

# TRADITIONS

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](mailto:mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com)

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

## Monona Grove Schools Respond to Covid-19

*Katy Byrnes Kaiser, Monona Grove School District*

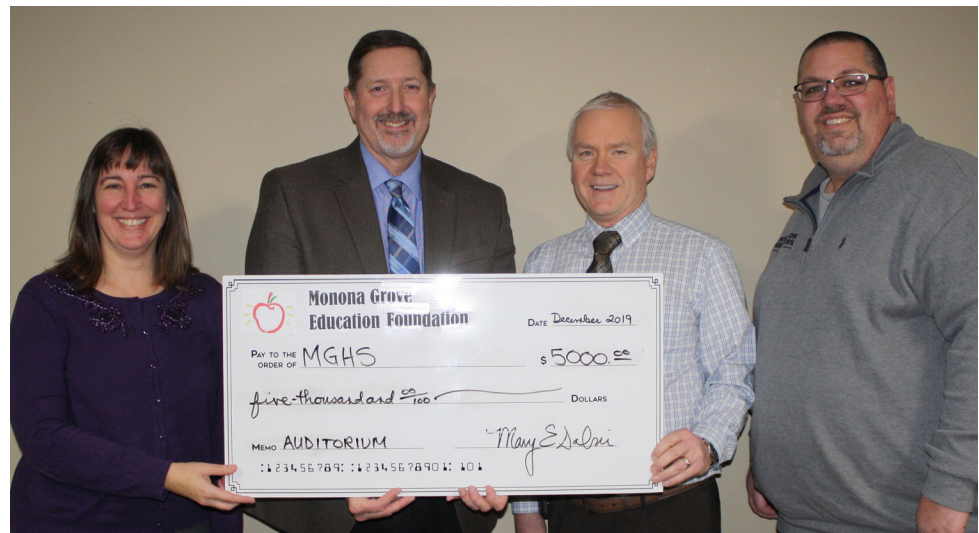
These are disorienting and difficult times for many of us, but schools have the opportunity to have a grounding effect for our students and families. In the cascade of canceled concerts, field trips, and milestones like prom and graduation during the spring of 2020, students and families were met with support of social emotional wellness as well as virtual at-home learning.

Like many schools across the state and nation, the teachers and staff at Monona Grove responded swiftly to the Covid-19 crisis. After organizing pick up of tablets and laptops, our staff provided thousands of free meals to the community, thousands of virtual, grade-level lessons for 4K-12, implemented virtual support and resources to families, organized food and supply drives for the community, scheduled countless video meetings with students, and more. "Our intention was for families to know they were not in this alone, and that we would continue to serve them in every way we could," said Superintendent Dan Olson. "I'm incredibly proud of our staff, families, and community for coming together and supporting each other."

**Virtual /at-home learning:** Participation and engagement in tasks assigned by teachers was expected. Students showed 'proof of learning' through their work product, not how many hours or minutes they sat in front of their device. Teachers and principals worked together with families to problem-solve any barriers.

**Graduation:** Our seniors and their families have worked incredibly hard and have looked forward to graduation for a long time. It is a major milestone, and one that we are used to sharing with extended family and friends. Public Health has said that graduation parades or drive-through graduations constitute a mass gathering and are in violation of their orders. Because of these orders and local guidance, this year's MGHS and MG21 graduation ceremonies were virtual. Students, teachers, and school administrators planned these virtual graduations as an opportunity to celebrate and worked hard to make it meaningful for students and families. Both MG21 and MGHS graduation ceremonies are available on the Monona Community Media YouTube channel.

Covid-19 is still with us and the Monona Grove School District is planning now for the 2020-21 year. More information and ongoing updates are available at <https://www.mononagrove.org/welcome/coronavirus.cfm>.



MGEF Board members **Keri Robbins** & **Jason McCutchin** present a contribution from an anonymous donor for the MGHS Auditorium to Supt. **Dan Olson** & MGHS Principal **Paul Brost**.



MGEF board members **Keri Robbins & John Weinberger** present a contribution to the MG Hockey program funded by **Dean & Ann Bowles**, to Business Services Director **Jerrud Rossing** & MGHS Principal **Paul Brost**.

