



Endowment Fund Donations

To be used for scholarships and other programs.

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

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Make check payable to:

Berlin High School Alumni Association
PO Box 267
Berlin, WI 54923

Can we include
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Donate online at
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Yes
 No

Website manager needed!

Applicants welcome: looking for a dedicated BHS alum who would be willing to donate their time to update our BHS Alumni Association website. Updates are minimal, but consistent throughout the school year. Web design background is a plus!



Email list manager needed!

Are you interested in volunteering to assist the BHS Alumni Association in growing connections with our alumni?

We are looking for someone who is knowledgeable and willing to enter email addresses into contact lists and to send out email blasts to all who wish to receive email notifications and updates.

BHS Alumni Association Foundation, Inc.
9453 Stone School Rd.
Omro, WI 54963

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If your address has changed, please e-mail your new address to dkirk3420@gmail.com in order to keep our BHS Alumni database current.

Look forward to something new in 2022!

The 151st annual BHS Alumni banquet will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2022.

This banquet will honor the 150th anniversary of the Alumni Association, 2020 and 2021 graduates, and alumni that missed their celebrations due to the pandemic. Alumni volunteers are welcome to serve on a committee to decide what this banquet should look like. Contact the Alumni Association via e-mail or Facebook messenger if you have ideas or want to assist with the planning.

The Echo is produced by The Red 'n' Green staff.

Find us on...

Facebook at

[BHS_Berlin_WI_AlumniAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/BHS_Berlin_WI_AlumniAssociation)



Berlin High School Alumni Association Board of Directors

President: Donna McMartin, 1990
Vice President: Amanda Toney, 1997
Secretary: Pat Grahn, 1976
Treasurer: Kathy Morris, 1966

Board Members: Judy Martin, 1960; Donna Kirk, 1961; Chris Kalupa, 1983; Ramona Miracle, 1961; Cindy Stobbe, 1975; Jodi Kalkis, 1983; Mandy Toney, 2003

Serve on the Board of Directors!
With Zoom, you don't even need to live in the Berlin area!



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!



Spring 2021
www.berlinalumni.org

Founded in 1871 Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

Happy 150th Anniversary to the BHS Alumni Association!

This year marks 161 years since Berlin High School was founded in 1860, 156 years since the first class graduated in 1865, and 150 years since its alumni association was established in 1871. The "Mascoutin" yearbook has been printed for 104 years, and the school paper "The Red 'n' Green" has been produced on a continual basis for 96 years. Over those years the high school has seen two buildings burn to the ground, a major tornado skip past its brick walls, and its doors closed twice due to a pandemic. The school has endured through the Civil War, the Great Depression, and two world wars.

Throughout the years, the school, its students and its staff have earned many plaques, trophies, awards, and accolades. Over 11,000 students have become alumni and gone on to make their mark in the world. All of this is a reflection of the spirit, determination, and perseverance of the students, teachers, and staff of Berlin High School as well as the alumni, school board, parents, families, and the residents of the Berlin area. In this sesquicentennial year of the Berlin High School Alumni Association, we can all be proud of both Berlin High School and its alumni association. Year after year, BHS produces outstanding graduates, and the BHS Alumni Association keeps them connected over the years.

The students, teachers, and even the buildings change, but the spirit of Berlin High School always remains and lives in all of us. The Alumni Association has helped to keep that spirit alive over the past 150 years, and it will continue to do so far into the future.

-Donna Petraszak McMartin, Class of 1990
BHS Alumni Association President, 2017-2021

Annual alumni banquet canceled

For 148 years the graduates of BHS gathered together in some way. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the 2020 and 2021 Alumni Association annual banquets were canceled. Although sad, this is only a short period of time in the 150-year history of the BHS Alumni Association.

In 2022, the Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to plan a large gathering for all alumni, especially those that missed their reunions due to the pandemic. Please notify the Association if you would like to help in the planning of this special celebration.

The classes of 2020 and 2021 became members of the Alumni Association even though they were not formally inducted at an alumni banquet. Louis Erb Sloan '95, who was to be the alumni banquet speaker last year, wrote to graduating seniors, "on behalf of the Alumni Association and the 25th Anniversary Class of 2020, I welcome you...we are proud to have you joining us as alumni."

The Association Board of Directors asks all classes to follow CDC guidelines if planning individual reunions. It also asks individual alumni take a turn and serve

on the board or committee of the Alumni Association as it continues into its 151st year.

Les Raszkowski '37, wrote in one of his class reunion booklets, "the annual alumni banquet and meeting holds a similar position in the length of time it takes for us to realize its importance and significance. We don't appreciate it half as much as the first few years out of school as we do many years later - sometimes, after we have moved so far that we cannot return for years to a reunion. Tradition? It's undefinable."

