

# TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

Funding for this newsletter is made possible through a grant provided by the Monona Grove Education Foundation

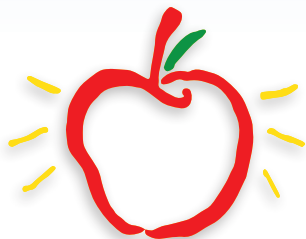
FALL 2018

## In This Issue

- Celebration Honors 2017-18 Grant Recipients and Kindergarten Teachers
- MGHS Students Help to Share Extracurricular History
- Make A Gift from your IRA
- Staff/Alumni News
- Retirements
- Greetings

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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)

## 5th Annual Celebration Honors 2017-18 Grant Recipients and MG Kindergarten Teachers – Past and Present

Monona Grove alumni and supporters gathered at the East Side Club in Monona on Saturday, November 3 for the MGEF's 5th Annual Gala Celebration. This year the foundation honored MG kindergarten teachers both past and present. Guests enjoyed an appetizer buffet and participated in silent and dessert auctions, all to benefit the Foundation's teacher grant program. **Connie Haessly**, current Taylor Prairie Principal and **Kelly Frydenlund**, current Taylor Prairie Kindergarten Teachers spoke about their experiences as kindergarten teachers and the importance of kindergarten. They were followed by introductions of current and former kindergarten teachers in attendance and a montage of alumni and current MG students speaking about the impact their kindergarten teachers had on their school experience.



*Current & Former Kindergarten teachers: Row 1 L-R – Renate Alstaetter, Kelly Frydenlund, Lennie Saffian, Nancy Kugle, Emily Foster; Row 2 – Carol Nimmer, Mae Frubling, Jessica Switalla, Jessica Parkos, Erin Gelhausen, Renee Gaudreau; Row 3 – Deb Hoffman, Jaime Schmied, Nicole Suchomel, Pat Rentschler, Jacinda Wapneski, Jenny Fonner*

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## Gala Sponsors

MGEF would like to thank all of the sponsors of our 2018 Gala. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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

**Platinum Sponsors** (\$1,000) were **J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc.** and **Eppstein Uhen Architects**

**Gold Sponsors** (\$500) were **Boardman & Clark LLP**, **Attorney William S. Cole**, **Dunner's Lawn Service**, **Hoffman Manufacturing Corporation**, **MG & E Foundation** and **PMA Financial Network**, **Richard & Judy Fritz** and **Bradley & Susan Manning**

**Silver Sponsors** (\$250) included: **Jane & David Beebe**, **Dean & Ann Bowles**, **Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce**, **Michael & Susan Fox**, **Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Care**, **Karas Dental of Cottage Grove**, **Jason & Linda McCutchin**, **Ken's Meats & Deli**, **Metcalf's Markets**, **Monona Grove Business Men's Association**, **Murphy Desmond, S.C.**, **Mary O'Connor & Robert Bocher**







*Jane Beebe and her kindergarten teacher Carol Nimmer, daughter Mara Beebe with her teacher Renate Alstaetter)*

*continued*

The event also honored the Foundation’s 2017-18 grant recipients with a video montage in which they discussed their grant projects. Recipients and their projects include: **Jenny Fonner**, Winnequah School kindergarten, software for Osmos coding program; **Ann Maeder**, Glacial Drumlin School, expansion of activities connected with the literature-based curriculum; **Kiley Ramirez**, Monona Grove High School, training for world

language teachers in 21st century language standards; **Erin Finley**, Glacial Drumlin School, makerspace lab creation for sixth grade, including coding materials, and other creative, innovative projects; **Carlie Jarvey**, Glacial Drumlin School, support of the Gay Straight Alliance at GDS, a button maker to be used by the entire school.



