



Generally Speaking...

Grant High School Alumni Association / Winter 2025

Grant High School celebrates 100 years!



Centennial festivities kicked off a year ago in February 2024, a double-header basketball game was the focus. Our great men's and women's varsity basketball teams defeated their opponents and twelve new members of the athletic Hall of Fame were inducted. Special thanks to **Rocky Menashe Stilwell, '70**; **Joe Stilwell, '70**; **Colin McLean, '97**; and, [GrantGives](#) organization for their work on this event.

In March, education was the focus with an Open House offering tours of the school, information sessions, and a delightful concert from alumnus **Tom Grant, '64** and guest singer Marilyn Keller. A grand variety of alumni from the 1940s-2020s attended. Special thanks to **Marie Metke Westom, '01**; **Karyl Loback Whelan, '61**; **Teri Jones Geist, '69**; **Jody Meyer Ellis, '61**; and, **Christi Rollwage Knutson, '64** for spearheading this event.

May brought "A Sensational Century of Stardom," a spectacular production celebrating the performing arts. The show featured intriguing history through archival photos and dazzling performances from alumni and current students. Alumni spanning seven decades were involved in the show! Special thanks for appearances by former vocal music director **Doree Jarboe**, Congressman Earl Blumenauer and his daughter **Anne Blumenauer, '96**; pianist **Thomas Lauderdale, '88**; and, **Principal James McGee**. And a special thank you to former GHS theatre director **Bruce McDonald** for writing and directing this glamorous show. [Click here for a link to the production!](#)

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President's Letter



Fellow Grantonians,
What a year we just had! Congratulations to the Centennial Committee for a superior job! Special thanks go to **Chairperson Breanna PC Jackson, '04** and her committee: **Teri Jones Geist, '69;**

Mary Evans Nesmith, '06; Colin McLean, '97; Jody Meyer Ellis, '61; Brian Newkirk, '65; Rocky Menashe Stilwell, '70; Marie Metke Westom, '01; Karyl Loback Whelan, '61; and, **Bruce McDonald** for their work in all the successful events.

Ten athletes were inducted into the Grant Hall of Fame during half time of the February 6 home basketball game. The inductees are: **David Walker, '64; Ted Notos, '78; Daniel Devaney, '82; Russell Millage, '05; Jenny Lutton, '10; Sam Harquail, '17; Judith Baxter Game, '18; Phillip Quinton, '18; Kenji Lamden, '19;** and, **Doug Winn,** coach.

For those of you who are dues-paying members of the Alumni Association, your annual membership fee is due. Even though many pay their dues at the yearly picnic, membership in the Alumni Association is for January through December. The Association does not send out invoices as a reminder so we leave that up to each of you to remember. As you know, these dues allow us to support the school's many programs. Additionally, we provide a yearly scholarship to a GHS senior, and host the annual all-alumni picnic, which includes associated costs like permits, port-a-potties, and insurance coverage. Thank you all to our dues-paying alumni. We hope you continue to support us by once again paying your dues.

Jack Cain, '61, GHSAA President

Your alumni dues in action

Alumni dues play a crucial role in sustaining and enhancing various initiatives that contribute to the vibrancy of Grant High School. For example:

- **Annual All Alumni Picnic:** Your dues cover the expenses of our annual picnic, where alumni reconnect and reminisce. It has also become an easy location for classes to hold reunions.
- **Scholarship for graduating seniors:** We are proud to support the next generation of Grant High graduates by offering a \$5000 scholarship to an Oregon institution of higher learning.
- **Installation of historic hallway photos:** Preserving our shared history is a priority. Alumni dues contributed to the installation of historic hallway photos, so the legacy of GHS is visually celebrated for all who pass through its halls.
- **Support for Choral and Instrumental Music Departments:** Here we fuel the talents of GHS students by providing financial assistance to these departments. From instrument maintenance to performance support, your dues contribute to a vibrant musical culture at Grant.
- **Constitution Team contribution:** We also take pride in supporting academic excellence. Some alumni dues were directed toward the Constitution Team which fosters a commitment to civic education and critical thinking.
- **All Night Party donation:** Your contributions help to make the annual All Night Party a memorable and safe celebration for seniors.

Dues are due!

By paying dues, you contribute to the collective strength of our organization, which allows us to plan for the future, organize memorable events, and invest in programs that enrich the lives of Grant High School students.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to renew your membership by submitting annual dues. You can contribute easily by filling out and mailing in the dues form on page 7. Or join online at grantalumni.org/dues-and-donations. Your payment ensures the continuation of these programs that strengthen the Grant High community.

