

# The Heritage

[www.vfalumni.org](http://www.vfalumni.org)



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## 2014 Valley Forge Alumni Hall of Fame Inductions

Three alumni were inducted into the VF Hall of Fame at Byers Field during the Valley Forge/Parma football game on October 3rd. (WE WON 40-27!!)

### Harry Werner '68

For over 30 years, Pastor Harry Werner has served as the Director of Pastoral Care at University Hospitals Case Medical Center. In that capacity, Pastor Werner has faithfully ministered to countless suffering patients in their greatest moment of need with extraordinary grace, calmness, and compassion. He has ministered to parents of children who have died at birth or during critical illness and has helped individuals come to peace during their last moments of life.

### JoAnn Mason '67

JoAnn has over 30 years of managerial experience in local and national public, government, and community relations including education outreach, local television production, marketing, and advertising. She is currently the Senior Citizen Director for the City of Parma where she has served for 10 years. Prior to that

working for Cox Communications. JoAnn has an extensive list of community service activities including Parma's Relay for Life, Parma Chamber of Commerce, Parma Fine Arts Council, and many more.

### Michael Vadini '79

Mike is the CEO of a world-wide company known as Titan Technologies Group. Through his business prowess he has grown the business and actually employs several Valley Forge graduates. Although Mike does not live in our area now (Charlotte, North Carolina) he has been very generous to his communities. He has been a financial supporter of the Valley Forge Football Team.



## 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

Linda Reik-Brown '65

### Hall of Fame

Bob Baisch '65

### Scholarship

Alan Rudolph '88

### Membership

Terry Wandt '63

### Database

Halle Magpoc-Dawson '89

### Webmaster

Frank Petersen '88

### Nominating

Needed

### Audit

Needed

### Reunions Coordinator

Linda Reik-Brown '65

### 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.

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

7 pm—Room 101

Near the Auditorium



# The History of Parma City Schools

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

## Introduction

Much of the material included here was part of other historical papers I have written. The material concerning Indian Treaties mentioned in the timeline was originally written in 1978 for a paper on early military forts before the State of Ohio was established. Some of the material is common knowledge. Other items included are not so well known or remembered. Such as the 1940 watercolor painting done of an early 1846 schoolhouse on Ridge Road. The timeline is intended to help the reader understand how far the schools have progressed in 150 years. Lists of the elected members of the subdistrict schoolhouses are from this author's notes recorded in 1989 when he visited the school administrative offices on Ridge Road. Very little has been recorded about the Parma Heights Village Board of Education and its brief period of existence. A brief account is included here in this booklet. It is hoped this booklet will enlighten those persons who attend this presentation.

## The Early Parma Schools

There were nine one-room schools in Parma Township from 1853 to 1921. Each one was staffed by one teacher. There were special holiday presentations planned by each teacher for the students to participate in. Each schoolhouse varied in size and type of construction material used for the subdistrict or district school age population when it was built. Normally a schoolhouse could be 14 feet wide and either 24 or 30 feet long, with a outhouse in the rear behind the school. It was not uncommon to have photographs taken of the pupils and teacher. Later, a small postcard with the photo was given to the pupils. All eight grades were taught inside the one-room schools. Commencement in the Parma Public Schools was held inside the Parma Presbyterian Church on Wooster Pike (Pearl Road Today). This was the largest private Church/Hall type building existing then able to handle such events. For example, June 14, 1911 commencement began at Eight-Thirty Sun Time (Sharp). Since Parma Township was an agricultural community, it used

'Sun Time' for scheduling public events for many years before/after Standard Time Zones were established for train schedules in 1883. 'Sun Time' consisted of one minute for every 12 miles traveled East or West. Rural farm families used 'Sun Time' for their clocks in their homes. Hence, there were over 300 'Sun Time' time zones in the United States and this did not change until after World War I (1914-1918).

