

## Brush Alumni Association



### your NEWSLETTER

This is **your** newsletter! Although we are here to facilitate its publication, we cannot be entirely responsible for its content. That's up to you! Doing something interesting that you think other alumni might want to read about? Getting together with some classmates for a dinner? Weekend? Vacation? Take some pictures, write an article, and send it in! Articles and photos can be submitted to our email: [office@brushalumni.com](mailto:office@brushalumni.com) We look forward to hearing from you and ask you to help us keep the ARC spirit alive!

### Yearbooks Needed

In order to keep a complete set of yearbooks, we are in need of yearbooks from the following years: **1932, 1933, 1934, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1943, 1952, 1956, and 1992.** If you have a yearbook from any of these years you would like to donate, we would appreciate it.

### Join Us!

To Join the Alumni Association and/or to sign up for our electronic newsletter, visit <https://www.brushalumni.com/>

#### Alumni Association

##### TRUSTEES:

Debra DiLillo Betz '76  
 Neil Brofman, '73  
 Chris Ricchiuto, '76

**PRESIDENT:** Norm Rogozin, '63

##### TREASURER:

Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey, '68

##### SECRETARY:

Elizabeth Mulhall Tarkowsky, '99

#### Alumni Arc-Lite

Sally Shortle Miller - Editor  
 Deb DiLillo Betz - Editor,  
 Design & Layout

Brush Alumni Association  
 5044 Mayfield Road  
 Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124  
[office@brushalumni.org](mailto:office@brushalumni.org)  
[www.brushalumni.com](http://www.brushalumni.com)

216-691-2108

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles  
 written by Sally Miller or Deb Betz



# ALUMNI ARC-LITE



CHARLES F. BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2023

**Highlighting the Past, Illuminating the Present, Sparking the Future**

### How Many Faces Do You Recognize?



### Tripi Family ~ 4 Generations of ARCS

When Giovanni Tripi graduated in May of this year, he joined his older brother, P.J. (Phillip Tripi IV) (Class of 2021) as a fourth generation Tripi to carry on the tradition of attending Charles F. Brush High School.

When Joseph and Josephine Tripi moved their family to South Euclid a few years before the school opened in 1927, little did they realize that nearly one hundred years later, their descendants would continue to graduate from Brush. Among that first generation of Tripis to graduate, in the 1930s and 1940s was Giovanni's Great Grandfather, Phillip Tripi (1939) along with his siblings Frances Masi, Rosalie Vantusko, Samuel Tripi, Vincent Tripi, Sister Mary Josepha (Jean Tripi) SND, and Martha Tripi.

Giovanni's Great Grandfather moved his family to neighboring Lyndhurst, in the early 1950s, after serving in the Army during World War II. All six of his children graduated from Brush in the 1970s and 1980, including Gio's Grandfather, Phillip Tripi Jr. (1971), and siblings, Joseph, Gregory, Kathy Fatica, Paul, and Robert.

Grandfather Phil Tripi Jr. and his wife, Patricia, began raising their family in South Euclid in 1980, then moved to Lyndhurst in 1986. All four of their children graduated from Brush during the late 1990s and early 2000s, including Gio's father, Phil III (1998), Michael, Tricia Rawling, and Tony.

Gio's younger sister, Bella, will be a Junior and his youngest brother, Massimo, will be an incoming freshman at Brush next year. Brother P. J. is currently pursuing a degree at Kent State University. Their Great Great Aunt Martha Tripi (1947) resides in the original Tripi family home in South Euclid.

South Euclid Lyndhurst schools has seen only a few years during the last century when there were no Tripis attending one of their many schools. In May, Giovanni took his place as the nineteenth Tripi family member to graduate from Charles F. Brush High School. Will there be a fifth generation? Time will tell.





## 1983 Greater Cleveland Conference Champions BRUSH ARC FOOTBALL

**By Rick Bloom '80 (BHS Athletic Dept) & Kim Kingzett Behm '72**

On a recent September evening when the Arcs hosted Bedford, a group of Brush alumni assembled at Korb Field. It was a special anniversary celebration for the Brush team of 1983.

40 years earlier, this group of student-athletes authored an athletic story that rose from the ashes of a 1-9 season from the year prior. So overlooked was this collection of Arcs that local media had labeled them as the "GCC's RODNEY DANGERFIELD" as they prepared for the Fall of 1983. And when they began the season at 0-3, it seemed as though the media predictions might have been correct!

However, this determined group of football friends, guided by new Head Coach Bill Kingzett and his staff changed the course of Brush football history. Many of the players on this '83 team had fathers who played Arc football for Coach Kingzett some 20+ years earlier. Thus, not only the team rallied but the community as well. The Arcs would run off 6 victories and notch a huge tie against perennial power Mentor to lock up a most improbable and unexpected GCC Championship. It was to be Brush's first football title in 26 years and started a 15-game winning streak.

Led by captains Tom Schostek, Pat McHenry, and Bob Mormino, this ballclub had 3 All-GCC first-teamers and 2 second-team selections. Twenty alumni players attended this special eve on Friday 9/15 and were honored along with Coaches Kingzett and Trinetti.

When asked about their success, Tom Schostek said, we were "just a tight-knit group of guys who worked really hard and jelled as a team. No real superstars, no highly recruited players... a group of young men who had each other's backs both on and off the field, along with the valued support of their coaches."