## Ahearn Scholarship

### Ann Ahearn Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship

Ann Ahearn, was an MG parent who passed away due to cancer this spring. Ann was a positive advocate for equity for Monona Grove students. Her family has established a scholarship in her honor which will be administered by MGEF. Contributions funded the \$500 scholarship for 2020 with the remainder being used to seed an endowment fund for the scholarship going forward. Donations to the Ahearn fund may be made at the MGEF website – [www.supportmgef.org/givenow](http://www.supportmgef.org/givenow)

## Faculty/Staff News

**Cheryl Haugen**, Oregon, WI, passed away on January 9, 2020 at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg. A clinical nursing instructor, she taught bedside fundamentals classes to nursing assistant students, especially enjoying the groups from Monona Grove High School.

**Buddy Rogers**, Madison, passed away on November 15, 2019 at the age of 88. He began his teaching career at Monona Gove High School and went on to start the aviation program for the Madison School District.

**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.

**Thelma M. Tomlin**, Oro Valley, AZ, passed away on December 1, 2019 at the age of 95. She was a longtime employee of the Monona Grove School District, working in the office at the high school.

**Elaine Wanta**, Madison, passed away on December 11, 2019 at the age of 81. She worked for many years as a substitute teacher in the Monona Grove School District.

## Scholarships Awarded

In May, several members of the MG Class of 2020 received scholarships managed by MGEF. Scholarships and their recipients included:

Ahearn Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship (\$500)

– **Jacob Fisher**

McCullough Family Technology Scholarship (\$500)

– **Taylor Schroeckenthaler**

Neuhauser Family Scholarship (\$500)

– **Ethan Frydenlund**

Klement Track & Field Award (Boy) (\$500) – **Jacob Fisher**

Klement Track & Field Award (Girl) (\$500) – **Megan Hoberg**

Erik Berg Memorial (\$400) – **Devin Bilder**

Erik Berg Memorial (\$400) – **Mason Vaughan**

Keith Sorenson Memorial Scholarship (Girl) (\$500) – **Jade Haase**

Keith Sorenson Memorial Scholarship (Boy) (\$500)

– **Will Schreiner**

Gordon & Janet McChesney Scholarship (\$750)

– **Isabella Brandmeier**

Wilma (Johnson) Bernards Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

– **Dorothy Truman-Yadon**

## Reunions

### Class of 1961, 59th Reunion

The Monona Grove Class of 1961 will hold their 59th reunion on Friday, Sept 11, 2020 at 12:00. Lunch will be at Tully's II in their outside beer garden at 6401 Monona Drive, Monona. Attendees will order off the menu. Please RSVP to: Sharon-Kleven Nikolaisen @ 608-445-1996 or [biker43babe@gmail.com](mailto:biker43babe@gmail.com) if you plan to be there.

### Class of 1975, 45th Reunion-Postponed

Monona Grove High School's Class of 1975 regrets to announce that their 45th reunion will be postponed until 2021. Due to the uncertainties at the present time, we will look forward to a gathering of our classmates at Village Lanes, 208 Owen Road in Monona on July 30, 2021. Please contact Margaret (Mitchell) McFarlane at [mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com](mailto:mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com) with questions or look for us on Facebook- MG Class of 1975.

## 2020 Celebration!

Unfortunately, we can't come together to celebrate our teachers and MGEF grant recipients as we have in the past due to COVID-19. However we will find a new way to celebrate on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Check our website - [www.supportmgef.org](http://www.supportmgef.org) - in coming months for details.

# Thanks to our 2019 Donors

## Professor (\$500 +)

Anonymous, Axley^, Boardman Clark^, Dean\* & Ann Bowles^, Dunner's Lawn Service^, Eppstein Uhen Architects^, Findorff Builders^, Richard & Judy Fritz^, Melissa Kansa, Jeffrey & Lawren Kunz, MG & E Foundation^, Gordon\*\* & Janet McChesney, Bradley & Susan Manning^, McKinstry^, Monona Bank^, Monona Optimists Club, James Neupert, Mary O'Connor^\* & Robert Bocher, TDS Telcom^, UW Credit Union^

