MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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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

To receive Traditions via email please contact us at mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com

Academic and Career Planning Program

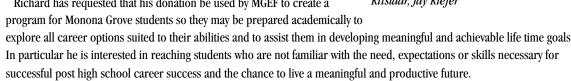
Supported by the Albert E. Brandt Fund

Richard Brandt, Monona Grove Class of 1961, has made a generous donation of \$50,000 to the Monona Grove Education Foundation (MGEF) in memory of his late father, Albert, an attorney and local leader in the establishment of the Monona Grove School District. The untimely passing of his father, just prior to Richard's freshman year at Monona Grove High School, meant the loss of the primary source of guidance Richard needed for a successful high school career and beyond. Fortunately some of his high school teachers, along with other mentors, recognized his abilities and were able to direct his talents toward developing the skills necessary for academic achievement and goal setting. As a result, after successfully completing high school he was prepared to realize the goals he set by graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard Law School and became a successful attorney.

Kitslaar, Jay Kiefer Richard has requested that his donation be used by MGEF to create a program for Monona Grove students so they may be prepared academically to explore all career options suited to their abilities and to assist them in developing meaningful and achievable life time goals. In particular he is interested in reaching students who are not familiar with the need, expectations or skills necessary for

A rapidly changing world demands everyone has the ability to adapt to career changes. Knowing how to learn is a lifelong career skill necessary for success after high school. The Albert E. Brandt Fund will provide funds to assist the development

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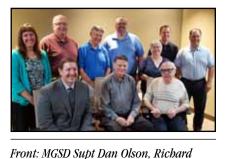


2016-17 MGEF Teacher Grants

MGEF approved seven grants for the 2016-17 school year. Grant winners and their projects include:

- Replacement and construction of the elementary playground at Cottage Grove School (Kate Mennenga, \$1,000)
- Spoken Word-Student Voices group to promote adolescent growth and development, personal expression, acceptance and understanding and positive problem-solving at MGHS. (Melissa Smith & Michelle Baxter, \$400).
- Purchase four classroom sets of 25 copies each of the book "A Trip Back in Time" on what it would have been like to live in the historic Nathaniel and Harriet Dean House in the 1880's and fund a trip for all district 2nd graders to visit the Dean House. (Barb Trapp, Winnequah School and HBGHS -\$1,000)
- Creation of an action plan by MGHS students for sustainability projects which help the

- environment and their school/community. Winning students will use funds to complete their projects with the rest of the class. (Tyler Kuehl, \$1.000)
- Expand Winnequah School's inventory of movement/innovative materials by adding ball chairs and other innovative equipment such as Ergo Seats, Runtz, Kneeling, Spooner (foot fidget) and Wobble Chairs. (Kelly Vetter & others - \$973)
- Pilot a scaled version of a "Wilderness Skills" hike of the Ice Age Trail for a small group of MG21 Seniors in Spring, 2017 with a plan to implement the full project for the 2017-18 school year. (Rebecca **Fox-Blair** & others - \$3,000)
- Celebrating Culture through Dance Drumlin Hip Hop. Funds will be used to pay for dance instruction with an emphasis on modern dance, Folk Fusion, spoken word and Hip Hop at Glacial Drumlin School (Renee Tennant & others - \$1500)



Brandt, MGEF Board President John

Weinberger; Back: MGEF Board Members

Jason McCutchin, Mary O'Connor, Andrew

Keri Robbins, Bill Rameker, Ed Young,

MG Boys Swim & Dive Team Wins Third Straight State Title!

The Monona Grove High School boys swim team won their third straight WIAA Division 2 State Championship on February 17 with the second highest team score in meet history. They've won the State Championship 4 of the last 5 years. The Silver Eagles won all three relay races. Junior **Ben McDade** won the 200 and 500 freestyle races, breaking his own state meet record in the 500. Junior **Eric Storms** took first in the 100 backstroke and second in the 100 butterfly. Georgia Tech recruit **Henry Carman** won the state diving title after coming in second the past three years. **McDade** was later named the Wisconsin State Journal/WisconsinPrepZone.com All-Area Swimmer of the Year for the 2016-2017 season. Finally, Coach **Kelly Chadesh** was named the All-Area Coach of the Year.

