

June 28, 2021: The KBHSAA marked the 130th Anniversary of its founding by the 1891 graduating class at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) Banquet held at Kenosha Country Club this past Saturday. A crowd of about 80 people were present at the event, which honored the DAA recipients for 2020 and 2021, as well as the KBHSAA Scholarship Recipients for both years... a circumstance brought about by the Corona virus pandemic.

The evening included the KBHSAA Scholarship Fund Silent Auction, which kicked off at 5:00PM. When the bidding ended at 7:30PM, all but one item had been snapped up by savvy shoppers looking for good deals on seven gift baskets underwritten in part by Thrivent Financial, as well as gift cards and merchandise donated by local businesses, several members of the KBHSAA Board and Bradford alumnus. The event raised \$831 for the KBHSAA Scholarship Fund!

Oliver Debe '09 served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. **Randy Vaccaro '73**, KBHSAA President, welcomed everyone to the event and thanked the small-but-dedicated group of volunteers who serve on the KBHSAA Board for their service this year. He also thanked all KBHSAA members for their generous support of the Alumni Association's programs. It is, after all, the donations from our membership that keeps our Scholarship Fund growing each year. **Alice Schwalbe '60** stepped up to the podium to deliver the invocation before dinner was served by KCC's attentive wait staff.

Joyce Sorensen '69 introduced **Carmella Ciotti Huser and Mary-Anne Smoler Thompson, both from the Class of '57**, who spoke from the heart as they talked about the scholarship they funded in memory of their classmate, Judith Mikulsky Zachar, who passed away in 2020. Joyce asked the 2020 and 2021 Scholarship Recipients in attendance at the event to gather nearby and invited each of them to the podium to speak about their college plans and aspirations. The program for the event detailed each scholarship and scholarship recipient – you can view the complete lists here for [2020](#) and [2021](#). Several of members in the audience remarked to Pres. Vaccaro later that evening about how very impressed they were with the kids' speeches. We wish all of the scholarship recipients the best as they venture off to college or continue their second year of college – we know they'll make us proud!

Oliver called upon **Jean Teising '45** to introduce **Scott Woroch**, who was accepting the commemorative DAA plaque on behalf of his late father, "**Gene**" **Woroch '40**. **Jodi Ritacca Carlini '69** launched a short video introduction by her nephew, **Sean Lewis** (weekend anchor for WGN-TV in Chicago) and invited her 9-year old grandson, **Aiden Souter**, to join her at the podium for a few moments before accepting her DAA plaque. **Dan Balk** delivered the speech his father-in-law, **John Gregory '52**, had intended to present (he was under the weather and unable to attend the event). **Sheryl Becker '65** shared a loving tribute to her late brother, **Mike Dean '60**, whose teaching career made a difference in so many young lives.

We were privileged to have some memorabilia on display next to the plaques for the four DAA recipients being recognized at this year's event: motorcycle memorabilia from John Gregory and an Emmy belonging to Jodi Ritacca Carlini. Our DAA program, established in 1989, honors outstanding individuals who attended or graduated from Mary D. Bradford (formerly Kenosha Central) High School. It recognizes people who have contributed significantly to their profession and/or community, who are positive role models for all Bradford High School students. You'll find the complete list of DAA honorees [here](#) on our website.

Oliver called **Lee Arneson '57** to the podium to wrap up our event with the traditional Roll Call of Class Years. Before beginning the Roll Call, Lee mentioned how very special it is that the **Bradford Class of 1940** still gathers for a reunion each year. This year the group will celebrate its 81st reunion, and its members are now 99-100 years old. Lee told the Scholarship Recipients she hopes they and their respective classes of 2020 and 2021 will beat that record!

Kindly visit our [Photo Gallery](#) to see the photos taken by **Heather Vaccaro '01**, which captured the event from start to finish... we hope you'll enjoy them!