Alumni association offers honorary membership

Anyone who graduated from BHS or attended the school for three years is considered a member of the BHS Alumni Association. In the past, the Alumni Association has granted honorary memberships to teachers and principals who had worked for 15 years or longer at BHS.

This year the Alumni Board of Directors has changed the honorary membership to include teachers who have worked in the Berlin Area School District,

St. John's Lutheran School, or All Saints School for 25 years or longer.

Nomination forms to suggest a teacher or staff member for honorary membership in the BHS Alumni Association can be found on the Alumni Association website or by emailing a request for a form.

New honorary members will be announced each year in "The Echo" and honored at the annual alumni banquet.

Looking to the future...

After a century and a half of gathering BHS alumni together, the Alumni Association would like your ideas on what the future of the Alumni Association should look like. Do you still want an annual banquet, should it be moved off campus, would you like to see appetizers instead of dinner, should the time or date be changed?

Let us know your thoughts by e-mailing the Alumni Association at bhsalumniassociation50@gmail.com.
Want to be involved? Let us know?

Statement of Congratulations from Principal Bryant Bednarek

Bryant Bednarek, '03, is the first principal in the history of BHS to be an alumnus of the school.

This May, I am excited and honored to lead my first graduation as principal of Berlin High School as we celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the Class of 2021. It should also be acknowledged that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Berlin Alumni Association, making it the oldest active alumni association in Wisconsin. The Berlin Alumni Association's support of Berlin High School couldn't be possible without generations of generous alumni and volunteers. As the current principal, a fellow alumnus, and as a parent of current students in the district, I'm proud to be associated with Berlin High School and the Berlin Alumni Association. Congratulations on 150 years of support, and I hope I am around to celebrate the 200th!

New Teacher Innovative Learning Grant Program

In honor of the 150th Anniversary and to encourage academic achievement through financial support for enhanced learning and teaching, the Alumni Association would like to start offering grants to teachers in the Berlin Area School District. These grants could be used for teaching and learning tools and experiences that the normal budget might not cover. Over the next several months the Board of Directors will be working with the school district to establish these grants.

If you would like to make a donation to specifically support this new program please make a notation in the memo section of your check, or notify us when you make an online donation. Donations can be made online at www.berlinalumni.org or by mailing a check to BHS Alumni Association, PO Box 267, Berlin, WI 54923.

Highlights from The Red 'n' Green

Students serve as front line healthcare workers

By Lily Sonnentag, 2021

Being a frontline worker along with attending high school comes with a lot of responsibilities. Many of them go to school during the day and work as a front line healthcare worker at night as well as on the weekends.

Seniors Emily Goehring and Mikenna Prellwitz both work as front line workers at assisted living facilities where they are either a nursing assistant or a resident assistant.

"As a nursing assistant my job is to take care of the residents. This entails feeding them, changing them and pretty much doing anything for them," Goehring said.

As a frontline worker during a worldwide pandemic like COVID-19, they are required to take many precautions as they attend the residents.

"For a period of time we had to wear gowns, goggles, face shields, gloves and boots the

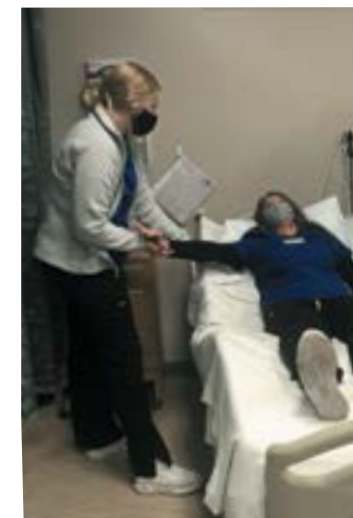


Photo: L. Sonnentag

whole shift. Every time you left a resident's room you had to change," Prellwitz said. "Even if you are just going in to get them water you have to change everything and it all goes in the garbage. With our goggles we are required to wipe them down each time."

Along with wearing protective gear in each resident's

Senior Corrin Ewald practices her CNA skills on her partner at one of the in-person classes. This was her last class before she graduated. "I really like my classmates and my partner. When we are virtual we listen to the instructor as she goes through a slideshow and we go over all the stuff we need to learn," Ewald said. "When we are in person we work with our partners and we practice all the skills on each other."

room, they are also required to get tested often depending on where they work.

"To be able to work we have to get tested every five days. We have the rapid test so we are able to get our results back within 15 minutes," Prellwitz said.

As frontline workers, their job never stops. Even if a resident is positive they still have to tend to them just as if they were negative.

