

TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2020

In This Issue

- First Annual Great Golf Ball Drop A Success
- Golf Ball Drop Sponsors
- Staff/Alumni Passages
- New Elementary School in Cottage Grove
- Reunions
- Alumni News
- Foundation Announces Pay it Forward
- 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

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

First Annual Great Golf Ball Drop a Success

Due to the pandemic, MGEF was not able to hold its annual Celebration fundraiser in 2020. Instead the Foundation decided to try a new, socially-distanced fundraiser.

All eyes were on the sky on Saturday, October 10, as 400 golf balls were released from 75 feet in the air at the top of the Village of Cottage Grove ladder truck. The balls were vying to be one of the 13 balls closest — or one ball furthest — to the hole below in hopes of winning one of 14 different cash prizes as part of the First Annual Great Golf Ball drop.

Even though more than \$4,000 in prizes was paid out, the MGEF was able to successfully raise more than \$16,000 to support the new Pay It Forward fund. Funds were raised through golf ball sales at \$25 each, as well as the support of nearly 35 community sponsors.

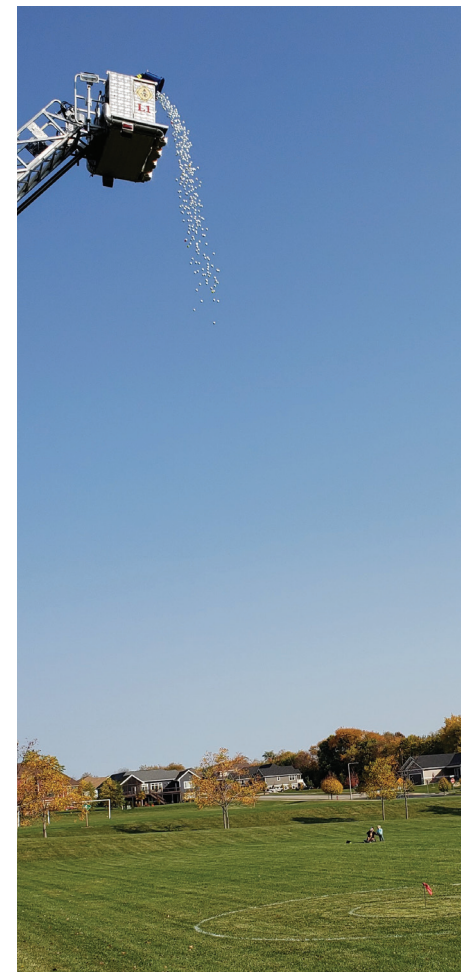
Pay It Forward is a new program designed to provide extra support to Monona Grove students struggling with food stability or clothing; and those needing additional tutoring programs and/or assistance with virtual learning and mental health programs. Families in need should reach out directly to student services staff at their respective schools for information on how to apply for support.

The MGEF would like to extend a special thanks to the event sponsors, the Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department, and the MGHS A/V club for making the event a success. To donate to the Pay It Forward fund, visit www.supportmgef.org.

The Monona Grove Education Foundation supports the Monona Grove School District in pushing the boundaries of curricular and extracurricular activities throughout the District, working with teachers and staff to promote an innovative, well-rounded education inside and outside of the classroom.



MGEF board members determine balls closest to the pin.



Balls drop from Cottage Grove ladder truck.

2020 Great Golf Ball Drop Sponsors

MGEF would like to thank all of the sponsors of the 2020 MGEF Great Golf Ball Drop. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Silver Eagle Sponsor – Monona Bank

Gold Sponsors – Atty William S. Cole (Axley Brynelson), Door Creek Golf Course, Findorff & Son, Inc., Judy & Richard Fritz, Homburg Companies, McKinstry, Slinde Realty, Tom Stolper, Summit Credit Union, Your Heart's Content

Silver Sponsors – Bank of Sun Prairie, Culver's of Cottage Grove, Culver's on Cottage Grove Road, Michael & Susan Fox, Ken's Meats & Deli, Bradley & Susan Manning, Dean & Ann Bowles, Monona Grove Business Men's Association, Monona Motors, New Tech Sanitize, Mary O'Connor & Robert Bocher, Kellie Unke – Stark Realtors, Van Holten's Pickles