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

Steve Seeliger, Class of 1960, Monona, WI

Roger Erb, Class of 1961, Cambridge, WI

Sharon Kleven-Nikolaisen, Class of 1961, Trempealeau, WI

Sally (Woodrow) Thering, Class of 1962, New Albany, OH

Kathleen (Skaar) Christoph, Class of 1967, Cottage Grove, WI

Steve Goldberg, Class of 1968, Madison, WI

David Linden, Class of 1969, Mountain View, Arkansas

Debbie (Brewer) Behnke, Class of 1972, Oregon, WI

Jon Schmalowski, Class of 1976, Tampa, FL

Carol (Storer) Polipnick, Class of 1977, McFarland, WI

Mike Shedesky, Class of 1980, Monona, WI

Lori Martinelli, Class of 1984, Middleton, WI

Debbe (Veleke) Tipping, Class of 1987, Round Rock, TX

Tim Young, Class of 1987, San Diego, CA

Stephanie Williams, Class of 1997, Madison, WI

Emily Leggett Nidetz, Class of 2000, Waunakee, WI



Rebecca Fox-Blair named 2017 MGEF Gala Honoree

Rebecca Fox-Blair, co-founder, Executive Director and teacher of Monona Grove's MG21 Liberal Arts Charter School will be honored at the Education Foundation's Annual Gala on Saturday, November 4, 2017. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and earned her teacher certification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Rebecca has been a teacher for over twenty six years, beginning her career as a social studies teacher at MGHS from 1991-93. She returned to MG in 2000 after teaching for eight years at Oregon High School. She is certified in history, broadfield social studies, charter schools and alternative education.

In 2010, Rebecca and now retired teacher, William McDonald, started the Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School for the 21st Century (aka MG21) to meet the needs of Monona Grove students who were looking for a smaller, project-based educational community. MG21 incorporates Rebecca's belief that education must educate the whole person through a student-driven, meaningful, and challenging learning environment..

Rebecca was a 2010 Kohl Education Foundation Fellow award winner. She has long been an advocate of student activism and has advised student council, Model United Nations, the Rape Crisis Center Imagine program, peer education, the OHS GSA and a multicultural education club. Currently, Rebecca works to incorporate service learning opportunities for MG21 students. Projects include the school garden, citizen lake monitoring of Lake Monona with the DNR, work on the Ice Age Trail, projects with the Monona Public Library, and the Monona Mural in conjunction with the city of Monona and Dane Arts Mural Arts.

Rebecca is married and the mother of two children, ages 14 and 18. In her free time she enjoys camping, gardening, reading, fishing and taking her dog for long walks.

Check out our website (http://www.mononagrove.org/welcome/education-foundation.cfm) later this summer to see the official announcement and learn how you can buy tickets to the event.

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of an Academic and Career Planning (ACP) program for Monona Grove students. ACP is a part of the school district's Service Delivery Model that helps students prepare academically for career options. Many students lack access or exposure to a career planning process best fitting their individual situation or abilities. They may not have family members or other adults in their lives that have any formal post high school education and assume that college or a vocational/technical education is not for them, or they may be an underperforming student who needs assistance in recognizing their abilities. More attention needs to be focused on this type of student to ensure they are aware of the opportunities and options available and prepare them academically now so they have the capability for learning after high school. The end result will be a student prepared to adjust and adapt their career as necessary to achieve the life goals they seek. As a part of its mission MGEF has a high level interest in the success of this program and its benefits for Monona Grove students.

Beginning in 2017 MGEF will work with the Monona Grove School District to begin coordinating and implementing a three to five year program to realize the goals of this donation. The program is open to all Monona Grove students, including those at the MG 21 Liberal Arts Charter School. A key element will be making sure students identified by this program become, at a minimum, proficient in the core curriculum of language arts, math, science and social studies. If necessary, tutoring to attain proficiency in the core subjects is a priority. To maximize the opportunity for success, other school or outside agency programs such as School to Work, apprenticeships, work out aside of school, individual or group mentoring, business and school partnering, visits to post-secondary institutions or work places, military service, or other opportunities that will help these students will be used.

Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1961

56th Reunion will be held Friday, September 8, 2017 beginning at noon at 5100 Bar & Grill, 5100 Erling Avenue in McFarland. Contact Sharon Kleven-Nikolaisen at (608) 445-1996 for more information.