"If they are negative we just wear the N-95 mask plus our other gear, but if they are positive we put a surgical mask over our N-95 mask as well," Goehring said.

Taking classes to become a nursing assistant or a resident assistant during a pandemic is not easy either. The class as a whole has a whole new look as it is different than previous years.

"Normally every class would be in-person and there would be a normal classroom setting such as a lab where they learn all of the techniques and then a clinical setting where they work with real patients, which we cannot do because of COVID-19," senior Corrin Ewald said. "This year half of the days are in-person and then the other half are virtual. When we are virtual we listen to the instructor as she goes through a slideshow and goes over all the stuff we need to learn. When we are in-person we work with our partners and we practice all the skills on each other."



April 30, 1997

'The Red 'n' Green' goes online

"The Red 'n' Green" made the decision to transition to an online paper full time. "We are going online to serve our readers better. Students in the 21st century expect quicker access to information and more frequently updated information," Adviser Shannon Kuehmichel said.

Find us at www.bhsrng.com



Scan here to go to "The Red 'n' Green."

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

By Pat Grahn, '76

It was suggested at the 1953 alumni banquet that the Alumni Association sponsor a scholarship to a deserving senior, and a scholarship program started the next year. This marked a change in the Alumni Association, who for 83 years had concentrated their efforts on getting the alumni together once a year and sometimes raising money for needed items at the school.

The first scholarship recipient was Virginia Lewis, '54 who received \$100. Lewis went on to earn a master's degree and became a high school chemistry teacher. In 1961, 1962, 1966, and 1968 the Association was unable to give scholarships, but they did give \$100 interest free loans. Starting in 1971, they were able to give more than one scholarship each year. Over the past several years the Alumni Association has awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Alumni Association ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2021.

Scholarship Donors

-Daniel & Tany Voetberg
-Rebecca Guden
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-Joyce Voeltner
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-Randy Behm
-Yvonne Firary
-Carol Burns
-Yvonne Claytor
-William Mathia
-David Harke
-Diane Klicka
-Jackie Wendt

Endowment Fund rewards seniors

The BHS Alumni Association Endowment Fund continues to grow and to be used to give graduating seniors a scholarship to assist with college tuition. In addition, it is used to fund "The Echo" newsletter. The Alumni Association would like to acknowledge that since 2009, our donations exceeded the costs for the scholarships and banquet. Thank you for helping to reward both past and present Berlin High School graduates.

The 2020 BHS Alumni Association Scholarship recipients, who received \$1,000:

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Amelia Buttke
Erin Carlson
Mya Chier
Preston Morgan
Carlie Streck
Brady Wagner

Thanks to the **Farmers & Merchants Bank** and to the **Fortifi Bank of Berlin** for underwriting the costs of postage for this newsletter. Also, thank you to the **Berlin Journal** for public relations support throughout the year.

Q & A:

with 2020 scholarship recipient Mya Chier '20

Red 'n' Green reporter Kaylee Olson

Q: Where do you attend college? What are you majoring in?

2020 scholarship recipient Mya Chier

A: "I go to Marquette University in Milwaukee, and I am majoring in biology."

Q: What does it mean to you to be part of the Berlin Alumni Association now?

A: "Being part of the Berlin Alumni Association means that I can help uphold the integrity of Berlin as a city and school. I really enjoy meaning something and being a part of the community in my hometown."

New book about history of BHS, Alumni Association now available

By Dave Ziemann, BHS History Teacher from 1963-1998, and honorary member of the Alumni Association since 1979.

Years of research and memory-searching have come together into a book that will be a must-read for Berlin High School alumni, teachers, and coaches along with parents and community members.

Pat Grahn '76 has brought together tons of information (the Sources and Acknowledgements sections list 89 references) to create a highly readable history of Berlin High School and the oldest alumni association in the state of Wisconsin.

Do you want to know when the Berlin football team defeated Ripon College? What the impact of the Civil War was on graduation class sizes? What the "Peptomist" was? When the first—or second—or third high school on Huron Street was built? Or stopped being used? Or why? Or the floor plans of some of those buildings? Or who were the principals starting in 1861? Or who were the Alumni Association officers starting 1871? Or the pur-

pose of dozens of student organizations? Or the history of the student dress codes?

And in the Tidbits section, do you remember those highlights from your years? Or were you part of them?

Or maybe your interest would be in present policies, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school life, and today's student activities.

That information along with over 220 photographs and 80 illustrations such as diplomas, homecoming tickets, graduation programs, maps and much, much more are found in this book.