Bronze Sponsors – April Carlisle Agency, Craig Culver, Buck & Honey's Monona, Evolution Body Formation, Flanders Electric, Doug Gehrke, Landmark Coop, Jason & Linda McCutchin, Metcalfe Markets, PMA Financial Network, Schommer's Piggly Wiggly, Silver Eagle Bar & Grill, Ed Young

Eaglet Sponsors – Steve & Julie Byrnes, Papa Jimmy's, Melissa Ratcliffe, Tom Vetter Agency

Staff/Alumni Passages

- **Janice Dunn**, Madison, WI passed away at home on November 24, 2020. She worked as a teacher's aide and secretary at Nichols and Winnequah Schools, retiring in 1994.
- **George "Dutch" Durnford**, passed away on November 25, 2020 in Madison, WI. He taught economics and social studies at MGHS for 26 years, chairing the Social Studies Department for over 20 of those years. He also coached track, served as a state pole vault judge for 26 years and started the MG hockey program. Dutch enjoyed his students and always ended the class period by saying "be good to each other".
- **Mary Catherine (Gardner) Little**, Verona, WI passed away on June 12, 2020 after a courageous 16 year battle with metastatic breast cancer. She was a former English teacher in the Monona Grove School District.
- **Ronald J. "Ron" Nieman**, Sun Prairie, passed away on November 3, 2020 in Madison, WI. He served as vice-principal at Monona Grove High School in the early 1980's.
- **Sylvia J. Reinholdt**, Stevens Point, passed away on May 18, 2020 at North Crest Assisted Living in Stevens Point. The mother of five MG grads, she worked at Nichols School for several years as an instructional aide.
- **Robert Arthur Ristau**, Stoughton, passed away on September 12, 2020. He taught Business Education and coached cross country at MGHS from 1955-1960. His MG team won the state cross country championship in 1959.
- **Debra (Sinacore) Robertson**, Cottage Grove, passed away on July 10, 2020. She worked as an educational assistant for the Monona Grove Schools.
- **Ronald Wally "Ron" Siewert**, Madison, passed away on May 16, 2020. He worked as a custodian for the Monona Grove School District from 1970 until he retired in 2002. At the time of his retirement, he was the head custodian at the high school.
- **Stanley Charles "Stan" Walz**, Portage, passed away on November 7, 2020 at the age of 95. He taught middle school general and life science starting at Nichols School and then at Winnequah School when it opened in 1963 until his retirement in 1990.
- **David Elver Ellestad**, Class of 1958, Sun Prairie, WI, passed away on September 16, 2020.
- **Ann (Kasperek) Joachim**, Class of 1958, Madison, WI, passed away on July 9, 2020.
- **Richard K. Nelson**, Class of 1959, Sitka, AK passed away on Nov. 4, 2019 after a long fight with cancer. He is survived by his older brother, David Nelson. Richard, known to many as Nels, left a wonderful legacy of his many books and more than 100 radio programs that he produced in Alaska. Alumni may be interested in hearing some of his wonderful 30 min. natural history programs about Alaska and Australia. To listen, visit EncountersNorth.org. Nels fondly remembered his time growing up near Madison and attending school at Monona Grove and the University of Wisconsin, where he received his Masters Degree in Anthropology. He went on to receive his PHD in Anthropology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His work and books focused on the study of Indigenous people in Alaska and their fascinating cultures.
- **Ruth Alma (Breiby) Koskela**, Class of 1960, Stoughton, WI, passed away on November 11, 2020. She was an Episcopal priest and also worked as a teacher for many years.
- **Lloyd Dresen**, Class of 1961, Holmen, WI died of cancer on November 22, 2020.
- **Susann "Suzy" (Schaffer) Griffiths**, Class of 1962, Madison, WI, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 26, 2020.
- **Franklin F. Meyers**, Class of 1962, Richardson, TX recently passed away.
- **Norma Olson**, Class of 1962, Minneapolis, MN, passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2020 after suffering a massive heart attack.
- **Richard James "Rick" DeLacy**, Class of 1964, Rockford, IL, passed away on September 23, 2020.
- **Suzanne Lee "Sue" (Tetzlaff) Gill**, Class of 1964, Madison, WI passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on October 14, 2020.
- **Thomas R. "Tom" Jerisha**, Class of 1964, Onalaska, WI, passed away on November 22, 2020 at the Onalaska Care Center.
- **Timothy F. "Tim" Mason**, Class of 1964, Madison, passed away on August 27, 2020.

