

"The Archive" was the name selected by votes cast by the Junior Class (Class of '63) on May 3, 1962 for Valley Forge High School's yearbook. "The Heritage" was the runner-up and now appropriately names our alumni newsletter.

## Includes Annual Report

# The Heritage



July 2014

Published Quarterly in October, January, April and July by the  
Valley Forge High School Alumni Association  
www.vfalumni.org

## Reunions!

Classes ending in a 4 or a 9 can be looking forward to reunions in 2014! Of the 9 classes that fall into this category, all have planned or are planning reunions for 2014; one has already started planning for 2015.

Class of '64: 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion: July 25-27, 2014  
Class of '65: 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion: July 10-11, 2015  
Class of '69: 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Sept. 27, 2014  
Class of '74: 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Aug 1-3, 2014  
Class of '79: 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion: July 19, 2014  
Class of '84: 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Aug 9, 2014  
Class of '89: 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion: August 2, 2014  
Class of '94: 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Sept. 5-6, 2014  
Class of '99: 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Being planned  
Class of '04: 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion: Aug 23, 2014

Does YOUR class year end in a 5 or 0? 2015 will be a stellar year for reunions! Be sure to attend the annual meeting on 7/15/14 for reunion planning tips and questions answered. Find out how the association helps your class.

**Stay In Touch With Your Class Officers, Reunion Committee or the VF Alumni Association to Be Sure You Don't End Up On the Missing Persons List!!!**

## President's Message

*It has been a privilege and an honor to serve this organization for quite some time now. We have had our growing pains, set-backs and successes. To see all the reunions being planned this year proves we are moving in the right direction.*

*I look forward to continued progress as we move forward with increased events, alumni participation and fundraising to improve our reach and impact on over 25,000 Valley Forge High School Alumni and current VF students, our future alumni! We need everyone's support to continue this wonderful trend!*

**Go Patriots!**

Linda Reik-Brown, Class of '65

## Spotlight on Alumni Jamie Meder, Class of 2009

An Ashland University lineman and Valley Forge graduate was honored for his commitment both on and off the field. Jamie received a surprise standing ovation where Valley Forge coaches and administrators retired Jamie's VF football jersey #52.



*continued on page 3...*

## Annual Meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2014 Parma Heights Library



**At LEAST one person  
from every class  
SHOULD ATTEND!**

## 2013-14 Officers

**President**  
Linda Reik-Brown '65  
**Vice President**  
Deb Zmijewski-Greytak '73  
**Secretary**  
Stacy Brown-Grice '93  
**Treasurer**  
Cathy Anelli-Solomon '73

## Committees

**Newsletter Editor**  
Needed  
**Hall of Fame**  
Bob Baisch '65  
**Scholarship**  
Alan Rudolph '88  
**Membership**  
Terry Wandt '63  
**Database**  
Halle Magpoc-Dawson '89  
**Webmaster**  
Frank Petersen '88  
**Public Relations/Fundraising**  
Kathy McCann-Dreher '65  
**Nominating**  
Needed  
**Audit**  
Needed  
**Reunions Coordinator**  
Needed  
**Historian/Displays**  
Mary Lou Chappell-Hentges '65

**Audit Committee**  
Review past year's bank transaction entries including class disbursements, withdrawals, and deposits.

**Reunion Coordinator**  
Assists classes with planning their reunions, makes sure proper financial procedures are followed, schedules Alumni Ambassadors to attend reunions to help and represent the association.

**Nominating Committee**  
Ongoing search for new officers for annual elections.

# History of Parma High Schools

(continued)

by **Kenneth J. Lavelle, Local Historian**  
VF Class of 1975

On November 22, 1853 there was a vote taken for the construction of local High School. Only 16 men voted for it and it was not built. Thus, for many years students who attended high school continue to their education, traveled into Cleveland with the Parma Township School Board paying for their education.

Eventually, over time the State Board of Education and Cuyahoga County School Board was created by the members of Ohio Legislature. As early as 1894, women could run for school board offices and vote in school elections. Men and women have worked as teachers in the Parma Schools.

There have been four different 'Parma High School' buildings over time in the Parma School District. The first Parma High school building was located at the corner of Bean and Ridge Roads. It consisted of two small one-room schoolhouses. Miss Foote taught the ninth and tenth grades. Miss Wolf taught the eleventh and twelfth grades. Miss Wolf was also the principal of the high school. This rural high school was established and operated by the Cuyahoga County Board of Education from 1910 until 1930 with the cooperation of the six elected Parma Township Rural School District board members.