"The History of Berlin High School and the Berlin High School Alumni Association" was written in honor of the 150th anniversary of the BHS Alumni Association. All proceeds from the sale of the book will support the Alumni Association scholarship fund and other alumni programs.

The books will be available on Amazon.com and locally at the Berlin Public Library, Goodrich's Home Furnishings, Violet & Company, and the Waushara Argus in Wautoma.



SCAN ME

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Alumni Association Timeline

- 1860 BHS established
- 1865 First class to graduate from BHS
- 1869 First high school built at 289 E. Huron St., burned 1901
- 1871 BHS Alumni Association formed, first gathering was a picnic at Rush Lake
- 1871 BHS Alumni Association formed, first gathering was a picnic at Rush Lake
- 1880 First formal alumni banquet & bylaws established
- 1880 First formal alumni banquet & bylaws established
- 1891 The Alumni Song was written by Franketa Dresser, '86
- 1891 The Alumni Song was written by Franketa Dresser, '86
- 1902 Second high school built at 289 E. Huron St., burned 1916
- 1902 Second high school built at 289 E. Huron St., burned 1916
- 1916 First school song
- 1916 First school song
- 1917 "Mascoutin" yearbook established
- 1917 "Mascoutin" yearbook established
- 1918 Third high school built at 289 E. Huron St., turned into a middle school 1996
- 1918 Third high school built at 289 E. Huron St., turned into a middle school 1996
- 1922 The second school song
- 1922 The second school song
- 1924 "The Red 'n' Green" school paper was founded
- 1924 "The Red 'n' Green" school paper was founded
- 1954 The current school song was written by Ann Arveson Dehn, '54
- 1954 The current school song was written by Ann Arveson Dehn, '54
- 1954 The Alumni Association scholarship program established
- 1954 The Alumni Association scholarship program established
- 1996 Last Alumni Banquet in the old high school building
- 1996 Last Alumni Banquet in the old high school building
- 1996 The fourth high school was built at 222 Memorial Drive
- 1996 The fourth high school was built at 222 Memorial Drive
- 2000 The Alumni Association newsletter "The Echo" was established
- 2000 The Alumni Association became a non-profit organization and the name changed to the Berlin High School Alumni Foundation, Inc.
- 2000 The Alumni Association became a non-profit organization and the name changed to the Berlin High School Alumni Foundation, Inc.
- 2021 150th anniversary of the BHS Alumni Association
- 2021 The idea of teacher grants

Created by Kaylee Olson

All proceeds of the new book will go to the Alumni Association scholarship fund and other alumni programs. The book was edited by Dave Ziemann, BHS History Teacher from 1963-1998, and cover photography by Mary Schultz Knasch, '66.

Danielle Bastian '96 chosen to represent 25 year reunion class

By Grace Hoffman, 2021

This year Danielle (Tindall) Bastian has been chosen as the 25-year class representative. Bastian's life after Berlin High School quickly led her back to the district as she has spent the past 20 years as a first grade teacher, second grade teacher, and fourth grade teacher at Clay Lamberton Elementary School.

In recent years, Bastian has worked as a Reading Intervention Teacher and Literacy Coach. This came after a return to UW-Oshkosh for a master's degree in educational leadership in 2011 and most recently, attending UW-Stout for her reading teacher certification in 2020.

While Bastian has extended her education and career, her family has also grown. Bastian is married to husband Craig and together they have a son, Logan. Her family has selflessly supported her as she continued her education.

"Both times I made the decision to go back to school, my family didn't hesitate to support me. Although it meant tuition



Photo: Catrina Burgess

costs and long hours of my nose buried in a book, my boys stepped in to pick up the slack around our home," Bastian said.

This supportive and loving family is something that Bastian is immensely proud of.

"Building the amazing family I have is what I consider my greatest achievement. Anyone who is a parent or a spouse knows the amount of work it takes to build and maintain those relationships. Without the love of my family, especially my husband Craig and my son Logan, I would not be where I am today," Bastian said.

In the past year Bastian has been faced with some of her most challenging moments. Being a teacher throughout the pandemic has been filled with challenging moments.

"To say the last year has been an interesting one in education is an understatement. After the challenge of returning to college again and becoming a reading teacher, the schools shut down due to COVID-19. I was crushed. Walking into school and finding hallways empty instead of filled with hundreds of students was an unwelcome shock," Bastian said.

Thinking back on her years at BHS, Bastian has realized how heavily her style as a teacher was influenced by those who have taught her.

"Not only did these teachers prepare me for college after graduation, they helped me define the type of teacher I wanted to be. I learned how to be tough, yet fair from Mrs. Voltner and her vicious red pen. I learned how to add the joy of music into my classroom from Mrs. Utecht. I learned how the power of a well-told story can create lasting memories from Mr. Knoke," Bastian said.