Class of 1967

Will be held Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Breakwater (Old Four Lakes Yacht Club) in Monona beginning at 6 pm. \$40/person includes buffet dinner, wine, beer, soda; Cash bar also available. Reservations are due by May 15, but late reservations will be accepted. Send reservations to: **Michael Seeliger**, N8211 Smith Road, Brooklyn, WI 53521. Payment should be made to: MG Class of 1967 50 Year Reunion. For more info, contact: **Alice** (Rotter) Seeliger, 608-575-1128 or email mononagrovehs67fiftyyrreunion@gmail.com. Request a questionnaire if you have not received one so you can update classmates on your last 50 years!

Class of 1972

A casual evening has been planned for the MG Class of '72 reunion on Saturday, July 22, 2017 from 6:30 - midnight at Village Lanes in Monona. Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes appetizers and drinks. Please send reservations to **Debbie (Brewer) Behnke** at 110-A North Main St., Oregon, WI 53575 by July 12. Email her at debbie71123@gmail.com with any email or address changes and send her any photos you have from earlier reunions.

Class of 1977

The MG Class of 1977 40th Reunion will be held on Friday, June 23, 2017, beginning at 6:30 pm at Door Creek Golf Course, 4321 Vilas Road, Cottage Grove, WI. A cash bar and light appetizers will be provided. Please email **Carol (Storer) Polipnick** at cjpolip@frontier.com to let her know if you plan to attend. Raffle items are still needed, email Carol if you have a donation.

Class of 1987

30th reunion will be held June 24, 2017 at Door Creek Golf Course, 4321 Vilas Road in Cottage Grove. Happy hour will begin at 5, followed by a BBQ buffet at 6. **Tim Young** is coordinating golf for anyone interested beginning at 11:30. RSVP's are due by June 1. Please check their website http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (Veleke) Tipping (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs1987.html for more details or email **Debbe** (http://www.tdgtipping.com/mghs1987.html for more details or email or more details or email or mo

Class of 1997

20th reunion: will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 8-11 pm at the Silver Eagle Bar & Grill, 5805 Monona Drive. Plan to purchase your own food and drinks. A family cookout will be held on Sunday, August 6 from 12-3 pm at the Dream Park shelter at Winnequah Park. Picnic meals will be available for \$20 for adults and \$6 for kids. RSVP and pay by July 28. Email mgclassof97@yahoo.com or look for a Facebook event with location details.

Faculty/Staff News

- Charles "Chuck" Amera, Madison, passed away on December 13, 2016. He spent his entire career in the Monona Grove school district, creating the Physical Education program at Cottage Grove School in 1958. He went on to serve as Principal of Winnequah Middle School, retiring in 1991.
- Jose O. Asturias went into eternal rest on January 15, 2017 at
 Agrace Hospice Care in Madison. A native of Guatemala, he served as
 the MG Girls soccer coach in the late 70's and early 80's. He was part
 of the inaugural class inducted into the Madison Soccer Hall of Fame
 in 2009.
- Charles "Charlie" Ellis passed away on January 21, 2017 in the loving company of his family at Agrace Hospice Care in Madison. A former Assistant Principal at Madison's Memorial High School, he served as an advocate for students of color and at risk students at Monona Grove High School in retirement.
- **Grace B. Ferchland**, passed away on December 25, 2016 at the age of 96. She served as an MG school secretary for 19 years, retiring in 1982.
- Edward "Ed" Folger, Monona, passed away on November 23, 2016. He volunteered as a Monona PeeWee Football coach for over 30 years. He coached the Silver Lions for many years with his longtime friend Bob Storm and also coached the Pee Wee Packers.
- Lester 'Les" Nesbit, Monona, passed away on March 17, 2017. He served on the Monona Grove School Board for 6 years.
- Philip J. Rindy, Monona, passed away peacefully at home on April 6, 2017. He was a former member of the Monona Grove School Board.
- Liz Schnell, Glacial Drumlin Speech & Language Pathologist, was recently named Pathologist of the Year by the Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association. She received the award for the outstanding professional service she has provided her students. In the spring of 2016, Schnell received the Lois Gadd Nemec Elementary Education Alumni Award from the UW-Madison School of Education's Partners in Education program.
- Janis Tupesis, former MG Math teacher and coach passed away on February 20, 2017. A native of Latvia, he later returned to that country to serve in their Parliament.
- **Rita Hildegard Vandre**, Berlin, WI, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2016. She worked in Food Service at Cottage Grove Elementary School for 22 years.