The deaths of Miss Foote and Miss Wolf on February 16, 1921 was a shock to all residents of Parma Township and a local police force was created as a result of their unsolved murders along Bean Road. Their unknown assailant was never found. This local murder case remains a mystery. A memorial in their memory was placed near the entrance to the Cleveland Zoo on December 1, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio.

With the completed construction of the newly consolidated three school buildings in 1921, Parma High school was moved into a portion of the brick elementary school building at 6726 Ridge Road. The first Parma High School class graduated from there in 1925.

The school age population kept growing in Parma Township and another more larger high school building had to be built. The third Parma High School building at 5983 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street was built in 1928. It was named for H. J. Schaaf, who had been a member of the Parma Board of Education from 1905 to 1927. An addition was built in 1951 due to the increasing student population there while a new Parma high school was built down the street.

Parma Schaaf High School was in existence from 1928 to 1953, when the fourth and present Parma Senior High School was opened. The third Parma High School became Parma Schaaf Junior High School. It was later closed in the 1982. For several years a portion of the closed school building served as a local church. In May, 1995, the former school was purchased by the City of Parma for use as a Community Center building. It became a recreational center and multi-purpose facility for sports, local meetings, events, and former classrooms were rented to various organizations.

The fourth and current Parma High school is called 'Parma Senior High'. The construction of the school began on March 8, 1951. The R.S. Ursprung Company was the General Contractors. The cornerstone was laid in a special impressive ceremony on May 26, 1952. The new high school was a symbol of just how far the American Dream for its search for excellence in education had come in only 150 years in the State of Ohio. Mr. Carl C. Byers, the Superintendent, revealed this idea that day. He said, "We believe the new Parma Senior High will be a well integrated building, functional in every aspect. A community can justly proud at this aesthetically beautiful edifice lights the way toward a better educational opportunities and facilities for its fine young people". It was called the 'Queen of High Schools' when it was opened in September, 1953.



Work was completed in the fall of 1953. Parma Sr. High was designed by Fulton, Krinsky and Dela Motte, architects. It is located at 6285 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of Longwood Avenue. The two-story building was built in a modified Georgian style with red face brick and gray limestone trim with aluminum window frames. The front of the Parma Sr. high school has a 100-foot clock tower that dominated the 'U' shaped classroom unit in 1953.

Parma Senior High had several special features built in 1951-53. These special features included a dramatics room, a food laboratory, a teachers' dining room and a student cafeteria. The English room was designed for a cultural atmosphere. It had oak paneling, a fire place, and leaded glass windows. No desks were used by the students, who sat in Windsor chairs. Corridor wall displays have contained science exhibits and athletic sports trophies over the years.

The student auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,850 persons was located under the 100-foot clock tower. There was a biology room, a chemistry and a physics laboratory on the second floor classroom area. There were 49 normal classrooms, six special student service rooms, a library,

eight shop classrooms, music rooms, and a little theater seating 325 persons.

Parma Senior High was built with growth And expansion in mind in 1951. The school site consisted of 38 acres of land. The school building itself covered 20 acres, with a 300-car parking lot and five acres set aside for a wildlife sanctuary in 1953.

School additions were built in 1972-74. One addition was in the front area for the new media center, guidance offices, and business curriculum. The two other additions included a larger vocational wing built in the rear of the school and a physical education swimming facility in 1980. The architects were Lesko Associates. The story of the Parma City Schools and the several Parma High Schools built since 1920 is one of constant growth. The long term planning done at the various times in the past for student enrollment has tried to meet projections and will continue in to the future. This is why two more high schools had to be built after 1953. Valley Forge High School was built in 1961. An additional vocational wing was built in 1972-74 and a swimming pool facility in 1975. Normandy High School was built in 1968.

The reader should understand that the Parma Schools were once in grave financial problems in the 1930's. The voters considered annexation to The Cleveland Public Schools in 1931. The vote was defeated and the financial problems were not solved immediately. The board of education was behind in paying teachers' salaries and was forced to issue 'scrip' in lieu of cash. Teachers had to find a local farmer or business owner who would accept their 'scrip' and be issued cash by them. The new holders of the 'scrip' then redeemed it when they paid their annual county property tax bill. The amount of 'scrip' was deducted from the tax amount due. The situation was so critical in 1938 that the school board threatened to order all the schools to be closed. Teachers in 1938 voted 94 - 7 to accept deferred payment for six weeks' back salaries in 1939. The schools never closed.

