

# TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2017

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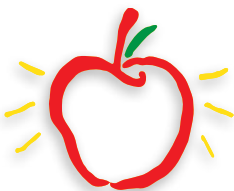
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 We would love to have more alumni on the board. If you live in the Monona/Madison area and are interested in joining us, please email [mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com](mailto:mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com)

 To receive *Traditions* via email please contact us at [mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com](mailto:mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com)

## 4th Annual Gala Celebrates Rebecca Fox-Blair and 2016-17 Grant Recipients

On Saturday, November 4, Monona Grove alumni and community supporters gathered at the East Side Club in Monona for the Monona Grove Education Foundation's 4th Annual Gala. This year's honoree was Rebecca Fox-Blair, co-founder, Executive Director and teacher at the MG21 Liberal Arts Charter School. MG21 was founded to meet the needs of Monona Grove high school students who were looking for a smaller, project-based educational community. It incorporates Fox-Blair's belief that schools must educate the whole person through a student-driven, meaningful, and challenging learning environment. Due to the generosity of a member of the MG21 board, many former students were able to attend the festivities. Several colleagues spoke about various aspects of Fox-Blair's career including retired MGHS teachers **Tom Howe** and **Denise Peterson**, Monona Library Youth Services Coordinator **Toni Streckert**, MG21 Board Member **Phil McDade**, fellow teachers **Alyssa Hartson** and **Ian Lowe** and 2017 graduate **Matt Selje**.



*Amelia Speight '13*, MGEF Board member *Sue Carr*, MG parent *John DeBacher*, Grant recipient & Winnequah teacher *Barb Trapp* and MG parent *Laura Hartog*

*credit to Robert Bertera Photography*

## Gala Sponsors

MGEF would like to thank all of the sponsors of our 2017 Gala. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**The Presenting Sponsor** (\$3,000) was **Monona Bank**

**Platinum Sponsors** (\$1,000) included **McKinstry**, **J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc.**, **CG Schmidt Inc.**, and **Crazy Lenny's E-Bikes**

**Gold Sponsors** (\$500) were **Boardman & Clark LLP**, **Eppstein Uhen Architects**, **MG & E Foundation** and **PMA Financial Network**, **Richard & Judy Fritz**, **Bradley & Susan Manning**, and **Michael & Susan Fox**

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The event also recognized MGEF's 2016-17 grant recipients: **Kate Mennenga** who received \$1,000 towards replacement and construction of the elementary playground at Cottage Grove School; **Melissa Smith** of Monona Grove High School was awarded \$400 for her Spoken Word-Student Voices group; **Barb Trapp**, Winnequah Elementary \$1,000 who received to fund her 2nd grade Dean House project which was expanded to include all district 2nd graders; **Kelly Vetter** and others, recipients of \$973 to expand Winnequah School's inventory of movement/innovative equipment; **Rebecca Fox-Blair & MG21 staff**, \$3,000 for a "Wilderness Skills" hike of the Ice Age Trail for MG21 Seniors and **Renee Tenant & staff** at Glacial Drumlin School awarded \$1500 to fund "Celebrating Culture through Dance – Drumlin Hip Hop". Grant recipients provided displays of their projects and were featured in a short video about their projects. Guests enjoyed an appetizer buffet and participated in dessert and silent auctions which benefited the Foundation's teacher grant program.



*Speaker & retired MGHS teacher **Tom Howe**  
credit to Robert Bertera Photography*



*Many Monona Grove Alternative School & MG  
21 graduates attended  
credit to Robert Bertera Photography*



*MG 21 staff – **Jess Frain, Paul Marx, Alyssa Hartson, Rebecca Fox-Blair, Kris Langer, Kathy Howe, and Ian Lowe**  
credit to Robert Bertera Photography*



## 2nd Graders Learn about Pioneer Life in Monona

Winnequah School 2nd grade teacher **Barb Trapp** “is happy to report that our MGEF Grant of \$1000 benefited all of the 2nd graders at Cottage Grove School and Winnequah School last year and will for years to come. Multiple class sets of the book “A Trip Back in Time: Exploring Life Long Ago at the Dean House” were purchased so that they could be shared between 2 teachers at each school. The book is truly amazing. It is a photo journey with text of the field trip that the students took to the Dean House and explains life long ago in our community. We used it as a reflection tool after our trip to the Dean House and as a reading resource as well. The remaining \$70 went to offset the transportation costs for the students in Cottage Grove to attend.”