Brian Butcher, Jr, is Oregon's Teacher of the Year

Bryan Butcher Jr. '08, a math teacher at Beaumont Middle School, has been honored as Oregon's 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. Governor Tina Kotek commended his commitment to education, noting his innovative teaching methods, the creation of the Black Student Union, and his dedication to making schools safe and inclusive spaces where students feel valued and empowered.

Butcher earned a sociology degree *magna cum laude* from Morehouse College. He joined Teach for America and spent the past eight years teaching math at Beaumont. He emphasizes building strong relationships with his students to foster learning and instills confidence in their ability to succeed.

As Oregon Teacher of the Year, he'll receive a \$10,000 award, along with a \$5,000 grant for Beaumont Middle School.



Grant us lights!

We've reached out to the Grant Bowl Community Coalition and they have given us an update as to where they are in the process of installing lights in the Grant Bowl.

The permit has been initiated and a company has been hired to conduct a traffic study so data can be included in the permit. The traffic study should start in the next couple weeks. Although the permit is in the early stage, the committee is hoping for an install by the end of summer so our fall sports teams can play under lights.

As Grant alumni, we understand the importance of being a General. It's a special community with our school defining the neighborhood. From the Constitution Team, to Royal Blues, to the football team, we want every student and team to be as successful as possible, and for the student body to be able to cheer for their friends at home under the lights! This long-awaited improvement is close to the finish line, but your help is needed to push this all the way through. Follow the progress at the link below until we're all celebrating under the lights!

Donations are being secured to kick-start fundraising efforts, most likely with a matching campaign in the near future. [Please visit our website to gain more information](#) and give whatever you can to this important cause.

GRANT BOWL COMMUNITY COALITION

- ✓ The Grant Bowl Community Coalition has stepped forward to raise \$500,000.00 for permanent field lighting at the Grant Bowl.
- ✓ PPS will submit a Land Use Application to the City of Portland this fall to clear the way for field lights.
- ✓ Grant has the only turf football field in Oregon without field lights.
- ✓ Grant is the only 6A high school in Oregon without field lights.
- ✓ Please donate and visit grantbowlcoalition.org for more information.

SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!*

LIGHTS! GRANT! ACTION!

GRANTBOWLCOALITION.ORG

*Do you work for a company that matches employee donations through Benevity? If so, you can make your donation through Benevity to "Friends of Grant Football," designate your donation for "Field Lights," and the Grant Bowl Community Coalition will receive both your donation and your employer match!

2025 Reunions and special events

Class of 1965 – 60th Reunion

- Friday, Sept. 12, 2025: Grade School Gatherings
- Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025
- 4:00 - 8:00 PM
- Colwood Golf Center / 7313 NE Columbia Blvd
- Facebook: [Grant High Portland, Oregon Class of '65](#)
- Email blasts will be sent to the class database.

Class of 1975 – 50th Reunion

- Planning underway!
- Facebook: [Grant High School Class of 1975 Portland, OR](#)
- Contact: GHSReunion1975@gmail.com

Class of 1980 – 45th Reunion

- Planning underway – details to follow!
- Facebook: [Grant High School / Class of 1980 \(Portland, OR\)](#)
- Contact: Ann Nelson Kruger / AnnKruger@yahoo.com reference 1980 reunion)

Class of 1985 – 40th Reunion

- Planning underway – details to follow!
- Contact: Stacey Caldwell-Roberts / sac-roberts@yahoo.com

Class of 1995 – 30th Reunion

- Planning underway – details to follow.
- Facebook: [Grant High School – Class of 1995](#)
- Contact: Ian Doescher / IanDoescher@gmail.com

Class of 2005 - 20th Reunion

- Planning is underway - details to follow
- Facebook: Grant High's Class of 2005 or Russell Jamar Millage
- Contact: Russell Millage / Russell.Millage7@gmail.com

Annual Mel Krause Memorial PIL Hall of Fame Golf Tournament

- Monday, September 8, 2025
- Langdon Farms Golf Club - Aurora
- 18 Holes / 4 Person scramble
- All the details are on pilhalloffame.org/events/golf

34th Annual MacMillan Jones Golf Tourney

- Thursday, September 25, 2025
- Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club / North Plains; 1:00 start
- Proceeds support the scholarship
- Questions: [Steve MacMillan](#), 503-260-7271

14th Annual Grand High School All-Alumni Picnic

- Sunday, July 27, 2025. Save the date!
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM
- Grant Park Hollywood Shelter off 36 th Ave

Is your class planning a reunion?

We'd love to post your information; just send it to GrantAlumniPDX@gmail.com and we'll add it to our website and include it in any upcoming publications.

Class of '60 tours GHS



Principal McGee met several members of the Class of 1960 to give them a tour of the remodeled school. [More photos available here!](#)

Howard Hosken, '60 (pictured above) who organized the tour, reported that all were very impressed with both the school and with Mr. McGee. After the tour, the group gathered at The Mule Bar (formerly Stanich's) for burgers and fries.