- **Jean (Mather) Frank**, Class of 1965, Gillett, WI passed away on September 13, 2020. She attended MGHS before graduating from LaFollette.
- **Linda (Scheer) Borchardt**, Class of 1966, McFarland, WI passed away on November 22, 2020 at Meriter Hospital.
- **Vaughn F. Friday**, Class of 1967 Madison, WI passed away on November 13, 2020 at Crossroads Care in Mayville. In 1999, he was left with life-threatening injuries after a serious auto accident. Although he was wheelchair bound for the remainder of his life, he was determined to survive and did so by following a strict routine to keep his mind and body alert.
- **Patricia "Patti" (Steil) Collins**, Class of 1970, Cranston, RI, passed away at her home surrounded by her husband and two daughters on July 8, 2020.
- **Stephanie Joy (Graham) Lunning**, Class of 1970, Minneapolis, MN passed away on October 18, 2020 surrounded by her family.
- **Patrick A. Essie**, Class of 1971, Middleton, WI passed away on July 30, 2020 at his home.
- **Jean Denise (Bronson) Kossow**, Class of 1971, Madison, passed away at her home surrounded by her family on June 20, 2020.
- **Jetta Lea (Trickey) Roberts**, Class of 1972, Middleton, WI passed away peacefully on November 7, 2020.
- **Christine J. Thompson**, Class of 1973, Madison, WI passed away on October 23, 2020 at Agrace HospiceCare.
- **Suzanne Rose (Smieja) Clark**, Class of 1974, Phoenix, AZ, passed away on August 4, 2020.
- **Michael J. "Mike" Fosso**, Class of 1974, Thousand Oaks, CA, passed away unexpectedly at his home on August 20, 2020.
- **Nancee Jean Herheim**, Class of 1974, De Forest, WI, passed away on September 24, 2020 at Agrace HospiceCare.
- **Anthony James "Tony" Warczak**, Class of 1974, Monona, WI, passed away in the early morning hours of July 20, 2020 at UW Hospital and Clinics with his loving family at his side.
- **Dale Keith Tierney**, Class of 1975, Madison, WI passed away on August 18, 2020. He had attended MGHS prior to graduating from La Follette High School.
- **Shari Ann Rank**, Class of 1976, Monona, WI, passed away on July 2, 2020 at her home in Monona.
- **Roger Allen Gausmann**, Class of 1977, La Crosse, WI, passed away on November 10, 2020.
- **LeEllen M. "Lee" (Hardin) Jordan**, Class of 1978, Oregon, WI, passed away November 16, 2020 at Jefferson Memory Care.
- **Jeffrey Dean McCulloch**, Class of 1979, Madison, WI, passed away on November 9, 2020 due to heart disease and complications from diabetes.
- **Dennis Robert Baumann**, Class of 1980, Ridgeway, WI passed away on October 1, 2020. He was an elementary school teacher and a member of the WIAA Officials Association for over 30 years, officiating both basketball and football.
- **Donna (Jenkins) Wantrobski**, Class of 1980, Byron, IL, passed away at home on November 5, 2020.
- **Derald William "Rusty" Smedegard**, Class of 1981, Waunakee, WI passed away at his home on October 6, 2020.
- **Jeffrey Scott Nyenhuis**, Class of 1982, Monona, WI passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on September 21, 2020. While at MG, he received the basketball Defensive Player of the Year Award.
- **Patrick J. "Pat Man" Seeliger**, Class of 1983, Madison, WI passed away on November 9, 2020. He attended Monona Grove H.S. and graduated from McFarland High School in 1983.
- **Shannon Beale**, Class of 1999, Monona, WI, passed away on November 11, 2020.
- **Dustin Alan Hayden**, Class of 2002, Madison, passed away on October 3, 2020.
- **Dominic José Ochoa**, Class of 2022, passed away on August 20, 2020. He had been a student at Monona Grove until a recent move to Miami, Florida.

New Elementary School in Cottage Grove

By Katy Byrnes Kaiser, Monona Grove School District

Construction on the new elementary school in Cottage Grove is on track and moving along well. Windows and roofing are being installed, and the steel that makes up the front entryway. The main structure was completed in October which has allowed for interior work to begin. Before the year is through, work will start on the inside with painting, finishes, and case-work starting in December.

