet high and four feet wide. It was for custodial use only. All the class composites from 1930 to 1963 were stored in the tunnel after the current high school was opened in August, 1963. The Association didn't have enough space in C-4 to display the composites. However, we did start collecting memorabilia from alums all across the country to put on display. Alums began sending so many pieces of memorabilia we couldn't put them all on display. So, we started filling and labeling boxes for future use.

2001 - 2002: Middle School Room 124. We lost our Museum because student enrollment changes caused the school district to use C-4 for instructional purposes in 2001 - 2002. Almost all our memorabilia was put into storage in the basement of the Little Red Schoolhouse at SOM Center and Wilson Mills Rds. This building housed the Central Office administration at the time. Whatever didn't fit in the Little Red Schoolhouse basement, Board members took home to store for an undetermined amount of time.. Our Association meetings were held in room 124 this year.

2002 - 2016: Little Red Schoolhouse. The Central Office Administration was forced to move from the Little Red Schoolhouse due to so much weight on the second floor. The vast amount of file cabinets, copy machines, desks, etc. was deemed unsafe for this old building which was opened in 1907 to house the entire school district population. Supports posts were added, but safety concerns remained. The new Administration Building just north of the middle school became the new home for the Central Office Administration.



Looking Back.....

The Little Red Schoolhouse was offered to the Alumni Association as a replacement museum. The Association was given the bottom right side of the building to re-house our memorabilia. The remainder of the building was used for district offices such as the Adult Education Office and the Parent Volunteer Program. The Association was given the old Treasurer's Office (large room that housed three secretaries) and two smaller offices that housed the Treasurer and Business Manager. There was also a large walk-in safe that was given to the Association. Having this space allowed us to create Class Boxes. We made up about 100 class boxes to house any memorabilia we could trace back to one particular class. We decided to house all our yearbooks and class boxes within the walk-in safe.

2016 - Present: High School Humanities Library. At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, principal **Jeff Legan, Class of '94**, asked President **Wayne Farinacci** if the Association would consider moving the Alumni Museum from the Little Red Schoolhouse to the Humanities Library space. Wayne said "YES" before Jeff could finish his question! To his credit, Jeff wanted to make sure that today's students would see up close many of the thousands of alums who walked the high school halls before them. Jeff wanted to make sure students appreciated the accomplishments of alums and even try to surpass their achievements.

The exceptionally large space allowed the Association to put hundreds of pieces of memorabilia on display. We currently have six very large glass display cases that house our Class Boxes, spirit wear, vintage uniforms, the first high school band drum from the 1940s, The Olde Clock and Control Box that rang the bells and operated the clocks at the old high school, our class ring collection, yearbook collection, and a tremendous amount of memorabilia. A few months ago, we hung a dozen lettermen's jackets, sweaters, and a graduation gown from the ceiling.

The Association conducts a **Memorabilia Night** every May where attendees are served a light dinner and then go to work sorting and arranging more memorabilia within the Alumni Museum. This year's will be on **May 20th**.

Each future issue of *The Alumni Voice* will feature another unique aspect of the Mayfield Alumni Association.

“PAT ON THE BACK” INSPIRES EMPLOYEES

As a loyal member of the Mayfield Alumni Association, we know you are aware of how student centered the Association has been since our inception. We continually strive to do all we can to supplement what the Mayfield Schools offers our students. Our philanthropy program has evolved and grown exponentially over the past 10 years. In one of the upcoming issues of *The Alumni Voice*, we will highlight our philanthropy program and provide members with a detailed view of what has transpired over these many years. Obviously, the Association could not provide the supplemental curricular and extracurricular help without the very generous contributions of our alums.

This school year, one of the projects the Association adopted was what we called the “Pat on the Back” program. And what employee in any business or institution doesn’t need a pat on the back for continually displaying outstanding service?? Recognition reinforces what we want to see more of, thereby allowing us to see more good work and better performance. So we decided to do something that was staff-centered to reward our hard working Mayfield employees. And this goes beyond the teachers. We honored EVERY employee of the Mayfield Schools. This included administrators, counselors, library staff, nurses, paraprofessionals, preschool, CEVEC, Excel Tecc, food service, custodians, maintenance staff, bus drivers, and even our very dedicated Board of Education. This group includes 381 certified staff and 276 classified staff for a whopping total of 657 people!