Grant Constitution Team featured on PBS documentaries

PBS followed several constitution teams, including Grant, in a four-part documentary series. The documentary includes students from all over the country while they prepared for the 2024 national championship that took place in Washington, DC. The schools that were followed represent a broad diversity of personal and political backgrounds. The series is well done and exciting, even knowing that Grant is the eventual champion.

Click here to see the documentary: pbs.org/show/citizen-nation/ and here to see the final episode: pbs.org/video/agree-to-disagree-roae14/



Five music students named to elite ensembles

Five Grant students were accepted to the National Association for Music Education All-Northwest Honor Bands. These ensembles represent the best of the best from the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Being accepted into these elite ensembles is a huge honor.

Congratulations to the following students: **Rowan O'Neill** (senior), French horn; **Sam Tselnik** (senior), percussion; **Beckett Olson** (senior), alto saxophone; **Ellie Whitaker** (sophomore), flute; and **Marilyn Ruthruff** (freshman), flute.



The last hurrah for the chronologically gifted!?



*This article was submitted by **Pete Charlston**, Class of '54, who notes "the same year Pageant Magazine featured Grant as the Best High School in the Nation, an acknowledged truth we embraced as soon as we entered Grant in 1951."*

On August 3, the Grant High School class of 1954 celebrated a "Big 70 Reunion" at our favorite venue, the Portland Yacht Club on the Columbia River. The law of diminishing returns has caught up with us, but we managed to round-up 70 classmates to match the number of years that have elapsed since our graduation day!

We had a wonderful time sharing embellished memories and collectively demonstrating that we can still stand and sing at the same time. Our reunion choir led off with Cole Porter's upbeat *You Do Something to Me* and Jean Vancil's favorite, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *You'll Never Walk Alone*. And then, of course, we got everybody up for another rousing rendition of the Grant Fight Song.

Fall Sports

The 2024 Fall Sports Season was a good one for the Generals. Here are the successes from our teams this Fall.

Volleyball: Won the PIL Title for the second year in a row, made it to the Quarterfinals of the state playoffs for the first time in school history. Head Coach Erin Cole won Coach of the Year.

All League Winners

- 1st Team - Maggie McCarthy (S, OH), An Roesinger (MB), Cecily Wagstaff (OPP)
- 2nd Team - Osa Olsgaard (OH), Claire Coffey (S)

Cross Country: Boys and Girls Teams qualified for the State Meet. The Boys finished 6th and Girls finished 14th.

All League Winners

- 1st Team: Amelia Campbell and Nate Rumberger
- 2nd Team: Noah DuVivier
- Honorable Mention: Marina Streich, Liam Paulson, Grady Gilkey

Water Polo: Both boys and girls teams made the state playoffs with the girls team reaching the semifinals.

All League Winners

- 1st Team - Sofia Korpi, Karis Malinosky, Piper Powell, Kajsa Brown, Seneca Wahab-Holles
- 2nd Team - Coco Ord, Quinton Perkins, Kazmer Zawadski
- Honorable Mention - Jenna Fryer, Ava Fogerty, Evan Creany

Football: Just missed out on state playoff qualification

All League Winners

- 1st Team - Marcus Rouse (RB), Jaylen Hill (OL, DL), Tre Hoffert (DB), Thomas Browning (LB), Deckard Hale (LB)
- 2nd Team - Payton Dinh (OL), Braden Baker (P)
- Honorable Mention - Patrick Ford (DL)

Boys Soccer: the Boys finished tied 1st for the PIL Title and reached Semifinals in the State Playoffs. Team GPS: 3.62

All League Winners

- 1st Team - Owen Bonin (CB), Charlie Moss (CM), Darby Geller (F)
- 2nd Team - Graham Chandler (F), Liam Siel (D), Noah Harwood (GK)
- Honorable Mention - Henry Wines, Callum Broadfoot, Thomas Roberts, Max Schimke

All State:

- 1st Team: Darby Geller
- 2nd Team: Owen Bonnin

Girls Soccer: The team won the State Championship after defeating Jesuit! Team GPA: 3.72

All League Winners

- 1st Team - Nailani Solomon (Player of the Year, M/F), Paige Nakada (M), Chloe Herkert (CB), Kate Ratanaproeksa (F), Lucy Kapranos (GK)
- 2nd Team - Marley Hunter (M), Tessa Matteri (M), Sadie Melville (RB)
- Honorable Mention - Charlotte Wilson (GK)

All State Winners:

- 1st Team - Nailani Solomon
- 2nd Team: Chloe Herkert, Kate Ratanaproeksa,, Lucy Kapranos
- Check out the Grant Generals Girls Soccer team and Senior Captain (and Northwestern University Lacrosse commit) Kate Ratanaproeksa in this clip from Fox 12's Nick Krupke: [click here!](#)

Centennial celebration (continued from page 1)

A birthday celebration on September 13, complete with cake and music, was our special September event. Held on the front steps and lawn of the school, the Alumni Association and the school worked together closely to produce this festive event. The Royal Rosarians planted a rose to commemorate the occasion, and students selected items for a time capsule. Special thanks to guest speakers **Judge Robert Jones, '45; Greg Cotton, '74;** and, **Principal James McGee.** [You can see photos of the event by clicking here.](#)

An additional item of interest this month was the photo taken of the entire student body spread out across the front lawn, matching a photo from 1924 at the opening of the school.

A series of t-shirt sales, restaurant fundraisers and get-togethers helped increase awareness and fund the events. Thank you to all those who made significant donations to the various events.

And last but certainly not least, a big shout-out to our Centennial Celebration Committee for its hard work: **Chairperson Breanna PC Jackson, '04; Mary Evans Nesmith, '06; Bruce McDonald; Colin McLean, '97; Brian Newkirk, '65; Joe Stilwell, '70; Rocky Menashe Stilwell; '70, Marie Metke Westom; '01; and, Karyl Loback Whelan, '61.**

One hundred sensational years down! On to the next century!

Please consider joining our Alumni Association



Your Board of Directors meets monthly devoting volunteer time to keep the association moving forward. **PLEASE SUPPORT US** by paying (or joining us!) online at grantalum-ni.org/dues-and-donations.

- **Annual Individual Dues:** \$25/year
- **Annual Couple Dues:** \$40/year (when both are Grant alums)
- **Lifetime Memberships:** \$250

Name(s) _____ Maiden name _____

Email address(es) _____

Graduation Year(s) _____ Address: _____

Enclosed Dues: \$25 Single _____ \$40 Couple (both GHS alums) _____ \$250 Lifetime _____

Is there a special area you'd like to support even more? Additional donations can also be made to these funds:
Scholarships _____ General Fund _____

NEW WAYS TO HELP! Are you a supporter of Grant High School? Show your support with a donation, and we'll make sure you receive our newsletter and any special announcements. Fill out this form and check this box: _____

We are a recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization.



Officers

President: Jack Cain, '61

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Karyl (Loback) Whelan, '61

Treasurer: Christi (Rollwage) Knutson, '64

Board Members

Jan (Godey) Eddy, '54

Henry Breithaupt, '66

Tracie (Marrs) Lynch, '73

Fatimah Steffanoff, '82

Jennifer (Sonk) McNassar, '82

Colin McLean, '97

Bruce McDonald, honorary member

James McGee, GHS Principal, *ex officio*

We currently several vacancies on the Board. If you are interested, contact us at GrantAlumniPDX@gmail.com

US Grant High School Alumni Association

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Next issue: Summer 2025

Links to our newsletters are emailed via iContact to all alumni for whom we have a current email address. Lifetime members receive a physical copy via USPS.

We've gone electronic!

Did you receive our very first GHS Alumni Association's eblast? If you are not familiar with the term, an eblast is simply a letter that's electronically "blasted" via email, and to do this we use a company called iContact.

iContact

Distributing our newsletter and other important information via iContact is much more efficient than our previous method. We currently have email addresses for over 5000 alumni! Our Gmail account only lets us send 100 emails at a time so you can imagine what a process it is.

We plan to use iContact to send out newsletters, alert you to important events coming up, and share important and/or timely information about the goings-on at Grant. We promise we won't be bombarding you with emails.

We apologize for not letting you know this was in the works. Most of you were thrilled and we received many complimentary emails. However, if you don't want to receive our eblasts, you can easily unsubscribe: in any eblast from us / iContact, simply scroll to the bottom and click the *Manage Your Subscription* link. There you'll have several options and can choose your preferred status.

We hope you enjoy this new way to keep in touch with each other. Suggestions or comments? Please send them to us at GrantAlumniPDX@gmail.com.

Grant Story Slam

Come listen to Grant students participate in a story slam in the school library at 7:00 pm, on February 13, 2025. The slam is a live competition similar to poetry slams and The Moth. Storytellers (slammers) have five minutes each to tell a story based on this year's theme: Truth Be Told!



The winning participants from Grant, Franklin, Lincoln and McDaniel high schools will compete in the Interscholastic Story Slam at 7:00 pm on February 27, 2025 in the Benson library.

Not sure what a story slam is? [Check out this video from Grant's 2024 winner, Sarah Meilinger.](#)