After months of research and community input, the school board unanimously approved naming the new school, Granite Ridge School, at their August 13 meeting as recommended by the naming committee. The School Naming Committee was made up of board members, teachers, staff, and community members who were tasked with recommending a name that represented the community. This name is a nod to the Wisconsin state rock and the elevations of the new school site.

Renovations are also taking place to some existing schools district wide with phase one of the renovations complete. Winnequah's all-new IMC features open spaces, a makerspace and reading nooks. The music room has new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. New windows have been installed

and will continue to bring in a great deal of natural light for students. The renovations to expand the cafeteria and server space at Glacial Drumlin School are also complete. These renovations not only will provide more space for students but will also allow for a better flow during lunch periods. All construction and renovations are scheduled to be completed by fall 2021.

For more information, head to mononagrove.org.



MG district administrators tour the Granite Ridge building site in August.

Reunions

Class of 1970, "50 + 1 Reunion"

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the MG Class of 1970 has opted to reschedule their Class Reunion to August 6-7, 2021, making it a "50 + 1 Reunion". They are hoping for a fantastic turnout next year. If there are classmates who need to update their contact information or have questions, please contact Barb Zamzow Franzen at mononagrove-1970@hotmail.com.

Alumni News

- **Sue (Garey) Chenier**, Class of 1967, reports that after “spending all my life living in the Madison area and teaching for 28 years at Cottage Grove School we sold our house of 41 years and are moving to Arizona. I am leaving many great friends and family. We’re really looking forward to a new chapter in our lives. We plan on returning to Wisconsin for a few months each summer. My theme song is “On the Road Again”.
- **Chris (Buehner) Hetzel**, Class of 1967, Waunakee, WI retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year after 49 years in education as a teacher, coach and administrator. During her career, she taught French and physical education beginning in the Monona Grove School district for a year, and then at Southern Door High School in Brussels for three years. That was followed by 45 years in Waunakee where she initially taught at Waunakee Elementary and later became principal there. She retired as principal of Waunakee Intermediate School. A high school athlete herself, she coached volleyball, basketball, track and gymnastics over the years.
- **Jeffrey and Terrie (Randall) Kerzner**, both Class of 1969, Bozeman, MT, report that “We have sold our home in Montana and have moved into a fifth wheel with our golden retriever, Layla. Our plan is to travel the United States for the next year.”
- **David Hargraves**, Class of 1979, Nags Head, NC, was a member of Monona Grove’s first boys swim team, graduating with school records in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 yard freestyle. He went on to swim at Northern Michigan University where he was an All-American, until the school dropped the sport. He then swam for UW-Madison, graduating in 1984. After sustaining a serious back injury and receiving successful treatment from a chiropractor, he decided to become one himself, graduating from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa in 2000. Most of his chiropractic career has been spent in North Carolina.
- **Command Sg. Maj. Kerry McAllen**, Class of 1990, Madison, WI, recently retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after 31 years of service.
- **Shawna (Traver) Dees**, Class of 1996, Roseville, MN reports that “I recently got married! We had a “pandemic” wedding on April 29, 2020, with just my husband and his two children. We had a great time!
- **Chad Wurth**, Class of 1999, Madison, WI, went on to star for the UW-Whitewater football team after his successful career at Monona Grove, graduating in 2004. After working briefly as a social studies teacher, Wurth took a position as a sales representative for West Law. While on a business trip in 2016, he suffered a traumatic brain injury after an accidental fall. Following a long period of rehabilitation, Wurth decided to give back by volunteering to work with disabled veterans at the VA hospital in Madison. After nine months, he was offered a paid position at the hospital where he continues to work with veterans today.
- **Shane Kieler**, Class of 2006, Madison, WI has started his own wealth management practice called Monona Partners. He is happily married with two children.
- **Lauren Homburg**, Class of 2007, Monona, WI is a singer and songwriter who performs professionally as Lo Marie. After graduating from Vanderbilt University, with degrees in Voice and Economics, she began a career as a performing artist. Homburg recently won five awards at the 2020 Madison Area Music Association Awards including artist of the year, best female vocalist, jazz performer of the year, pop/R&B album of the year and pop/R&B song of the year.
- **Connor Stevens**, Class of 2011, starred on the College of St. Scholastica track and field team as a hurdler, relay runner and decathlete. He is now employed as the lead designer on plumbing projects for bath and kitchen remodels for the Kohler Company.
- **Tyler Blang**, Class of 2014, Raleigh, NC, graduated from UW-Platteville with a degree in civil engineering in 2019 and now works as a traffic engineer in Raleigh.
- **Collin Larsh**, Class of 2017, Madison, WI, is the starting place-kicker for the Wisconsin Badger football team.