This idea started with the thought of giving everyone a \$10 gift card, which would have cost the Association \$6,570. But that didn’t seem like a very firm pat on the back. So we turned to our alums to do even more. We asked 10 alum owned business if they would like to par-

ticipate in this program to reward our Mayfield staff. And they said “YES, ABSOLUTELY!” Thus, the Pat on the Back program grew into something much more meaningful. And these businesses receive a benefit as well because every employee must spend \$30 in each business to receive a \$10 discount from each business. So, in essence, every employee will receive \$100 in discounts at some of the best businesses in town! And the cost to the Association was under \$1,500. We want to thank **Mike Sloe, ‘80**, owner of **Total ID Solutions**, for creating the cards and obtaining high powered punches to go through a pvc card.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal alum-owned businesses for making a commitment to reward our equally loyal school district staff.

- Baci Winery** - Dominic Piunno, ‘91
- Cork-N-Bottle** - Steve Paros, ‘89
- DiStefano’s Italian Foods** - Toni DiStefano Auletta, ‘77 and John DiStefano, ‘79
- Glidden House Hotel** - Tom Farinacci, ‘87
- Panini’s Bar & Grill (H.H.)** - Jerry Spuzzillo, ‘88
- Piccolo Restaurant** - Chef Chris Licht, and Diane Marzano Snider, ‘83
- Pizzazz Pizza** - Mark Gaspar, ‘88
- Rise & Dine Café** - Frank Arko, ‘90
- Rustic Grill at StoneWater** - Whitney Neidus Swaney, ‘99, Lindsey Neidus Indriolo, ‘01, and Katherine Neidus Bak, ‘05
- Tavern of Mayfield** - Kim O’Donnell (formerly DiCillo’s Tavern - Annette DiCillo, ‘78)

The discount cards were delivered to every staff member in September through the building principals and directors. Employees have one full year to use the card at each business.

\$100 *Pat on the Back* \$100

As a loyal employee of the Mayfield City Schools, you are receiving this discount card from the Mayfield Alumni Association as a token of our appreciation for your unwavering commitment! This card may be used at all participating Mayfield Alumni owned businesses. Every partner has been hand selected with you in mind!

\$100 MAYFIELD WILDCATS \$100

Baci Winery 7800 Warner Rd. Madison 440.307.2224	Cork-N-Bottle 6724 Mayfield Rd. Mayfield Hts. 440.720.0300	DiStefano’s Italian Foods 5600 Highland Rd. Highland Hts. 440.442.7775	Glidden House Hotel Bar 1901 Ford Rd. Cleveland 216.231.8900
Panini’s Bar & Grill 6237B Wilson Mills Highland Hts. 440.771.4006	\$10 off with a purchase of \$30 or more. One use per business. Dine in only, where applicable. Expires 9/30/2024		Piccolo Italian Restaurant 1261 SOM Ctr Rd. Mayfield Hts. 440.646.1383
Pizzazz Pizza 839 SOM Ctr Rd. Mayfield Vlg. 440.461.2233	Rise & Dine Café 12769 Rt. 306 Chesterland 440.729.0101	The Rustic Grill at Stonewater 1 Club Drive Highland Hts. 440.461.4653	Tavern of Mayfield 6088 Mayfield Rd Mayfield Hts. 216.896.5600

Another New Scholarship To Be Offered This Year

The Alumni Association can't thank alums and their families enough for their desire to offer today's students a better opportunity for success as they head off to college or pursue a skilled trade. **Mr. Doug Harber** was a highly respected member of the Social Studies Department during his career at Mayfield H. S. Sadly, Doug passed away June 10, 2023. His daughter, **Kelly**, wishes to pay tribute to Doug's life by creating a scholarship in his name. **Mike Walczak**, former member of the Social Studies Department and a close friend of Doug's, also made a significant contribution to initiate this scholarship.