*Grant winner Jenny Fonner with Erin Gelhausen and Pat Rentschler*

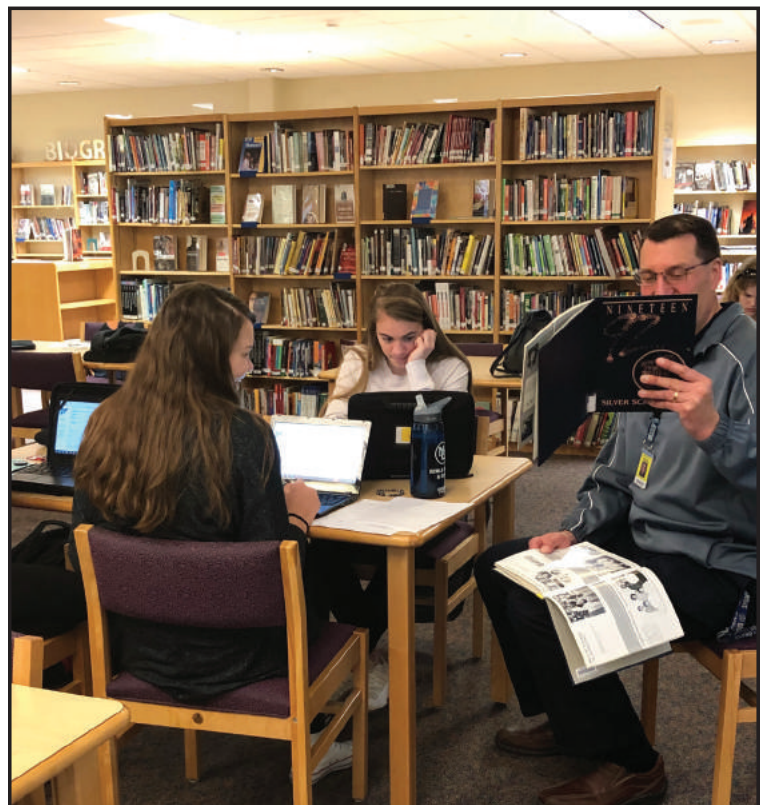
## MGHS Students Help to Share Extracurricular History

Last spring, members of Monona Grove High School’s National Honor Society (NHS) volunteered their time to help gather information and load data to the school’s new history touchscreens. Two touchscreen monitors are hung in the entryways to the school, and can be navigated to view historical team and individual accomplishments in fine arts, activities and athletics. The information displayed on these touchscreens can also be found online at [www.mononagrove.touchpros.com](http://www.mononagrove.touchpros.com).

“Our history and traditions are important to us, and have not always been well-kept over the history of the school,” said Monona Grove High School Athletic and Activities Director **Jeff Schreiner**. “We don’t have enough wall space or trophy case space to recognize all of the accomplishments throughout the years, so the touchscreens allow us to recognize these accomplishments for alumni to remember and current students to celebrate.”

This is a big project, but an important one, Schreiner said. While freshmen and sophomores completed state testing, more than 70 juniors from Monona Grove’s NHS assisted in the two-day project, on their own time. Every year, NHS participates in a service project, and with the completion of their previous project came the opportunity for these students to get involved in helping with the history touchscreens. “Who better to learn about our past successes than our current students,” Schreiner commented. “We feel it will build a sense of pride for our future alumni, while also completing a needed task.”

On the first day, students helped collect information from a variety of resources, to compile a history of fine arts, activity and athletics titles and awards earned by Monona Grove High School students. “I learned a lot



*Pictured from left, Monona Grove juniors Cassandra Keller and Payton Jenks-Recker worked with Athletic and Activities Director Jeff Schreiner to gather information from previous MG yearbooks.*

about Monona Grove's performance throughout the past and how we've become more successful in athletics, but also developments in the arts and extracurriculars as well," said MG junior Rachel Yundt. "It was really eye-opening to see how much has changed in the last 25 years of the school, since it's not something we get to learn about very often."

On day two, students entered the information collected into the website that now holds Monona Grove's athletics and activities history. "I really enjoyed being able to recognize the past athletes that won individual awards," said Daniel Scaife, junior at MG. "I personally helped entering in the names and achievements of young men and women who were in spring sports, and it was cool to see all of the distinctions if it be first team all-conference, or even the Silver Eagle Award. I enjoyed seeing the history in front of me, and helping it become more accessible to the public."

While there is more information to be gathered and entered into the touchscreens, Schreiner said the goal is that the school fall no further behind in maintaining these records. Alumni who received recognition during their time at Monona Grove are encouraged to share any information they have with the school's athletics/activities department by calling (608) 316-1371 or emailing [jeffery.schreiner@mgschools.net](mailto:jeffery.schreiner@mgschools.net) or [nicole.poley@mgschools.net](mailto:nicole.poley@mgschools.net).

"The touchscreens are a great way to bridge and blend the past with the present, in a way that's accessible around the world," Schreiner said.



*Monona Grove juniors **Rachel Yundt** and **Daniel Scaife** were two of many NHS members to help in keeping a record of Monona Grove High School's extra-curricular successes.*

## Upcoming Reunions

The deadline for inclusion of notices of upcoming reunions in the Spring, 2019 Traditions is April 1. They may be sent to [monona-grovetraditions@gmail.com](mailto:monona-grovetraditions@gmail.com)

## Class of 1968 Contribution

The MG Class of 1968 has contributed \$400 remaining from their 50th reunion to MGEF to be used for "students in need". **Steve Goldberg** submitted the funds on behalf of the class and reunion committee saying, "My classmates will be proud to know that funds left over from our 50th class reunion are earmarked for such a worthy purpose."