## Fellow (\$250 to \$499)

Aswegan Charitable Gift Fund, Jane\* & David Beebe^, Don & Catherine Bernards, Coon's Nest (Culver's in Cottage Grove)^, Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce^, Michael & Susan Fox^, Gronski Family Charitable Foundation, Hoey Apothecary^, Ken's Meats & Deli^, Jason\* & Linda McCutchin^, Metcalfe's Market^, Steve & Meryl Mixtacki, Monona Grove Business Men's Association, Monona Motors^, Nancy Moore^, Murphy Desmond^, Mike Robinson^

## Scholar (\$100 to \$249)

Elizabeth Althaus, Jack Anderson, Fred & Carol Appleton\*\*, Bank of Sun Prairie^, Bill Weber, Jr. Homes^, Laura Bowles^, Lavern & Patricia Breunig, Gunderson Funeral Home^, Paul & Tanya Haase, Elizabeth Haynes & Allen Rifkin, Chris Homburg, T. J. Keegstra^, Kellie Unke Real Estate^, Andrew\* & Laura Kitslaar, Ray & Carol Krizmanic, Dennis & Nancy\* Kugle^, MOJO Foods (Culver's, Cottage Grove Road)^, Pamela Meicher, Jerald & Ann Nelson, Tina Neupert, Brian & Mona Ottum, PMA Financial Network^, Prairie Grove Orthodontics, Paul & Diane Richards, John & Mary Rowe, Clayton Russell, Bert & Leslie Slinde, Kurt & Nicole Studt, Dorothy Traisman, Robert Vajgrt^, Elizabeth Van Ness, John\* & Lynda Weinberger^

## Other (Under \$100)

Teresa Adams, Angelo's Monona^, Benevity, Allen & Judith Bodden^, Kathy Bultman^, Steve & Julie Byrnes^, Joyce Chern, Richard Dahmen^, Margaret Dean & Thomas Wukitsch, Thom Evans & Kim Miller, Philip Friedlund, Ryan & Tracy Gibbons, Paul & Tanya Haase, Dennis & Sandra Haugen, Andrew & Sandy\* Homburg^, Karas Dental^, Carole Keller, Jay Kiefer\*^, Shane & Minnie Kieler, Victoria Kinsler, John & Pam Kitslaar, Jon Knoll, Michael & Kristi Mikalsen, Nadine Nehls & Jeffrey Grossman, Melissa Ratcliffe^, Judy Runk^\*, Lenora & Steven Saffian, Mary Salvi\*^, John & Jean Shield, Dr. Virgil & Gloria Simley, Samantha Skenandore, William Sommers, Kathryn Thomas\*, Tom Vetter Agency^, Frank & Michele Vaughan

(^2019 Gala Sponsors/Donors, \*MGEF Board Members, \*\*Emeritus MGEF Board Members)

## MGEF Teacher Grants

MGEF approved seven grants totaling \$9,980 for the 2019-20 school year. Grant winners and their projects include:

- **Michelle Schaub** - \$805 (half of request) to fund Creative Common Learning Zone Walls at Glacial Drumlin
- **Fred Bartman** - \$975 for a mentor program at GDS
- **Erin Gelhausen** - \$2200 to cover four days at a national kindergarten conference. She will share what she's learned with teachers at both Winnequah and Taylor Prairie.

- **Jeff Otto** - \$1635 to fund a one day STEM related career camp at MGHS for female students who will be entering 7th or 8th grade.
- **Cara Collins** - \$2000 to bring in professional musicians to work with student jazz musicians at MGHS.
- **Jessica Schiltz (GDS) & Tanya Greene (MGHS)** - \$2365 to fund a Black Student Union Workshop



MGEF Board members **Andrew Kitslaar & Mary Salvi** present a donation for the Taylor Prairie Endowment Fund to Business Services Director **Jerrud Rossing & Supt. Dan Olson**.

## Retirements

Six Monona Grove School District employees retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

**Paul Brost** retired in June after serving as Principal at MGHS since 2004. He was named Wisconsin's Principal of the Year by the Department of Public Instruction and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators in 2015.