*2nd graders learn about frontier era cooking*



*Winnequah 2nd graders enjoy reading “A Trip Back in Time”*

## Faculty/Staff News

- **Roswell K. “Roz” Boutwell**, Middleton, age 99, passed away peacefully on August 25, 2017 at the Attic Angel Community in Middleton. An Emeritus Professor of Oncology at UW-Madison, he served on the Monona Grove Board of Education in the 1950’s during the time the original Monona Grove High School was planned and built.
- **Betty J. DeVoe**, Madison, passed away at the age of 91 on April 15, 2017 at Sylvan Crossing. After her children were grown, she worked as a secretary at Winnequah School.
- **Mary Julia (Barger) Muskat**, Monona, passed away at the age of 90 on May 24, 2017. She was a kindergarten teacher at Maywood School in the 1960’s. Her daughter, **Deb Muskat** is a retired Monona Grove elementary teacher.
- **Richard “Dick” Reinholdt**, Monona, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, at The Villa at Middleton Village at the age of 85. In the 1970’s and 1980’s, he was instrumental in forming the Monona Youth Hockey Association and volunteered as a coach. He also served on the board of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association.
- **Marilyn Ruth (Habich) Smith**, Madison, passed away peacefully at St. Mary’s Care Center at the age of 90 on March 30, 2017. She worked in food service for many years at Winnequah School.
- **Else Marie Solberg**, Madison, longtime teacher at both Winnequah and Nichols Schools, passed away on October 12, 2017 at the age of 89.
- **Dawayne “Doc” Tietz**, Madison, former Monona Youth baseball, softball and bowling coach passed away on June 21, 2017 at UW-Hospital at the age of 87.

# Alumni News

- **David Stoneman**, Class of 1957 reports that “the 60th reunion of the first class to graduate from Monona Grove High School was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Fourteen of the fifty-five who graduated in the class attended the event. In addition, several spouses and friends were there.
- **Richard “Dick” Hanson**, Class of 1958, Greenfield, WI passed away on September 18, 2017.
- **Bob Lexvold**, Class of 1960, Sun City West, AZ reports that he and wife Lyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 13, 2017.
- **David Bruce Ament**, Class of 1962, Baraboo, passed away on October 10, 2017.
- **Karen (Bornfleth) DeGroot**, Class of 1962, Fall River, passed away on January 26, 2017, at Hillside Manor in Beaver Dam, Wis.
- **Franklin “Frank”, “Butch” Meyers**, Class of 1962, passed away on October 13, 2017 after a long illness.
- **Clayton “Clay” Russell, Class of 1962**, Lady Lake, FL reports that “During the week of June 5, I participated in the Senior Games in Birmingham, AL in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the 70-74 age bracket. Out of 23 teams in our age group, we finished 4th, which was quite an accomplishment due to the quality of most of the teams from around the country. That was my “last hurrah” in organized basketball. At 73, I am starting to get aches and pains that people tell me are normal for “old people”. As I look back on my basketball playing days, I was fortunate to be on several teams that won championships including the 1961-62 Monona Grove team that won the first Badger Conference Championship in the school’s history.”
- **Bruce Zielinski**, Class of 1962, Marquette, WI passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at Waupun Memorial Hospital.
- **Paul Joseph Jaeger**, Class of 1963, Verona, passed away on Aug. 19, 2017, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease and a yearlong battle with esophageal cancer.
- **Linda (Oren) Jenkins**, Class of 1963, Madison, passed away on October 26, 2017 at Agrace HospiceCare.
- **Sharon Goff**, Class of 1964, reports that “she’s moved back home to Madison after living in North Carolina, Florida and the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia”.
- **John W. Imhoff**, Class of 1964, passed away peacefully at his home in Madison surrounded by loving family on October 22, 2017.
- **Clay Russell**, Class of 1962, reports that his brother, **Jeffrey D. Russell**, Class of 1965, Marion, Iowa “has done some remarkable things during his working career. The first GPS signal was received 40 years ago on July 19, 1977. Jeff worked as an electrical engineer for the Collins Radio division of Rockwell International in Cedar Rapids, IA. He developed the computer subsystem for the GPS receiver as Rockwell beat Texas Instruments and Magnavox for the rights to the U.S. Government contract. At the time, the GPS receiver (from a photo I saw) looked to be about the size of a queen mattress. Today, a GPS chip is about a quarter inch on a side. During his years with Rockwell/Collins, Jeff was the inventor or co-inventor for 13 patents and was named as “Engineer of the Year” in 1982. So, while he doesn’t have the name recognition of some other MG graduates, he has distinguished himself in his chosen field.
- **Sandra (Laubmeier) Kinnaird**, Class of 1966, Deerfield, passed away on May 16, 2017 at her home.
- **Carol A. (Jones) Coughlin**, Class of 1966, Stoughton, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2017, at Skaalen Retirement Services.
- **Scott Lee Demro**, Class of 1966, Woodbury, MN, passed away on August 28, 2017.
- **Sue (Garey) Chenier**, Class of 1967 and the rest of the 50th reunion committee “would like to thank all the classmates that were able to attend the 50th year class reunion held at the Breakwater in Monona. We had 80 classmates attend not counting the guests. It was so much fun talking to classmates that in some cases hadn’t seen each other since graduation. A good time was had by all. Our next class reunion will hopefully be in 5 years. Thanks to all who made the night a success!”
- **Steven Graham “Steve” Boyle**, Class of 1972, Madison, passed away peacefully at his home on May 27, 2017.
- **Daniel R. “Dan” Horgen**, Class of 1972, of Monona, passed away on Thursday, June 29, 2017, at Agrace HospiceCare.
- **David Squires**, Class of 1973, Milford IA, reports that he is “Retired, enjoying biking, swimming, kayaking, and gardening here in the NW Iowa lakes area”.
- **Michael J. Grady**, Class of 1975, Fitchburg, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Friday, Oct. 13, 2017.
- **Mark Wesley “Harry” Hammond**, Class of 1975, died unexpectedly on Sept. 12, 2017, in Tucson, Ariz.
- **Alan Schantz**, Class of 1975, Honolulu, Hawaii, his brother **Brian Schantz**, Class of 1978, Cottage Grove, and their father **Ildred Schantz** died together when their SUV collided with a John Deere combine in the Town of Lake Mills on November 3, 2017.
- **Lee Ann Messner-Sletten**, Class of 1976, McFarland, passed away on June 2, 2017.
- **Dan Schachte**, Class of 1976, Madison, was inducted into the Madison Sports Hall of Fame on June 7, 2017. He played on the MG hockey team, participated in the UW-Madison hockey program under Coach Bob Johnson and worked as an NHL hockey referee for more than 30 years. In all he officiated in 2009 regular season games and 227 games in the Stanley Cup playoffs.
- **John Gerald Arndt**, Class of 1977, Evansville, passed away unexpectedly, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017 after suffering a myocardial rupture while turkey hunting near his home.
- **Robert A. “Bob” Clack**, Class of 1980, Waunakee, passed away on September 3, 2017 in Manitowish Waters, WI.
- **Patrick J. “Pat” McGibbon**, Class of 1980, Sheboygan, passed away unexpectedly at home on Monday, June 12, 2017.
- **LaVerne R. Coffey**, Class of 1981, Madison, formerly of Cottage Grove, passed away on April 30, 2017, at UW Hospital.
- **Eric W. Sandsnes**, Madison, Class of 1982, passed away on May 5, 2017 at UW Hospital.
- **Lisa Ann Whitehorse**, Class of 1982, of Madison, passed away on Sunday, July 30, 2017, at Agrace HospiceCare in Fitchburg.
- **Brooke April Carey**, Class of 1998, Lake Wisconsin, WI passed away on May 22, 2017.
- **Michael Christopher Peronto**, Class of 2016, Cottage Grove, passed away on October 30, 2017 in Cottage Grove.