## Make a gift directly from your IRA to support the Monona Grove Education Foundation!

If you are 70½ or older, and required to take a Required Minimum Distribution from a traditional IRA, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the Monona Grove Education Foundation. The benefits of a RMD from your traditional IRA allow you to:

### Support the Monona Grove Education Foundation (MGEF)

**Avoid the 50% deduction limit on charitable gifts**

**Satisfy your required minimum distribution**

**Reduce your taxable income / avoid taxes on charitable gifts up to \$100,000/year**

To make an IRA rollover gift anytime during the year:

- 1) Instruct your IRA plan administrator to make an RMD gift from your IRA to Monona Grove Education Foundation
- 2) Provide our name, address and Federal Tax ID#:

Monona Grove Education Foundation

5301 Monona Drive

Monona, WI 53716

FEIN # 39-1808215

- 3) Contact MGEF to identify how you want the gift to be used or with questions
- 4) Your IRA funds will be transferred directly to MGEF



# Alumni News

- **Richard Entwistle**, Class of 1957, Stoughton, WI passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Milestone Senior Living.
- **Wesley Droster**, Class of 1958, Poynette, WI passed away on Friday, July 27, 2018 at home. A member of the MG Track and Field Team, Wes was given the nickname “The Galloping Ghost from Monona Grove”.
- **Quamme, Robert L.**, Class of 1958, Stoughton, WI passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 12, 2018.
- **Richard Ewing “Soapy” Brill**, Class of 1962, Waunakee, WI passed away on November 3, 2018.
- **Melvin “Mel” Sumwalt**, Class of 1962, passed away peacefully on September 24, 2018 at Good Samaritan Society in Olathe, KS after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease.
- **Wallace “Lee” Wikoff**, Class of 1963 reports that his wife of 51 years, Sharon “Sherry” (Minter) Wikoff, also Class of 1963 died peacefully at their home in Edina, MN on November 4th, 2018.
- **Michael D. Brettell**, Class of 1964, Bellingham, WA, passed away on August 15, 2018 on San Juan Island.
- **David J. Bernstein**, Class of 1965, Madison, WI passed away on July 5, 2018.
- **Michael “Maddog” Tuten**, Class of 1965, Madison, WI passed away on August 14, 2018.
- **Barbara (Rosten) Scanio**, Class of 1966, Plano, TX passed away on May 2, 2015 in Houston, TX.
- **David R. Deering**, Class of 1968, Fitchburg, WI, passed away on August 21, 2018 at home.
- **Jennifer Sherrill (Slinde) Meseberg**, Class of 1968, Clarksville, TN, passed away on June 11, 2018 at Tennova Healthcare.
- **David R. Rakow**, Class of 1969, Madison, WI passed away on June 18, 2018 at Agrace HospiceCare in Fitchburg.
- **Michael P. “Mike” Streber**, Class of 1969, DeForest, WI, passed away peacefully at home on November 28, 2018.
- **James Walhovd**, Class of 1969, Portage, WI, passed away on April 21, 2018.
- **Diane (Schuepbach) Wright**, Class of 1969, Madison, WI died peacefully surrounded by her family on June 7, 2018 in Scottsdale, Arizona after being diagnosed with lung cancer in 2016.
- **David M. Poast**, Class of 1971, Madison, WI, passed away on June 3, 2018 at Tivoli at Divine Savior in Portage, Wisconsin. Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 30 years ago, he had lived life to the fullest.
- **Steve Rankin**, class of 1971, Madison, WI, celebrated turning 65 by: 1) paying off his mortgage; 2) presenting a seminar on therapy for trauma patients at a national conference; 3) watching his younger child graduate from college and get a job; and 4) riding his bike from coast to coast, leaving Seattle on Father’s Day and arriving in Cape Ann, MA August 18.
- **Jeff Smith** (Class of 1973) and **Diane (Reierson) Smith** (Class of 1975), Arkdale, WI, report that after 43 years in Cottage Grove, WI they are both now retired and have moved to their cabin in the woods.
- **Lori (Wind) Harper**, Class of 1974, Portage, WI, passed away on November 3, 2018.
- **Steven Glenn Raymer**, Class of 1974, Centreville, Virginia, passed away on June 16, 2018 at his home.
- **Mark Adams**, Class of 1977, passed away on August 30, 2018.
- **Tracy Ray Wardell**, Class of 1977, Avoca, WI, passed away on July 5, 2018.
- **Mark Forseth**, Class of 1978, Renton, WA (the birth and burial place of Jimi Hendrix) reports that “I moved here in 1978 to work in the Federal Aviation Administration, where I write and edit regulatory documents for the Transport Airplane Branch; we’re the folks who keep you safe in those long tubes with the things sticking out the sides.”
- **Gregory Blakley**, Class of 1980, Madison, WI passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at home.
- **Jane (DeBraul) Fuller**, Class of 1980, Plano, TX reports she is “Enjoying life in hot and sunny Texas raising our 6 kids.”
- **James “Jim” Stoddard**, Class of 1982, Tampa, FL passed away due to a fall on October 6, 2010.
- **Timothy “Tim” Vesperat**, Class of 1983, Madison, WI, passed away on July 30, 2018 at his home.
- **Angela M. Klubertanz**, Class of 1988, Cottage Grove, WI, passed away at home on May 10, 2018.
- **Chad Awtrey**, Class of 1999, Elon, North Carolina, was recently honored by the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) as one of three top math teachers at colleges and universities. Awtrey received the Henry L. Adler Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member which honors beginning college or university faculty whose teaching has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is show to have influence beyond their own classrooms. In addition to his teaching duties, Awtrey currently serves as the Associate Director of Undergraduate Research at Elon.
- **Lacy (Ewers) Blair**, Class of 2005, Menomonee Falls, WI, passed away on June 3, 2018, at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.
- **Matthew Adams**, Class of 2011, Madison, WI, died on Sunday, May 20, 2018 as a result of injuries he received after an attempt to do what he did best, helping others in need.
- **Colin J. R. Donahue**, Class of 2013, Madison, WI, passed away unexpectedly on August 30, 2018, another victim of the opioid crisis.
- **Elijah Isenberger & Derek Zenger**, both Class of 2014 living in Madison, WI, have co-founded a company called Live Undiscovered Music (LÜM) with a group of other UW-Madison students and alumni. LÜM is a music discovery and streaming platform that is built on a social network. Their application focuses on up and coming artists around the world and provides the ability for users to discover, share, and circulate music. They hope that LÜM will eventually become a live entertainment “talent pool” for up and coming music around the world.
- **Amariah Kimbrew**, Class of 2021, Cottage Grove, WI, died of firearm-related trauma on June 20, 2018.