Miss Stround's 1957 article in the Southwestern Frontier newspaper reveals her personal account of the schools. Had she lived longer, she may have given such a historical talk concerning the schools. Such was not to be the case and we are all poorer for that situation. My humble attempt to write a brief series of articles for The Parma High Traditions hopefully provides specific details and updates her 1957 article for those readers living in 2003.

## The Consolidated Schools

In 1921, the nine one-room schools were closed and consolidated into three buildings on Pearl, Ridge and State Roads. Later, several additional buildings were needed and they were built. Currently, there are twenty-two separate buildings used by the school district in 2003. Each building has its own unique historical story. In the 1970s and 1980s, several schools were closed. In the 1990s, they were reopened as the need for them was realized again.

The schools over the last 150 years have undergone much change and will continue to do so in the future. Many individuals have given much of themselves over the years to create the excellent reputation the school system now enjoys and the opportunities for its students. *(to be continued)*



## ***Growing up a "Patriot"?***

By Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey, Class of '74;  
inducted into the VF Hall of Fame in 1995

Ambassador Mo thanks his classmates, teachers, & Valley Forge High School for having educated him to be still that Patriot even as America & The Globe changes. He also recognizes NJ resident, Steven Van Zandt, singer, songwriter, of Bruce Springsteen & E-Street Band & Sopranos actor fame & his song "I Am a Patriot."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ambassador-muhamed-sacirbey/growing-up-a-patriot\\_b\\_5682304.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ambassador-muhamed-sacirbey/growing-up-a-patriot_b_5682304.html)



## ***The Class of 1994 20th Reunion***

The Class of 1994 enjoyed their 20-year reunion on September 5 and 6th. Despite the 91 degree day, classmates cooled off inside Massimo da Milano's for dinner, drinks, and camaraderie on Friday evening. Classmates traveled as far as from California to Massachusetts to N Carolina to attend. Everyone was entertained from winning door prizes, along with music and a photo booth, courtesy of Mike Scheutzow (Class of '91) of Sunshine Video Productions. Through the Saturday rains, some classmates met at Middleburg Hts. Pavilion for a family picnic. To cap off the weekend, many attended the Saturday night event at the Local Tavern Bar in Parma where they enjoyed catching up with old friends on the outdoor patio.



The reunion committee, Stacey Steinfadt, Missy Lallo, Steve Novak, and Dennis Wolan had a great time planning the events and look forward to seeing everyone at the 25th. They would like to thank Linda Reik-Brown, Dave Kircher and Kathy McCann-Dreher—all from the Class of '65—and the VF Alumni Association, and Mr. John Jakovic for their support and assistance.

## ***10 Years Has Flown By For The Class of 2004!***

On Saturday, August 23rd, the Valley Forge Class of 2004 celebrated their ten year reunion. The reunion was held at a Cleveland landmark, Shooters on the Water, which is renowned for its gorgeous views of both the city and of the Cuyahoga River.

It's crazy how much high school has made a impact on all of us. That night, it felt like there was no way that 10 years had already flown by as the conversations felt like we were sitting in 5th period lunch. It was inspiring to hear all of our classmates successes and accomplishments over the past 10 years. We all left saying

"Let's not wait another 10 years to see each other!" The night consisted of a dinner buffet, give-a-ways, and lots and lots of laughter and socializing. Although Social Media has kept us apprised of marriages and kids, there is something comforting about sharing real space with the familiar faces of whom you shared 4 important years with (and maybe more!).

Many thanks to Shooters, the Valley Forge Alumni Association, and our donors for the gift baskets (Angstrom Graphics, Cleveland Gladiators, Lake Erie Monsters, Olive Garden). This night could not have happened without you.

Til the next reunion, Class of 2004!

## What We Do...

The Valley Forge Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501(c3) 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 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.

## 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 two \$750 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.



## Calendar of Events



Fri, 10/3/14	Parma vs VF Football Game and Hall of Fame Inductions
Tue, 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

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



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)