Message from Bastian to the class of '96:

"When we look in the mirror we probably have a little more 'wisdom' around our eyes or some 'sparkle' weaving through our hair. The greatest change in the time we've had since graduation are the different life experiences that have shaped our sense of self. I highly doubt any of us are exactly the same person who wore that red cap and gown back in 1996. And although there have been many things that have changed us, there is a bond that forever ties us together. It's the reason we see a classmate after years apart and can still strike up a conversation. It's why we hurt if we hear of a classmate gone far too soon. It's the love of a rare lasting friendship that has spanned the decades and continues today. We are forever the Berlin High School class of 96!"

Class of '71 thinks back on high school years

Class of '71

With the Alumni Association canceling the reunion banquet again this year, the Class of 1971 has yet to contact a member from their class to represent and speak to the 2021 graduation class, but someone will be appointed for next year's alumni banquet.

After graduation in 1971, many class members chose to further their education by attending college or tech school; some chose to enter the work field right away and some chose to enter the military with the Vietnam War still being fought.

These career paths led classmates to all directions of the continent including Canada where many still live today. They hopefully took with them many high school memories including the Friday night football games (including conference championships!), basketball games, dances after the games, congregating on the balcony above the cafeteria in the former building, the tramway connecting to the Lincoln building, girls only allowed to wear dresses to school and special permit parking if you needed to bring a vehicle to

school.

Each member of the class took with them a special memory which now can be remembered with a good laugh. The class has lost many members to accidents or illness and always honors them at their class reunions.

The Class of 1971 would like to congratulate the Berlin High School Class of 2021. We wish them a good, fulfilling life to come and to always be prepared to adapt to any changes that may come in their lives—it is all not perfect as this past year has proven.

How does it feel to be part of the BHS Alumni Association?

"It is an honor to be part of something that is so much bigger than me. It is cool to be part of history," senior Abby Werch said.

"It is really neat to be part of something so old and that so many people have taken part in. It is also cool to be in the class that is graduating in a milestone year," senior Mariah Wagner said.

Created by Kaylee Olson

Alumni host annual gatherings

Information taken from BHS history book

When the Alumni Association first started in 1871 the alumni got together for picnics and other informal gatherings. The first formal banquet appears to have been held in 1880. In the early years, the place that the banquet was held varied. The site of the present Whiting Hotel Apartments at 101 W. Huron Street, known over the years as the Dunham, Woodworth, and Bellis, was a popular location as well as the Library Opera House and Waverly Hall. Starting in 1918 the banquet was held in the high school gymnasium. Since 1997 the banquet has been held in the commons area of the current high school.

In 1881 the Alumni Association set the date for their annual reunion as the same week in June as the high school graduation ceremonies. In 1951 graduation was changed to Memorial Day weekend and since that time the banquet has been held on the Saturday evening of that weekend. In 2019 the date of graduation was changed to June, however, the Alumni Association banquet remained on the Saturday evening of Memorial Day weekend to provide adequate travel time for alumni to return to Berlin.

All BHS graduates were welcomed to attend the annual banquet. The 25th graduating class and the 50th graduating class provide the speakers for the evening. It has also been the tradition in Berlin that classes celebrating their five year rotation (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc.) hold their individual class reunion the same weekend as the alumni banquet.



Most early alumni gatherings were picnics. A more formal banquet started in 1880. This 1903 alumni banquet was held at Waverly Hall.

Alumna writes song

Information taken from BHS history book

The Alumni Association decided at their June 14, 1890 meeting to use the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" as the basis for an alumni song. A committee was appointed to "arrange the words and see to the publication." The words written by Franketa "Kittie" Dresser, '86, were approved at the business meeting following the June 19, 1891 banquet. It is unknown if the song was first sung then or at the following year's banquet on June 18, 1892. The song has been sung to end alumni banquets for over 100 years. In more recent years, the banquet has ended with the singing of the school song.

Alumni Song

By Franketa Dresser '86 Air, "Auld Lang Syne"

Again we meet, once more to greet
The friends of years gone by;
Once more as schoolmates now we sing,
As happy moments fly.

CHORUS—

O, those old days can ne'er return!
But at this season dear
We'll call them back to mind again,
While we are gathered here.

We'll clasp the hands of those who've come
To join our happy throng;
They're welcome, who have journeyed o'er
The path we trod so long.

CHORUS—

And ere we part, oh, give a thought
To meetings that are o'er,
To places vacant here tonight,
To faces seen no more.

CHORUS—