## Faculty/Staff News

- **Mary Frances Kelly**, Platteville, Wis., died on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015, at Agrace HospiceCare, Fitchburg, WI. She was an Art teacher at Nichols and Maywood Elementary Schools and Winnequah Middle School from 1968 til 1980. In the summer of 1975 she petitioned the court and won a precedent setting case to become the first woman in Wisconsin to be allowed to reclaim her birth name after a marriage that produced a child. Only one other state had allowed that provision at that time.

## Building Referendum Approved

In November, residents voted to approve the Monona Grove School District's \$57 million facilities and operating referenda. The vote allows the District to address its most critical needs: accommodating projected enrollment growth, further improving safety and security, and addressing significant capital maintenance needs.

The district has moved into the next phase of planning and design. Some maintenance work is expected to begin in the summer of 2019; the remainder of the projects, including construction of a new elementary school in Cottage Grove, will be complete by the fall of 2021.

According to Communications Director **Katy Byrnes Kaiser** "What makes the Monona Grove School District extraordinary is our shared commitment to students and their success, and our shared belief in the importance of a quality education. We look forward to this exciting new phase of our facilities work!"

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

**Sharon (Check) James**, Class of 1958, Prescott, AZ

**Bob Scott**, Class of 1961, Normal, IL

**Ted Seefeldt**, Class of 1970, St. Petersburg, FL

**Jay Huston**, Class of 1972, Cottage Grove, WI

**Dwight Clough**, Class of 1975, Pardeeville, WI

**Kellie (Bowen) Kinderman**, Class of 1978, Lake Mills, WI

**Pamela (Kelly) Davis**, Class of 1979, Fitchburg, WI

**Jessica Nelson Ring**, Class of 1995, Madison, WI

**Iris (Leske) Hill**, Class of 2005, McFarland, WI

**Russell Blaser**, Class of 2010, Cottage Grove, WI

**Elizabeth Nelson**, Class of 2017, Madison, WI

## Be a TRADITIONS Reporter!

Help us gather information and news for the next *TRADITIONS* newsletter! Send us the scoop about engagements, weddings, births, deaths, promotions, new jobs, awards, or honors, even your change of address ... or just tell us what you are doing now.

Take a minute to complete this form or email us! We'd love to hear what you are doing now, and we will share that information in our next newsletter. Please include class year and city/state with correspondence.



mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com



Traditions, MGEF  
5301 Monona Drive  
Monona, WI 53716

Reporters' Name (first, maiden, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Information is about (name: first, maiden, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Scoop: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name (first, maiden, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Monona Grove Education Foundation** or provide credit card information as indicated.

Mail to: Monona Grove Education Foundation, 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716

You may also donate online – Select "MGEF Online Donations" at <http://www.mononagrove.org/welcome/education-foundation.cfm>

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