It was only with the WWII war prosperity that the finances improved in the Parma schools. When this writer was researching the early history of the schools in 1989, at the Parma School's Administrative Offices, he noticed a frame piece of 'script' on a wall. The framed 'script' was a reminder of the dark times it had endured to survive to reach the present era. This experience was briefly recalled on May 26, 1952.

The tax duplicate from the Parma General Motors Chevy Auto Plant has provided much needed financial

support for the Parma City Schools since 1949. Without this financial support Parma Senior High would not have been built.

*(to be continued)*



## Spotlight on Alumni

*... continued from page 1*

“It’s our chance to give back to him,” said head football coach Jamie Vanek, who has a personal connection to Meder. “His father coached me, and I’ve known Jamie since he was about four years old,” Vanek said. “We can talk for days about every All-American title he’s ever had, every record he’s ever set, but he’s a difference-maker. And he’s a difference-maker on the field and in life.”

“He’s worked so hard for this. It’s not come easy, that’s for sure,” said Meder’s girlfriend of seven years, Lyndsey Koehler. The two met in high school, and Koehler has stood by his side, just as he stood by hers when she was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. At the time, Meder had a chance to train for the NFL draft, but instead, he put his schooling and Koehler first.

“He had practices and trainings and all that starting in the morning, and he would be home every night—drive to school every day—to come take care of me,” Koehler said. “It was a hard time,” Meder told FOX 8 News. “But my mom had cancer before that, and I saw how my dad was a man during that, and it set the tone for me on what to do.” Meder has never looked back. Koehler is now cancer-free, and After going unselected through the seventh and final round of the 2014 NFL Draft, Jamie will be signing an undrafted free-agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens.

“It’s a very surreal feeling. I don’t know how to describe it — it’s just amazing,” Meder said. “It’s awesome to have the community behind me and I’m glad to be part of this community.”

Fox8 News, May 2014



# 2013-2014 Valley Forge Alumni Association Annual Report

Valley Forge Alumni Association serves over 25,000 alumni of Valley Forge High School with programs such as Scholarships, Alumni Hall of Fame, Reunion Planning assistance and education, based on donations received throughout the year. Your support of our events shows your honor and respect for former classmates and alumni of the future. The Board of Trustees is truly grateful for the gifts received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

**The following Valley Forge graduating classes are active members of the Valley Forge Alumni Association with financial contracts in place.**

Class	Account Amount	Notes
1964	1300.00	
1965	3100.00	3000.00 out for reunion planning
1969	61.73	2400.00 out for reunion planning
1973	1525.00	
1976	1395.96	
1980	500.00	
1986	34.98	
1988	2123.00	
1989	0.00	
1990	45.31	
1992	1109.84	
1994	60.87	243.46 out for reunion planning
1995	699.20	
1998	0.00	
2000	166.00	
2001	699.67	
2002	288.00	
2003	537.00	
2004	1277.25	1000.00 out for reunion planning
2005	1669.64	
2006	987.50	
2007	1775.00	
2008	3389.48	
2009	1705.00	
2010	1980.00	
2011	1660.00	
2012	2125.00	
2013	1650.00	
	31,865.43	

## Hall of Fame Refurbishment Project

### Diamond Level—\$100 and Over

Dobeck, Tim	Class of 1979
Kircher, David	Class of 1965
Radlick-Sabelhaus, Melanie	Class of 1966

Financial Report	
<b>Revenue</b>	
Class of 2013 Dues to Association	1650.00
Class of 2013 Dues to Reunion Account	1650.00
Merchandise: Books, Shirts, etc.	236.00
Hall of Fame Refurbishment Project	770.00
Fox & Hound Party Oct 2013 Donations	58.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Scholarships	1500.00
Scholarship Program/Dinners	
Advertising	152.80
Supplies	255.06
Web Services—2 years	188.70
Fox & Hound Party Oct 2013	228.10
Athletic Hall of Fame Reception	60.00
Charter Renewal	25.00
Insurance	187.00
PACC Dues	75.00
(All expenses not included here)	