Our email has changed

Please update our address: mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com

Alumni News

- Steve Barr, Class of 1958, McFarland, passed away unexpectedly
 on December 8, 2016 after going into cardiac arrest. He officiated
 at Wisconsin high school and college level track and field meets
 for nearly 55 years and was recognized in state and local halls
 of fame.
- Richard Hartwig, Class of 1958, Waunakee, passed away on January 27, 2017 at his home. During his career in law enforcement he served as a captain with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police; an investigator with the Dane County Vice Squad and as chief of police with the Waunakee Police Department.
- Marge Jones, Class of 1959, recently moved from Oxford, WI to Yuma, AZ. She is living in an RV park and plans to return to Wisconsin during the hot summer months there.
- **Dona (Adler) Muske**, Class of 1959, has moved. Her address is 7726 E. Columbine Way, Mesa, AZ 85208.
- **Albert "Bert" LaBelle**, Class of 1960, Madison, passed away on February 17, 2017 at Meriter Hospital in Madison.
- **Joanne Dexter**, Class of 1962, Sparta, WI passed away on January 28, 2017 at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center.
- John R. "Jack" Merrill, Class of 1962, Madison, passed away on November 23, 2016.
- Clay Russell, Class of 1962, Lady Lake, Florida, participated in the Florida Senior Games in 3-on-3 basketball in the 70-74 age group back on December 10. His team, the Clearwater Aces won the gold medal and Clay scored 37 points in the championship game in their 73 to 49 victory.
- Michael Anderson, Class of 1965, recently moved from Waunakee to Green Valley, AZ and would like to say hi to everyone.
- Michael J. Drenoske, Class of 1965, Waterloo, passed away suddenly on January 24, 2017 at Watertown Regional Medical Center.
- **Dr. Russell Hosler**, Class of 1965, Owen, WI passed away on December 3, 2016. He had been diagnosed with cancer in September.
- Tim Curtin, Class of 1967, Hillside Illinois reports that "Since I graduated, I married and my wife and I have two adult sons. We live in Hillside, Illinois, which is a suburb of Chicago. I went on to be a union organizer for 37 years throughout the Midwest. I was also the Green Party candidate for Illinois State Comptroller in 2016. I hope to retire in two years."
- **Bill Hessling**, Class of 1968, Cottage Grove, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 22, in Sun City, Ariz.
- **Thomas Dalton**, Class of 1970, Monona, passed away at home on January 15, 2016 surrounded by his family.

- Nadine Ann (Marx) Fuchs, Class of 1975, Onalaska, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on April 2, 2017.
- Michael "Clyde" Carpenter, Class of 1982, Pardeeville, WI, passed away unexpectedly in a one vehicle car crash on November 9, 2016.
- Robin (Baumgarten) Dejewski, Class of 1982, Jefferson, WI, passed away on March 16, 2017.
- Travis (Lewis) Grove, Class of 1982, Madison, passed away on March 10, 2017.
- Andy Gundlach, Class of 1995, Monona, has started or purchased thirty Anytime Fitness facilities in southern Wisconsin.
 He was named Club Operator of the Year in 2016 for the entire Anytime Fitness franchise which has locations in all 50 states and on five continents. It's the third time in the last six years that he has received the award.
- Carol Nimmer reports that "Our dear Betzy Marrero, Class of 1995, our AFS daughter from Puerto Rico died on January 27, 2016, with her family by her side. She brought such light and love into our lives and those of everyone around her. She had been battling ovarian cancer and a week before she died she sent me a video, telling me she was tired, and ready to go to heaven. She was truly one of a kind, and our hearts are broken, but our lives are all richer for having had her in them. She leaves behind wonderful parents, a sister and brother in law, and her nephew who was the love of her life."
- William David "Spacebound" Burdick III, Class of 2000, Sun Prairie, passed away due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident on November 22, 2016.
- Hayley Ann Baker, Class of 2012, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2016.