The Douglas Harber Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student in the amount of \$1,000 who has been accepted and will attend Miami University of Ohio. Douglas Harber was a Social Studies teacher, tennis coach, and department chair who devoted 32 years of his life to the Mayfield City Schools. His love for Mayfield High School was second only to his love for Miami University, which he fondly referred to as "Mother Miami".

The Mayfield Alumni Association now offers 35 different scholarships to graduating seniors, totaling over \$35,000 each year and reaching 15% of the senior class! Our scholarships cover a wide variety of careers and pursuits. Scholarships are awarded during the Honors Day Assembly held every May in the high school auditorium. Alums of all ages continue to donate to their favorite scholarship fund as a way to demonstrate their admiration for what Mayfield has provided for them many years ago. The Association is highly appreciative of our donors' continued financial commitment. The exceptional quality our scholarship committee sees in our seniors each year is something all alums can take pride in. It should be noted that all our scholarships are perpetual in nature. Family and friends have made it a point to insure that the memory of each person's scholarship will live on forever.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ESTABLISHED

The Alumni Association reviewed and updated our By-laws this year, a requirement we conduct at least every five years. One of the key additions to the Bylaws is the establishment of a General Meeting during the month of April every year. The date for our first General Meeting is **Monday, April 8, 2024**. The meeting will be held in the Alumni Museum and begin at 7:00 PM.

This will be a great opportunity for members to observe how the Executive Board operates. Several Board members will provide insights into their area of responsibility and attendees will be able to ask questions and offer suggestions to the Board as a whole. This is also a great opportunity for members to become more involved in the Association.

Light refreshments will be served. Thus, please RSVP that you plan to attend by April 3rd. Email your response (name and class) to mayfieldalum@sbcglobal.net

Election of Officers

Officers are elected at the May Board Meeting every year. Members who are graduates from Mayfield may nominate themselves for any of the offices of the Association at the annual April General Meeting. Nominees for President shall have served at least one term on the Executive Board. The officers shall be elected annually in the month of May preceding the fiscal year in which the elected officers shall serve. The Association's fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 30. The offices include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Alumni Super Bowl Squares

The Alumni Association will be selling **Super Bowl Squares** for **\$200 per square** until the 2nd sheet is sold out. The payouts on the **Super Bowl Squares** game will total **\$10,000 on each sheet!!** And **20 squares per sheet (out of 100 squares) will win money!!**

To learn more, please email the Association ASAP at mayfieldalum@sbcglobal.net We will send you more detailed information. Good luck to all and don't get shut out. You may absolutely forward this information to your friends and neighbors!

The final sheet, with all the numbers, will be emailed to all participants the day before the Super Bowl. As always, thanks for your support.




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2023 Mayfield High School



Mark Krieger, '62



Brian Calamita, '84

Mark Krieger graduated from Mayfield High School in 1962 where he holds fond memories of art classes, a capella choir, school plays, and his role as President of the Fine Arts Club. After high school, Mr. Krieger attended The Cleveland Institute of Art where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts and then Temple University where he earned his Master of Fine Arts. A few years later, he won a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship in Painting in Italy, studying painting for three years in Rome and working at his studio in the Umbrian Hills. Years later, Mr. Krieger received his Masters of Education from Ursuline College and went on to teach Art at University Schools for 32 years. Mr. Krieger's passion and talent widened his world and landscape. In his younger years, he lived and painted in Nantucket, Newport, Texas and Italy. He also traveled to Honduras 13 times to draw portraits of children and their isolated villages. Those portraits were recognized by the Museum for the National Identity in Tegucigalpa, Honduras which led to an exhibition of 50 of his largest pieces depicting Honduran children. He was honored to attend the opening of his work and speak in Spanish to Honduran high school students and their families. Locally, Mr. Krieger's art has been shown at the Cleveland Playhouse Gallery, The City Club of Cleveland and The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Mark Krieger admits that his early years in high school consisted of challenges, but his teachers at Mayfield High School helped him realize his talent, empowered him and provided the tools to be successful. He credits his teaching career as his greatest achievement which allowed him to support his students during an impressionable time in their development just as his teachers did for him. One of his former student's said, "Unearthed a report card from my 8th grade art teacher Mark Krieger. Love finding this. I feel a small bit of glee knowing that my experience of school wasn't a total failure. So great knowing that at least one person saw me".