### Gold Level—\$99 and Under

Anonymous	Class of 1965
Baisch, Robert	Class of 1965
Clutterbuck, Robert	Class of 1968
Grafinger-Bozeman, Lydia	Class of 1964
Mucha, Barb	Class of 1980
Needham-Heitzman, Lynn	Class of 1966
Neiger, Dave	Class of 1974
Pearsall, Michelle L.	Class of 1985
Snitch, Dr. Thomas	Class of 1972
Soppelsa, Dr. Robert	Class of 1964
Toetz, David	Class of 1970
Wandt, Terry	Class of 1963
Wohl, James	Class of 1966

## Reunions: Reflecting, Reconnecting and Reminiscing

In 2014 nine classes are holding reunions around the city. Not the same ol' 3 Rs.....but a time for reflection, reconnecting, and reminiscing. In 2015, class years ending in a 0 or 5 can hope to enjoy those same 3 Rs. Committees should be starting now and we hope to hear from the classes of '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05!

Don't forget to include the association in your planning so we can help make your reunion truly special.

## Hall of Fame

**This year's induction will be held at Half Time of the Valley Forge vs Parma football game on 10/3/14.**

## Athletic Hall of Fame 2014

On May 3, 2014 the Valley Forge Athletic Hall of Fame honored stellar athletes from 1961 to 2002 at its first charter induction. During the ceremony, attended by over 500 people, the school inducted 30 players, four coaches and two teams. Jim Fritzsche, Sr. and Jim Fritzsche, Jr. were inducted. Jim Sr. was the head football and golf coach from 1962 to 1972, and Jim Jr. played football and was drafted in the eighth round by the Philadelphia Eagles, playing three seasons with that team.

Gene Zayac ('64), who helps run the Parma softball leagues, was inducted, as was John Stavole, who coached the boys basketball team for 21 years. Stavole

took his 1987-1988 squad to the state final four before bowing out in Columbus. The 1987-1988 boys basketball team was also inducted, and the 1972 varsity wrestling team, which won the state championship, was inducted, too.

A committee of former teachers and athletes plus current and former school staff comprised the screening committee. It took about a year to make the final selection. Nominations can be sent to Valley Forge for the next class. Terry Wandt ('63) spearheaded the Athletic Hall of Fame and worked in conjunction with Chris Madaglia from VF.

**WIN A**



**Tickets  
\$10.00 Each**

**CRUZE**

**Drawing will be held on Oct 1, 2014 at the Parma City Schools Foundation *Taste of the Town* event.**

**Tickets can be purchased by calling Linda at 216.225.0585 or go to Paypal and send \$\$ to sales@vfallumni.org; we will e-mail your ticket stubs.**

**A portion of ticket sales will benefit the VFAA**



## 2014 Scholarships

Our two scholarship recipients were Alyssa Dalic (Freedom Scholarship) and Nick Maglic (Liberty Scholarship).

They are both going to attend The Ohio State University, where Alyssa will major in biomedical engineering and Nick will be majoring in sports medicine.

Their essays are included below as well as a picture with Alan Rudolph ('88), Scholarship Program chairman.



### **Why I'm Proud to be a Valley Forge Graduate By Nick Maglic (Liberty Scholarship)**

*Valley Forge High School has been a very special place to me ever since I walked through those front doors as a freshman. You start to understand that high school isn't a place to joke around. It's the time in your life where you have to be serious because your future depends on it. Attending Valley Forge was a true honor to me. It has shaped me into a better person and prepared me for the real world. The teachers at Valley Forge always cared for their students. They always wanted the best from us and prepared us for real life situations. You build great relationships with them and have that opportunity to call them your friend after you graduate. They understand that high school students don't know what is next after high school. Hearing stories and advice from them really helps you realize that high school is the stepping stone into adulthood. Knowing that teachers at Valley Forge looked out for my future was very important to me and is something I will always be thankful for. I am proud to call myself a Valley Forge Patriot because that school has molded me into a better person and has guided me in a successful path in life. You don't notice what your high school has done for you until you are a senior. Then you begin to realize that if it weren't for the faculty and staff, you wouldn't be where you are in life. I am so thankful for the opportunities Valley Forge has given me. All the different extracurricular activities and events they have are so beneficial to their students. They provide you with great chances to get involved in*

*different things to help you out in life. I'm enrolled in the Co-operative Marketing Management class in school. That class has given me so much insight on what types of things go on in life. It made me realize that after high school, I'm on my own. I'm going to college for something I'll be doing for the rest of my life. At first it was a scary thought, but then I realized it is something I can overcome. Valley Forge is a great place for students to succeed. They provide their kids with a great learning environment and guide them in the right path in life, I am proud to call myself a Valley Forge graduate because that is where I changed from a young, immature teenager to a mature grown man. When people ask me next year at college what high school I graduated from, I'll be proud to say Valley Forge. I will always cherish the support and guidance Valley Forge has given me.*