**Lora Cowell** retired from her position as a Library Media Specialist at the High School.

**Debra Goff**, Class of 1973, retired from her position as a Special Educational Assistant at the High School after 23 years with the district.

**Denise Scullion** retired from her position as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services at the District Office. She had served as support staff at several school district offices during her 27 years working for the Monona Grove School District.

**Michelle (Baxter) Swanson** Class of 1982, retired from her position as an At-Risk Teacher at the High School after 27 years.

**Virginia Walsh** retired as Head Custodian at Taylor Prairie School. She had worked for the Monona Grove School District for 28 years.



MGEF Board Members **Jane Beebe, Sandy Homburg, John Weinberger & Kathy Bultman** present a contribution from an anonymous donor for the MG Band Program to Supt. **Dan Olson** and MGHS Band Director **Cara Collins**.

# Alumni News

- **Thomas Phillip Alery**, Class of 1958, Blue Mounds, died peacefully at Agrace Hospice Care on November 25, 2019.
- **James Thomas “Jim” Hanson**, Class of 1958, Stoughton, passed away on February 8, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer at Mercy Hospital in Janesville.
- **Tara Lee Auringer**, Class of 1959, Monona, passed away on Thursday, February 27, 2020 after a long bout with COPD. She was an internationally acclaimed dancer, actress, singer and teacher.
- **Joyce Ann (Brandt) Kosbau**, Class of 1959, Cottage Grove, passed away peacefully at home on May 29, 2020 following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.
- **Patrick James “Pat” Ryan**, Class of 1959, Madison, passed away on February 3, 2020. While at MGHS, Pat excelled in track and field and football. He was the Badger Conference champion in the discus and 100-yard dash and scored the first touchdown in Monona Grove High School football history.
- **Ralph E. Malec**, Class of 1960, Madison, passed away peacefully at his home on December 10, 2019.
- **Frederick Douglass “Doug” Olson**, Class of 1960, Madison, passed away on March 16, 2020 at Ingleside Manor.
- **Janice Jan” Johnson Friedl**, Class of 1961, Fitchburg, WI, passed away on May 29, 2020.
- **Stanley Alfred Salverson**, Class of 1961, McFarland, WI, passed away on February 2, 2020.
- **Charles Richard “Chuck” Terasa**, Class of 1963, West Bend, passed away in Milwaukee on May 5, 2020 after a short, hard-fought battle with an internal infection.
- **Paulette “Polly” (Mender) Marshall**, Class of 1964, Littleton, CO reports that she “has been completely retired for four years with 32 yrs in the Federal Govt and 20 years in health service at Meriter Hospital in Madison and an assisted living facility in Denver. She is 73 years old, in good health, and now lives in Littleton, CO, with her husband of 42 years and likes living near her daughter. She goes to Silver Sneakers exercise class twice a week, volunteers at a cat rescue, and enjoys going on tours and to great places in Colorado through the recreation center. She likes making crafts, sewing, cooking and baking, and reads lots of books.”
- **Michael Alan “Mike” Duane**, Class of 1965, Pensacola, FL passed away in January, 2020 due to complications from a stroke.
- **Jeffrey D. “Jeff” Russell**, Class of 1965, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away on May 11, 2020 after an almost five-year battle with pancreatic cancer. His brother, **Clay Russell**, Class of 1962, would like to thank three of Jeff’s classmates from Nichols and MG, **John Dent**, **Jim Bucko** and **John Vogel** for reaching out to him by phone and reminiscing with him.
- **Jean (Chaplitski) Stephany**, Class of 1966, Baraboo, WI passed away on May 23, 2012.
- **Rodger James Wills**, Class of 1966, Sun City, AZ passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 2019, apparently due to influenza.
- **Susan (Roeder) Brunsell**, Class of 1970, Madison, passed away on January 3, 2020 after a ten year battle with CADASIL.
- **Randall “Randy” Skiles**, Class of 1970, Oregon, WI passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 28, 2020.
- **Hans Edwin Slinde**, Class of 1970, Oregon, WI passed away on April 2, 2020.
- **Steven Leslie “Bo” Bates**, Class of 1971, Cottage Grove, passed away on May 13, 2020.
- **Barb (Davidson) Hyder**, Class of 1971, St. Charles, MO, reports that “after membership with Sweet Adeline’s Int’l for 39 years I have been appointed Director of the City Voices chorus in Town Country, MO.”
- **Daniel Mark “Dan” Galvin**, Class of 1972, Madison, passed away on April 27, 2020 after a lengthy illness.
- **Harry Dean Keith**, Class of 1972, Fitchburg, passed away on March 17, 2020 at the William S. Middleton Veteran’s Hospital in Madison.
- **Richard B. “Rick” Reese**, Class of 1972, Cottage Grove, passed away on April 30, 2020 at Stoughton Hospital.
- **John Richard Evans**, Class of 1973, passed away on February 2, 2020 in Williamsburg, VA.
- **Dr. Susan Gregory**, Class of 73, Ypsilanti, MI, recently retired from Eastern Michigan University where she was Director of Technology Studies in the College of Engineering and Technology.
- **Nancy (Falk) Dunham**, Class of 1976, Madison, reports that her husband passed away suddenly on June 3, 2019. She started dialysis treatment for kidney failure shortly afterwards. Since then she has sold their home and moved to a senior apartment complex on the west side of Madison.
- **Robert Sweet**, Class of 1978, reports that “after 5 years in Edmond, OK I have moved to a new adventure as CFO at another private equity owned industrial technology company, Advanced Environment Monitoring with operations in US, Canada and Germany. Next stop to call home is TBD!”
- **Jeff Machut**, Class of 1979, Plover, WI reports that he is working at a Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.
- **James “Jim” Schlack**, Class of 1987, passed away unexpectedly on March 31, 2020.
- **Deborah Hughes**, Class of 1995, was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame late last year for her athletic accomplishments at Monona Grove. Hughes played varsity basketball and volleyball at MG. In her junior year, she helped MG finish second in the state basketball tournament. As a senior, her scoring average was 25.6 and she was selected to the All State second team as well as the All Academic first team. Hughes went on to earn all-conference honors at Elmhurst College. She then earned her doctorate in clinical psychology and currently resides in Arizona.
- **Jenifer “Jenni” Lippitt**, Class of 2006, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on March 27, 2020.
- **Cassandra Rose Bunders**, Class of 2008, Lake Mills, WI, passed away on May 7, 2020 at her home.