Brian Calamita graduated from Mayfield High School in 1984 before earning his bachelor's degrees in Advertising and Journalism from The Ohio State University in 1988. Brian credits his time at Mayfield High School for helping to prepare him with the necessary skills for college and beyond. The size and larger student body at MHS showed him the importance of developing social skills which he was able to utilize at a university the size of Ohio State and as a business professional.

Like many entrepreneurs, Brian has overcome many challenges on the way to becoming an industry leader and recognized expert in Storybook roofs over the past 23 years. His roofing can best be described as one-of-a-kind whimsical structures that riff on traditional medieval European cottage architecture. Starting with an initial budget of \$3,000, his company, Roofing Artisans, is now one of only two Storybook roofing contractors in the United States and is recognized from coast to coast for his highly skilled artisan talents. The New York City Landmark Commission chose Roofing Artisans for several roof restoration projects. Through his artistry, Roofing Artisans maintains the historical integrity of properties by using the wave-coursing roofing technique. All cedar shakes are steam-bent on-site and layered together with varying exposures, creating a natural, artistic look that preserves historical accuracy. Brian has expanded his business to include the development of a proprietary asphalt product that is sold internationally.

Away from the business, Brian continues to produce artwork, both photography and physical art, that showcase his unique talent. In the future, he has plans to publish coffee table books showcasing his roofing and art.

He believes his finest achievement is being a full-time father of two and wants to "continue to be a great father, partner, advocate and mentor to young men and women who want to get involved in the trades."

Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees



Thomas Ullom, '89

Tom Ullom graduated from Mayfield High School in 1989, an accomplished student athlete - a team captain and MVP on both the football and baseball teams. Mr. Ullom earned Honor Roll distinction and also was recognized as a first team Greater Cleveland Conference player in both football and baseball. Mr. Ullom continued his education at Bowling Green State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, graduating in 1993.

Mr. Ullom has spent over 25 total years in federal law enforcement in many roles, including Special Agent for the U.S. Department of Education, Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Chicago Field Division, Special Agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in the Detroit Field Division, and most recently Special Agent in Charge for the U.S. Department of Transportation Chicago Regional Investigations. Mr. Ullom is the chief federal law enforcement official responsible for overseeing criminal and civil investigations related to U.S. D.O.T.-funded transportation programs in alignment with the department's mission to ensure a safe and efficient transportation system. The Chicago Regional Investigations office consists of 16 special agents in two locations, covering 11 states.

Mr. Ullom credits Mayfield teachers and coaches as his launching ground for future success. "My teachers and coaches led me when I needed to be led and they were there to pick me up when I was knocked down, both literally and figuratively." Mr. Ullom fondly remembers the teachers and coaches who filled so many roles in his young life and helped shape him into the man he is today. Mr. Ullom also is proud of his work with young athletes over the years coaching youth sports in baseball and football. Lastly, Mr. Ullom's work in federal law enforcement has provided him with the ability to witness amazing circumstances of courage and strength and endure times of catastrophic pain. Mr. Ullom has made a career and has lived his life by doing things the right way, driven by character, and integrity, and accountability.



Ashley Norelle Simpson, '03

During her time at Mayfield High School, **Ashley Norelle Simpson** set a path for herself in the musical arts. She held the lead role as Cinderella in the spring musical "Into the Woods," as well as lead vocalist in Show Choir. She also performed in talent shows, sang the National Anthem at sporting events and ran track before graduating in 2003. Ashley went on to John Carroll University, graduating in 2010 with a bachelors in Sociology, minor in Psychology and helped to establish the first Gospel Choir at JCU.