Foundation Announces Pay It Forward Program

The Monona Grove Education Foundation is concerned about the growing number of students in need in the Monona Grove schools. In many cases, these students may require additional resources and support to help them achieve their full potential and a successful educational outcome. Students in need should not be hindered or impeded by a lack of resources available to them.

Following its mission of supporting and funding projects and programs that enhance student achievement and benefit all Monona Grove students, the foundation has established the Pay It Forward (PIF) program to assist our identified students in need. In cooperation with the school district, (PIF) is committed to assisting Monona Grove students in need who may require resources or services falling outside those provided by the district in its regular budgets and programs.

Four areas of assistance have been identified and will be used as criteria for PIF Assistance Grants available to District students in need:

Basic Human Necessities – Basic items needed for personal well-being, such as clothing, hygiene products, food security, or health care services.

Personal Safety & Security – A safe and secure environment outside of the classroom for study. Collaborate with the district to locate or make use of already existing programs available for students when necessary.

Mental Health – Relieve stress or anxiety stemming from a lack of basic resources or stability in the non-school environment. Work with organizations or agencies to locate or make use of existing programs available for students in need.

Tutoring and Mentoring – Tutoring for students not achieving at grade level expectations where assistance is inadequate or unavailable in their non-school environment; mentoring for additional guidance or assistance with exploration and planning for post secondary education opportunities.

Proceeds from the MGEF Great Golf Ball Drop are designated to help fund the project for the first year. Please consider making an individual contribution to PIF at our website – www.supportmgef.org/givenow.

We've Recently Received *Greetings!* From:

Gayle (Olson) Huston, Class of 1959, Cottage Grove, WI
Karen (Felland) Wenger, Class of 1959, Madison, WI
Michael "Mike" Sullivan, Class of 1964, DeLand, FL
Craig Rider, Class of 1965, Germantown, WI
Bruce Verhelst, Class of 1965, Madison, WI
Mary (Steil) Schaefer, Class of 1966, Edgerton, WI
Steven Badeau, Class of 1969, Palm Springs, CA
Barb (Zamzow) Franzen, Class of 1970, Hudson, WI
Kathleen (Virnig) "Kathy" Siewert, Class of 1970, Madison, WI
Thomas Mecum, Class of 1972, Stoughton, WI
Kristin (von Meeteren) Newman, Class of 1974, Fort Pierce, FL
Kristi (Jacobson) Massey, Class of 1975, Cottage Grove, WI
David Presny, Class of 1976, Arkdale, WI
Joan (Jambura) Scholz, Class of 1977, Cedarburg, WI

Sandy (Decker) Pelc, Class of 1978, McFarland, WI
Laura Bowles, Class of 1979, Madison, WI
Eric Korbitz, Class of 1979, Whitefish Bay, WI
Jane (DeBaal) Fuller, Class of 1980, Plano, TX
Georgia (Scovill) Waters, Class of 1980, Tempe, AZ
Patrick Wohlers, Class of 1982, Horicon, WI
Kelly Vinge, Class of 1986, McFarland, WI
Casey Sullivan, Class of 2000, Madison, WI
Michael VanGemert, Class of 2000, Oxford, MI
Kerry Creeron, Class of 2003, Chicago, IL
Alex Zwart, Class of 2007, Verona, WI
Jordan Her-Simonis, Class of 2009, Cottage Grove, WI
Alexandra Presny, Class of 2010, Milwaukee, WI

New Website!

Make sure to visit our new and improved site – www.supportmgef.org.

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 _____

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The Scoop: _____



Monona Grove Education Foundation

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



Remember to "like" us and stay connected on Facebook!

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If there are any errors, please email us at mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com or send us the label with your corrections.

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) _____

Phone (Daytime) _____

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 www.supportmgef.org/givenow

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