### **Why I'm Proud to be a Valley Forge Graduate By Alyssa Dalic (Freedom Scholarship)**

*I am proud to be a Valley Forge graduate because of the sense of community I feel at school. All of the students display enormous school spirit, despite losing sports teams and what other schools say about us. Also, the students at Forge are always willing to give a helping hand to each other. We all try to be kind to one another and make the atmosphere comfortable for all students. We spend so much time at school; it is better if we all get along and have fun even though what we are learning may not be. The friendly and sometimes silly atmosphere is a part of why I enjoy going to school every day.*

*Another reason why I am proud to be a Valley Forge graduate is the academic excellence that Valley Forge expects from its students. Getting good grades makes it easier to get into college and be successful in the real world. The skills and knowledge I have learned not only benefit me in the classroom but also benefit me outside the classroom by building on my work ethic, responsibility and ability to work with others. Also, I have learned many skills in biotechnology that will give me an edge in college where I plan to major in biomedical engineering. Overall, the expectation of academic excellence in the students at Valley Forge is why I am proud to be a Valley Forge graduate.*

*I am proud to be a Valley Forge graduate because of Valley Forge's commitment to give back to the community. Students can volunteer in many ways at Valley Forge. We hold several blood drives each year. Also, key club allows students to volunteer at a local nursing home where they raise the residents' spirits and volunteer at the Ronald McDonald house. Student Ambassadors allows students to greet new students at Valley Forge. National Honor Society highlights these students that constantly give back to their community. I am proud to be a Valley Forge graduate because of the generosity we have when giving back to our community.*



## What We Do...

The Valley Forge Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization created to help graduates work together for the common good of both the graduates and the high school. Our priorities and goals are as follows:

- ~ To Alumni by maintaining database for reunions, assists with reunion planning and at the reunions themselves, if desired, and maintains class reunion funds. Also a newsletter and website. Preserves the history and traditions of Valley Forge High School.
- ~ To Current Students by providing scholarships to seniors and future programs of grants to teachers and funds for school functions, projects, clubs and building in general.
- ~ To The Community by being an active member of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and participating in as many community events as possible.



## Valley Forge High School Hall of Fame

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to our school, our community or our world? Nominate them for this honor and tell us about their post high school accomplishments in Academics, Athletics, Career, Cultural/Performing Arts or other endeavor. You will find the form online at [www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)

## How Can You Help ?

- **Donate Funds for Scholarships:** We awarded \$500 scholarships in the past. We want to increase the amount or number of scholarships.
- **Fundraising:** Suggest fundraising strategies and/or be ready to jump in and help or implement one.
- **Attend Meetings:** Help us make decisions that will shape the future of the Association as well as socialize with other alumni.

## Valley Forge Alumni Association Freedom Scholarship

is awarded annually through the Parma Council of PTAs Scholarship Program. We require each applicant to submit an essay describing why they are proud to be a Valley Forge graduate.



## VF Alumni Merchandise!

T-shirts in S,M,L,XL,2-4X	\$15 + 3 S&H	<b>Purchase online by visiting Paypal and sending your payment to <a href="mailto:sales@vfalumni.org">sales@vfalumni.org</a> or call 216.225.0585 or email <a href="mailto:patriots@vfalumni.org">patriots@vfalumni.org</a></b>
Lapel Pins	\$5 + 1 S&H	
Alumni Cookbook	\$8 + 1.50 S&H	
Golden Anniversary Archive 2011	\$10 + 1.50 S&H	

## Calendar of Events



Tues, 7/15/14	VFAA ANNUAL MEETING—7 pm—Parma Heights Library
Fri, 10/3/14	VF vs Parma Football Game and Hall of Fame Induction. Joint VF/Parma Indoor Tailgate Party at Fox & Hound
Fri, 10/31/14	VF vs Normandy Football Game
Tues, 10/21/14	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—At VF in Room 101 near the Auditorium
Tues, 1/20/15	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—At VF in Room 101 near the Auditorium
Tues, 4/21/15	General Membership Meeting—7 pm—At VF in Room 101 near the Auditorium Election of Officers
Tues, 7/21/15	VFAA ANNUAL MEETING—7 pm—Location Pending

**Visit Our Website!**  
[www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)



**Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)**  
**Over 2700 alumni online!**