For the past 15 years, Ashley has sung and toured as a background vocalist with artists such as John Legend, Nicki Minaj, Rhianna, Demi Levato, Alicia Keys, Pharrell Williams, Keri Hilson and Meghan Trainor. She has also performed as a session singer for sound recordings and television. No stranger to award shows, Ashley has performed with Kayne West, Paul McCartney, Marren Morris and Chance the Rapper, to name a few at The Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, People's Choice Awards, BET Awards and Soul Train Awards. Ashley was nominated for a Grammy and won an award for Best New Album for her sound recordings on "Neil Diamond's Greatest Hits", "Oxnard & Ventura" by Anderson Paak, and "The Coloring Book" by Chance the Rapper. She also has performed at two Super Bowl Halftime Shows - Super Bowl 54 with Shakira and JLo and Super Bowl 57 with Rhianna.

Ashley feels her finest achievement in life has been her ability to balance being a wife and mother with her busy singing career. She is very proud of her resilience as a black woman to overcome "every odd set up" against her. Ashley hopes to inspire Mayfield students to know "If I did it, so can you!" She feels her finest achievement in life has been following her own path, manifesting her dreams and making them her reality. As she said, "You don't have to choose or lose yourself in any area of life."

Wildcattin' With Kitty



Tony Patti, Class of '60, became the first President of the Mayfield Alumni Association in 1980. Tony was an outstanding leader who set the course for all alums to follow. His leadership style was "softly" authoritative. He had a vision of what the Association could accomplish and quickly created a Board to help achieve his goals. The Mayfield Alumni Association is well respected within the state of Ohio. We were fortunate to have a man of Tony's stature and determination create such a solid footing in the public high school sector. He will be missed.

Mark Manfredi, '18, played baseball for the Wildcats and the University of Dayton. After attending Cooperstown at the age of 12, he knew he wanted to pursue a baseball career. He got his wish! On July 10, 2023, Mark received the news that he had been drafted by MLB to the Milwaukee Brewers in the 9th round as the 272nd pick. Some day we will be able to see Mark play the Cleveland Guardians!!

SO, WHAT'S GOING ON... cont.

and Bohemians and their love lives, careers, and experiences with the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s. The show displayed the hustle and bustle of New York and real-world situations on stage. The show starred **Lauren Peugeot** as Mimi, **Savon Harris** as Roger, **TJ Grzybowski** as Mark, and **Shane Jones** as Angel. The show had a great turnout and was another entertaining addition to the theater program's talented reputation.

Giving back to the community is a principle investment for Mayfield students. All grades of the Student Council hosted a Santa Breakfast during the holidays to spread cheer to the community. Student Council members assisted children in making tons of crafts. Students also made breakfast and served it to visitors. Kids in attendance got to take a picture with Santa, and families spent their mornings in the holiday spirit. Mayfield cherishes giving back to the community, and the Santa Breakfast is one of the most popular ways to give back.

This semester, efforts at Mayfield were noticeable all around. Whether it be an outstanding athletic achievement from our athletes, awards meant to shine a spotlight on our performers, a holiday service to our community, or a bright greeting every day from our principal, Mayfield constantly puts in the effort in every aspect of the concept. With the start of the second semester, we will proudly put all our efforts forward to support our Mayfield High School family and finish the year strong.

Joe Ferritto, '83 & Mike Capretta, '83 combined to provide the Alumni Association with a very high quality convection oven. The original intent was to install the convection oven in the Alumni Pavilion. However, the 440 watt line that was required would have caused the school district to dig up an unwarranted amount of cement to install the electrical line. All turned out well as the food service department became the benefactor. Mike works for Cres Cor and Joe works for the Cleveland Institute of Art, who purchased the convection oven initially.

NOTE: If your company has the means to donate anything that can be put to good use by the Association for students, staff, and/or class reunions, please contact us to see if we have a fit!

Two Mayfield Comedy Masters Retire - Here's a brief memory about two Mayfield grads who made names for themselves in the field of stand-up comedy.