Retirements

Several Monona Grove School District employees recently had their retirements approved by the Monona Grove School Board. They include:

- Linda Elsberry, Special Education, Cottage Grove Elementary
- Barbara Koykkar, Art, Glacial Drumlin School
- **Barbara Schmidt**, Library Media Specialist at Glacial Drumlin School is retiring for the second time having originally retired in 2013. She returned to help fill a gap in personnel with one year at Winnequah and the past three at Glacial Drumlin.
- Donald Tupper, Tech Ed, Monona Grove High School
- Bonnie Valley, Art, Monona Grove High School
- Madonna Wendt, Physical Education, Cottage Grove School

Thanks to Our 2016 Donors

Professor (\$500 +)

Boardman & Clark, LLP^, Dean & Ann Bowles, Richard Brandt, Chad's Design Build^, Pamela Kelly Davis, Door Creek Golf Course^, Susan & Michael Fox^, Klinke Cleaners^, Madison Gas & Electric Foundation^, Susan & Bradley Manning^, McKinstry Essention, LLC^, Monona State Bank^, James Neupert, Mary O'Connor* & Bob Bocher, PMA Financial^, Total Care Dental^, John* & Lynda Weinberger, Laura Zeman-Mullen, Dave & Sandy Zweifel^

Fellow (\$250 to \$499)

Anytime Fitness^, David & Jane* Beebe, Donald & Catherine Bernards, William S. Cole LLC^, Construction Business Group^, Sandy Fulbright, Generations Title Company, LLC^, Ken's Meats & Deli^, Dennis & Nancy Kugle, Jason* & Linda McCutchin, Monona Elementary PTO, Monona Grove Business Men's Association^, Murphy Desmond LLC^, Keri Robbins*, C.G. Schmidt Construction^, Ann Schroeder & Stephen Gasser, Schuster's Playtime Farm, Inc.^, Wisconsin Bank & Trust^

Scholar (\$100 to \$249)

Jack Anderson, Carol** & Fred Appleton, Bank of Sun Prairie^, Carol & Loren Berge, Sue Carr*, Margaret Clark, Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, Craig Culver^, Sarah Dunn, J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc.^,

Brenda Haskins, Stacey Keller, Jay Kiefer*, Jon Knoll, Raymond & Carol Krizmanic, Judy Mahr, David Massey, Gordon** & Janet McChesney, Pamela Meicher, Mojo Foods, Inc.^, Monona Motors, Inc.^, Jerald & Ann Nelson, Kenton Oren, Michael Ori, Craig & Amy Reed, Clay Russell, SKJ, Inc.^, Robert & Barbara Schlaefer, Richard & Pamela Severson, Lynne Stevens, Kurt & Nicole Studt, Summit Credit Union^, Dorothy Traisman, Jane & Michael Walker, Christine Whelley, Reed & Leanne Widen, Ed* & Nancy Young^, Betsy Zadra

Other (Under \$100)

John Anderson, Robert Bean, Judith Bodden, Glen Bolt, Kim Daggett, Margaret Dean, Philip Friedlund, Bob Gonzalez, Haskins Short LLC^, Carole Keller, Victoria Kinsler, Marisca Lee, Douglas Leslie, Genene Lynott, Joe Mazzara, Kevin Mikelbank, Kim Miller & Thom Evans, Philip & Holly Mirell, Mark Moore, Mr. Brews Taphouse, LLC^, Lynn Nelson, The Noot Team Realtors^, Sarah Payton, Nathan Punswick, JoJean Retrum, Jane Ring, Marlene Ross, Alan & Jill Runde, Jen Smith, William Sommers, Jay Stassi, Taylor Prairie School, Kathy Thomas, Janis Tupesis, Tom Vetter Agency^, Susan Vogel, John & Jean Williams, Darlene Woldt, Douglas Wood

(^2016 Gala Sponsors/Donors, *MGEF Board Members, **Emeritus MGEF Board Members)

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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.

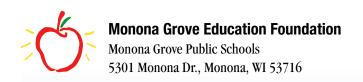


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Planning a move? Don't forget to let us know. Your class doesn't want to lose you!

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 2	49 "Other" - under \$100
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Make checks payable to: **Monona Grove Education Foundation** or provide credit card information as indicated.

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

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