- **Noah Mennenga**, Class of 2015, Cottage Grove, graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Trumpet Performance. He is currently completing the first of two years of graduate study at the Hochschule Luzern in Lucerne, Switzerland as part of the Fulbright Scholarship Program. Upon the completion of his studies there, he'll graduate with a Master's in Music Performance.
- **McKenna Warnock**, Class of 2019, who finished her MG career as Wisconsin's 2019 Miss Basketball, recently completed her freshman year at the University of Iowa where she was named to the Big 10 All Freshman Team.



## New Website!

Sometime this summer, we'll be moving from our current website <https://www.mononagrove.org/welcome/education-foundation.cfm> to our new and improved site – [www.supportmgef.org](http://www.supportmgef.org).

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

- Betty (Salverson) Emmons**, Class of 1961, Leesburg, FL
- Kenneth "Ken" Rhodes**, Class of 1961, Verona, WI
- Sue (Garey) Chenier**, Class of 1967, DeForest, WI
- Patricia (Herbeck) Mayer**, Class of 1969, Mesa, AZ
- Donna (Gausmann) Niesen-Campbell**, Class of 1972, Stoughton, WI
- Theresa (Murray) Johnson**, Class of 1973, Sun Prairie, WI
- Margaret (Mitchell) McFarlane**, Class of 1975, Sauk City, WI
- Chris (Neuhauser) Percy**, Class of 1978, Madison, WI
- Eric Korbitz**, Class of 1979, Whitefish Bay, WI
- Jill Way**, Class of 2005, Madison, WI
- Travis Ottelien**, Class of 2009, Milwaukee, WI
- Weston Oasen**, Class of 2010, O'Fallon, MO
- Chelsea Knight**, Class of 2016, Nashville, TN

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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.



[mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com](mailto:mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com)



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Monona, WI 53716

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## Monona Grove Education Foundation

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

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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](http://www.supportmgef.org/givenow)

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