Josh Womack, '01, has done stand-up for years since graduation and recently retired from that career. To celebrate his retirement, he published a book entitled, "*You Are Not That Funny*". He left the stage after years of performing throughout northeastern Ohio, especially in comedy clubs around Cleveland and Akron. Still living in the area, **Josh** recently held a book signing event in downtown Cleveland. A signed copy of that book is in the Alumni Museum as a class memorabilia item.

Bill Russ, '83, has entertained audiences in comedy clubs and over radio stations ranging from Florida to Ohio's north coast. Bill retired from the stage after about three decades of sharing his popularized three C's of Comedy - "*Clever, Clean, and Charming*". He has opened for stars such as Jimmy "JJ" Walker, Caroline Rhea, and Rich Vos, among many others. Bill now lives in California. A folder of his accomplishments is in the Alumni Museum with his class memorabilia. Just think ... were you in classes with these celebs? Did they ever make you laugh?

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IN MEMORIAM

Charles Pell, '40, passed away Aug. 8, 2008
George Eichenberg, '43, passed away July 9, 2023
Anna Trivisonno Carroscia, '45, passed away
 May 25, 2023
Artis Rae Scott, '47, passed away Aug. 21, 2023
Dr. Harold Doster, '49, passed away Oct. 27, 2023
Carol Phelps Lockwood, '49, passed away
 Aug. 13, 2023
Carol Babcock Slater, '50, passed away June 14, 2023
Edward Blaskis, '55, passed away Nov. 25, 2023
Joe Germano, '57, passed away July 17, 2023
Ellen Clucas Holly, '57, passed away Aug. 5, 2023
Ron Balawender, '59, passed away Nov. 22, 2023
Jeff Kluber, '59, passed away July 23, 2023
Pete Gness, '60, passed away June 18, 2023
Tony Patti, '60, passed away Sept. 11, 2023
Peg Six Gaggini, '61, passed away Sept. 27, 2023
Roger Spaeder, '61, passed away Oct. 20, 2023
Jim Leonardi, '62, passed away Dec. 27, 2023
Joe Bitsko, '63, passed away July 1, 2017
Rose Therese Kirby, '63, passed away Dec. 23, 2022
Eugene Lorenzo, '63, passed away Dec. 5, 2023
Gene Marotta, '63, passed away Oct. 24, 2023
Bob Peacock, '63, passed away Dec. 13, 2022
Susan Savransky, '66, passed away Sept 6, 2023
Gail Boylan DeWolf, '69, passed away Jan. 12, 2024
Bill Pelegrin, '71, passed away Nov. 13, 2023
James Drummond, '73, passed away June 8, 2023
Michael Jerome, '77, passed away Aug. 1, 2023
William Pastai, '77, passed away June 27, 2023
Victoria Gallo Hoenigman, '79, passed away
 Oct. 25, 2023
Sherri O'Connell DiPietro, '81, passed away
 June 14, 2023
Jennifer Opalich Mills, '84, passed away Sept. 4, 2023
Thomas Giarelli, '14, passed away Oct. 5, 2023

Staff Deaths:

Frank Ettinger passed away Oct. 10, 2023. Frank was 99 years old and taught at Oakville.
Dr. Robert Stabile passed away Sept. 26, 2023. Bob served as Superintendent for 20 years beginning in 1971.
Sandra Strater passed away Oct. 15, 2023. Sandra taught 1st grade for 35 years at Millridge and Center.

mayfieldalum@
sbcglobal.net



Mayfield Band Alumni Night

Save the Date:

September 27, 2024 Wildcat Stadium

Full details will be provided soon on the Mayfield Band Boosters Facebook page and The Pride of Mayfield website at

<https://www.theprideofmayfield.org/>.

Spring Craft Fair

will be held at Mayfield High School on Sunday, April 7th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. It is sponsored by the Mayfield PTSO and the Mayfield Athletic Boosters. There is a \$3 entrance fee. All funds raised will be used in support of academic & athletic scholarships, 16th birthday recognitions, sports team supplies, staff appreciation, and more. Support your local artisans by shopping with us for unique gifts, home décor, clothing, food items, and much more. Concessions & raffle, too!