# Class of Upcoming Reunions

## Class of 1958

60th Class Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 28, 2018 and will feature an early evening dinner at the Breakwater Restaurant, Monona.

## Class of 1960

The Class of 1960 has scheduled its annual reunion gathering on Friday, August 24, 2018 beginning at noon. They plan to meet in Monona but have not yet determined where. Look for more details in the spring issue of *Traditions*.

## Class of 1968

The class of 1968 will hold its 50th reunion **Saturday evening, July 28, 2018**, at the Coliseum Bar in Madison, followed by an afternoon picnic at Winnequah Park, Sunday, July 29. For periodic updates and more information, join and follow the class Facebook page (MG '68). If you have questions please contact reunion committee members: **Diane Sandahl** ([dsamdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dsamdahl@gmail.com)), **Debby Schmelzer** ([debbyk@uwalumni.com](mailto:debbyk@uwalumni.com)), **Coyla Rankin** ([coylarankin@gmail.com](mailto:coylarankin@gmail.com)), **Steve Goldberg** ([steven.goldberg2016@outlook.com](mailto:steven.goldberg2016@outlook.com)).

## We've Recently Received *Greetings!* From:

**Wes Droster**, Class of 1958, Poynette, WI

**Robert "Oz" Osburn**, Class of 1964, Portland, OR

**Steven "Steve" Goldberg**, Class of 1968, Madison, WI

**Carin (Derlein) Kaiser**, Class of 1969, Green Valley, AZ

**James LeClair, Jr.**, Class of 1980, Loganville, GA

**Kate Joranson**, Class of 1995, Pittsburgh, PA

**Fred Goetz**, Class of 2002, Glenview, IL

**Stacy Blang**, Class of 2003, Fort Atkinson, WI

**Andrew Robbins**, Class of 2003, Monroe, WI

**Kristen Robbins-Ward**, Class of 2005, Matthews, NC

**Lauren (Bocher) Meyer**, Class of 2009, Minneapolis, MN

**Amelia Speight**, Class of 2013, Monona, WI

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## Monona Grove Education Foundation

Monona Grove Public Schools  
5301 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716

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Planning a move? Don't forget to let us know. Your class doesn't want to lose you!

## Join Us

The Monona Grove Education Foundation publishes this alumni newsletter as a service to all residents of the Monona Grove School District, past and present. Your donation to the Monona Grove Foundation Fund will support grants for innovations in education and will guarantee the future of MG Alumni Traditions. Consider a gift to the Monona Grove Education Foundation in your year-end tax planning. Just fill out this form and send it in with your contribution in one of the suggested categories or donate online (see details below).



### Choose a category

"Professor" – \$500 +       "Fellow" – \$250 to \$499       "Scholar" – \$100 to 249       "Other" - under \$100

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