March 29, 2021: *The small envelope awaiting pick up from our P.O. Box at the Downtown Post Office held a wonderful surprise... enclosed was a donation from a local couple whose note read:*

**Greetings local non-profit,
We have recently received another "stimulus check". While we are not wealthy, we are fortunate to not "need" the money. Please consider the enclosed check as a small donation to help your organization.**

We send our heartfelt thanks to these KBHSAA members for their generous support of our organization. We have allocated their donation to the KBHSAA Scholarship Fund.

KUSD 2020-2021 Theatre Arts Productions: VIRTUAL!

We usually spotlight the KUSD Theatre Arts productions being staged at Bradford High School in the fall edition of our *Newsletter*, but as our publication was going to print, there was no information available. An article in the [Kenosha News](#) on November 6 told us all KUSD Theatre Arts productions will be virtual this year due to the COVID-19 virus. We visited KUSD's Theatre Arts web page and just had to share what we found:

We are the only ones working!

On behalf of the KUSD theatre staff - we want you to really think about this. All across the country regional, professional, and amateur theaters are dark. Pros at all levels are side hustling because all of the theaters are closed!

You! Us! All of us in Educational Theater are carrying the torch, the "ghost light" for an entire industry that has been sidelined due to the virus.

We are making history. Embrace whatever comes next and be proud. SO PROUD of your piece in that. You are doing what no pro in the country is right now. And they love you for it. They are on your side, no matter how hard it seems - no matter how weird or non-traditional.

You are the art! ON WITH THE SHOW!!! We're gonna crush this season!

We look forward to next year's productions and hope you'll join us in supporting KUSD Theatre Arts in 2021-2022.

*September 22, 2020: We're sending belated birthday wishes to **Delbert Smith, Class of 1939**, who recently celebrated his 99th birthday, smiling and waving to those who organized a surprise parade past his Florida home.*

It's official: Class Reunion events for 2020 have been cancelled

It's been a difficult year throughout the country due to COVID-19. All of the Class Reunion Committees that had planned to hold events this year have officially cancelled, with the exception of **Charles Heide** and **Marie Pfeiffer Goff, Class of 1940**, who met briefly to reminisce about the Reunions they've attended over the years since graduating from Kenosha High School. A recap of their reunion will appear in the fall edition of the [Newsletter](#).

Several Reunion Committees have given us a heads up on plans to host a Class Reunion next year... you'll find more information on our [Upcoming Class Reunions](#) web page.

So stay tuned, stay in touch and stay safe in the meantime!

Scholarship Donations

Today (08/03/2020) we received a nice note from **Anita Herrmann '54**, who made a donation to the KBHSAA Scholarship Fund, directed to the annual Valiere Anderson Petersen (1930) Award for Excellence in Music scholarship. Thank you for keeping up a strong Alumni group!

We recently revamped our KBHSAA Scholarships web pages to make it simpler to view our list of [2020 Scholarships Awarded](#) and, on the separate [Historical Data: Scholarships](#) web page, you can look back at scholarship dollars awarded and scholarship recipients over the years going back to 2001. We hope you'll take a few minutes to browse through these web pages... and then take pride in being a member of the Alumni Association that gives back to its community with a scholarship program for seniors graduating from our alma mater. Go Bradford!

Giving the gift of a KBHSAA membership

08/03/2020: Just in... **Tom Brickley (1958)** jumped on the bandwagon with a gift membership for his classmate, **Laura Vandenberg Bistrick**. Thanks, Tom... and we appreciate your kind email last week about our website!

07/21/2020: Our thanks to **Pat Costigan Hall (1957)** for the gift membership given to her classmate, **Margaret Doty Bittner**. The enduring friendships made while attending Bradford High School play a role in our "coming of age." The older we grow, it seems the years fly by faster and faster. The Class of 2020 won't begin to understand that statement for many, many years. We think you'll agree that celebrating memories shared with classmates keeps us young at heart. In the years since graduation, we've grown a little older, a little wiser... but we'll always be Red Devils.