Mayfield Alumni Hall of Fame

If you would like to nominate an alum for the Mayfield Alumni Hall of Fame, please drop us an email and we will send you the nomination form. We will also send you the list of inductees (or see our website) in the event you are trying to nominate an alum who is already in the Mayfield Alumni Hall of Fame. We will forward your nomination to the **Mayfield City Schools**.

mayfieldalum@sbcglobal.net

Alumni Staff Hall of Fame

If you would like to nominate a staff member for the Staff Hall of Fame, please drop us an email and we will send you the nomination form. We will also send you the list of inductees (or see our website) in the event you are trying to nominate a staff member who is already in the **Alumni Association's Staff Hall of Fame**.



CLASS REUNIONS



Class of '63

The Class of '63 celebrated our 60th Class Reunion with a three-day affair on August 4, 5, and 6, 2023. We kicked things off on Friday night with a Patio Party at the home of **Wayne & Anna Farinacci**. On Saturday, the main event was held at the Mayfield Village Community Center where a fabulous meal was provided by Trevi Catering. We also held a small fund raiser to plant a tree at the current middle school, as we were the last class to graduate from that building. We finalized the weekend with a brunch at the Alumni Pavilion. Classmates turned out in record numbers. While a few classmates had travel snags, several planned to attend their first class reunion: **Jim Darnell, Sheldon Dolinsky, Toni Kaplan Gendler, Anna Marie Tarantino Genzen, Rose Kurnik Gravino, Al Gutin, Paul Hanslik, Linda Peacock Lockhart, David Moore, Mary Ann Piccoli Rispoli, and Barb Smith**. Of course, all the usual suspects were there too! We were also joined by some of our "favorites": **Patti Ferris, Paul & Marilyn Sabatino, Ron Sobel, Mike Tippett, and Sandy Weisman Turner**. And thanks to **Mike Sloe at Total ID Solutions**, everyone went home with a beautiful favor - a phone/tablet stand with our class name and logo on the front and our class flower, colors, and motto on the back. Not only is the phone stand useful, but it will remind us of all the memories we created years ago and continue to share with one another every time we gather together.

Many thanks to our great committee: **Wayne & Anna Farinacci, Mike & Cheryl Arenswald Niland, Ellen Levak Maher, Gail Bicker Rye, Diana DiPuccio Vitale, Diane Leonardi Timlin and Joe, Faith DeNapoli DiPippo, Fred & Sherry Gloor, Blue Germano, Anna Mottolese Henretta, Maggie Murphy (Jim), Fran Johnson Slifko, Jon Heavilin, Dennis & Joan Francis, and Dan Newton (our National Correspondent)**.

Class of '74

Our 50th Class Reunion will be September 28th, 2024. We have arranged for a beautiful venue planned for you at "The Chagrin Valley Athletic Club". Dinner...refreshments,..music...and a trip down memory lane! We will keep you informed as to times and activities. We are also planning for a Golf Outing the Friday before the Reunion. We have not set the agenda for the Outing because it's still a little too early. We picked this weekend especially because the date falls on Homecoming Weekend at the High School. The Alumni have a Tailgate Party at the Alumni Pavilion at the MHS football field. Food and nonalcoholic refreshments are provided by the Alumni Association. This will prove to be one of the great Extravaganzas of all time. If you are in contact with someone from our class please help us by letting them know about the weekend and by contacting **Lyn Ptak Gilmore** at parksidemom@sbcglobal.net 440-725-6616 with their contact information. [More Details to come.](#)

Dave Brown dbcooks2011@gmail.com 440 785-8939
David DeClemente deacdeclem@gmail.com 440-665-4908
Marc DeVincenzo mdivincenzo@eastvw.com 440-221-3075
Ron Carrubba ron.carrubba@icloud.com 1-713-301-4500

Class of '84

Mayfield High School Class of 1984 will be holding our 40 Year Reunion on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at La Vera Party Center at 32200 Chardon Rd. in Willoughby Hills, OH. Many more details to come, including building tours! Please contact **Jolene Liuzzo Greve** at 216-224-5107 or Jolene986@gmail.com

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CPAs & Advisors

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p: 440.942.8641 **Laurence A. Santagata, CPA**
 f: 216.274.9460 *Advisory Representative**
 e: larry@santafini.com
www.santafini.com

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Swing &

SUNDAY - APRIL 21, 2024
1 PM to 4 PM

PAR  TEE

FOR THE MAYFIELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAYFIELD SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Mayfield Alumni Association, in collaboration with The Mayfield Schools Foundation, welcomes you to participate in the 4th Annual Swing & Par-Tee fundraising event. The Mayfield Alumni Association will be taking over the excellent work of the Mayfield Schools Foundation in June 2024 to streamline resources for educational services for Mayfield students.

Please consider joining us for this family-friendly event designed for our Mayfield community to come together to support our students and schools. Sponsorships, bay purchases, and raffle donations enable the Association to continue providing educational services and additional resources to the student body within the Mayfield City School District.

The Mayfield Alumni Association will use the funds raised to continue its support of the innovative educational opportunities the Mayfield City Schools District provides to its students.

Swing & Par-Tee Fundraiser

- Sponsored by the Mayfield Alumni Association in collaboration with the Mayfield Schools Foundation
 - Sunday, April 21, 2024
 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - Topgolf Cleveland (located at 5280 Rockside Woods Blvd. N./Independence, OH 44131)
 - Sponsorship opportunities available along with Topgolf bay reservations (6 guests per bay)
 - Bay reservations required and are limited on a first come first serve basis
 - Online registration opens 2/15/24
- <https://mayfield-alumni-association-topgolf-2024swing-par-tee.cheddarup.com>


For more information, please contact Swing & Par-Tee Committee Chairperson, Jolene Greve, at Jolene986@gmail.com or Wayne Farinacci, President, Mayfield Alumni Association, at mayfieldalum@sbcglobal.net.

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GO WILDCATS!

Michael DeJohn *Class of 1972*
 Bob DeJohn *Class of 1974*
 Ross DeJohn III *Class of 1991*
 Melissa DeJohn Capretta *Class of 1995*
 Mark DeJohn *Class of 1999*



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**MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
REGISTRATION FORM**

C E T

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Maiden Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____ Class _____
 E-mail _____

- Lifetime Membership - \$35.00
 Permanent Membership (no fee over 65)

Make checks payable to: Mayfield H. S. Alumni Association
 6116 Wilson Mills Road
 Mayfield Village, OH 44143

I am willing to help with the following committee:

- Membership Scholarship Fund Raising Newsletter Historical Web Site

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to acknowledge the following individuals for joining the Mayfield Alumni Association. Whether referred by a classmate, friend, or relative, the Alumni Association continues to grow and has become stronger through the participation of new members.

A lifetime membership to the Alumni Association is only \$35. It is the surest way to be located by your class reunion committee and stay up-to-date on your alma mater's activities. Also, it becomes much easier to participate in Association events. Remember, there is no fee for those alumni who are 65 or over. Also, married Mayfield graduates can join for the same \$35 lifetime fee. Please feel free to copy the registration form from this newsletter and give it to a fellow alum. If you have any questions regarding membership, you may contact us at: Mayfieldalum@sbcglobal.net

A warm **WILDCAT WELCOME** to:

- Steven Miller, '65
- Susan Skarren, '70
- Laura Strater, '70
- Jeffrey Aker, '73
- Jerry Gattozzi, '73
- Carl Grassi, '73
- Alan Steinberger, '73
- Michelle Nehez, '74
- Jim Yarcusko, '75
- Jeffrey Burns, '80
- Michael Capretta, '83



- Mike DeBaltzo, '85
- Gina DeBaltzo, Friend
- Steve Paros, '89
- Tom Ullom, '89
- Ashley Simpson, '03
- Benjamin Bremec, '21
- Samuel Bremec, '23
- Emma Burkey, '23
- Chloe Delisio, '23
- Shannon Ramacciatti, '23
- Kelly Harber, Friend
- Mike Walczak, Friend