Bob Mormino, Happy Hughes, Coach Trinetti, Chad Gaizutis, Vince DiMara, Pat Soria, John Paltani, Mark Lewis, Pat McHenry, Rob Vitale, Tom Schostek, Dave Hawthorne, Coach K., John Gallucci, Paul Alioto, Jim Cecera, Randy Sevell, Paul Dinato



## Commemorative Pavers...A Perfect Gift for Your Brush High Alum

**What?** A personalized, engraved, brick paver that will bear an alum's name, a family name, or good wishes for past/present/or future generations.

**Where?** These pavers are prominently located between the circle drive and Korb Football Field, adding to the beauty of Brush High School.

**When?** You may purchase these pavers at any time during the year. Pavers are generally placed in the summer.

**Why?** To commemorate that special person, family, or class. Anyone may purchase a paver. You don't have to be a Brush alum.

**Choices are:** ~ Alumni Paver 4" x 8" (1-3 lines) \$50  
~ Premium Paver 8" x 8" (1-6 lines) \$100

All orders must be accompanied by a check made payable to: Brush Alumni Association. Proceeds will be used for operating expenses, special projects, and/or scholarships. Call the Alumni Office at 216-691-2108 if you have questions.



### MEMORIAL WALKWAY PAVER ORDER FORM

Please use a separate form for each order. Copies are acceptable.

Mail completed form and check to: Brush Alumni Association\*\*\*5044 Mayfield Rd.\*\*\*Lyndhurst, OH\*\*\* 44124

Purchaser's Name:

First \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden (if alum) \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Purchaser's E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Print name or message as you wish it to be engraved. Be certain to leave blank spaces between words. Adhere to either 3 lines for \$50 or 6 lines for \$100. Each line has 14 spaces. Do not exceed these spaces.


**Pavers are installed in the spring. Orders must be received by January 31 to be installed in the spring.**

### Upcoming 2023 Reunions

#### CLASS OF 1978

#### 45th Reunion

Saturday, 11/18/2023

Cocktails 6 PM, Dinner 7:30 PM

Manakiki Golf Course

35501 Eddy Rd., Willoughby

\$55/person if paid by 10/31/23

\$60/person if paid after 10/31/23

Email Janice McKeon Eva at janiceeva@icloud.com for venmo or paypal info.

Please provide full name of classmate and any guest.

Please include maiden name, if applicable







## Local Business Spotlight ~ Fioritto Funeral Home

Class of '76 graduate, Mario Fioritto, Jr., is proud to share the story of Fioritto Funeral Home located in Lyndhurst. During the depression, in a Cleveland neighborhood known as Blue Rock Springs (University Circle), Marianna Fioritto, a young widow and the mother of Mario Sr., owned a little general store. Watching and helping his mother, at the age of 13, Mario, Sr. learned compassion for helping families in need who couldn't pay for simple items like milk or eggs. He would carry this compassion through his 56 years in the funeral business.

In World War II Mario served as a US Army medic. During this time, he finalized his plans to become a funeral director and embalmer. Upon returning home, he married the love of his life, Corinne Petrarca, and enrolled at Western Reserve University Cleveland College of Mortuary Science. He then served his apprenticeship and started Fioritto Funeral Service in 1950, with Corinne working by his side. In 1967 they relocated to the existing building on Mayfield Road.

Mario, Sr., and Corinne's devotion inspired their children to join the business. They all helped while growing up, and all three children became licensed funeral directors. Each worked side by side with their parents learning their legacy. Shortly before his death in 2006, Mario was elated to guide the family business into the third generation as his grandson obtained his license.

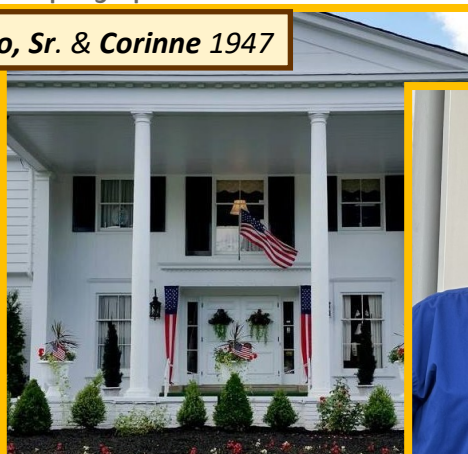
According to Mario, Jr. ('76) "We are proud that we are strictly a family owned and operated business. This allows us to customize and personalize our service to each family we serve. While our parents are no longer with us, we are proud that they left us, their children and grandchildren, the legacy of love, faith, family, and service we continue to share with the families we touch."

Fioritto Funeral Home serves all faiths and ethnic groups. In addition to customary services, Mario, Jr. encourages the pre-planning of funerals. He also encourages you "Have the Talk of a Lifetime" designed to help families talk about what matters most in their lives and how they made a difference. These discussions can help families make important decisions about how they wish to remember and honor the lives of their loved one. Learning about memorable events and people, places and favorite activities, values, and lessons they have learned can help bring us closer to those we care about most. The talk helps us reaffirm to our loved ones how much they have impacted our life.

### A Little More about Mario, Jr.

Mario Jr. owns and operates the funeral home with his sister, DonnaMarie Fioritto Tamburro, nephew William Schneider and niece Cristine Yankovic. After graduating from Brush, Mario, Jr. attended John Carroll University, graduating in 1980, becoming a second-generation Funeral Director, licensed in 1981. Still living in Lyndhurst he enjoys music, cooking, playing bocce, watching baseball and spending time with family. He learned during his years at Brush the importance of education, friendship and working together with others. He fondly remembers his participation in Choral and Drama Clubs and volunteering to sell popcorn in the front hall, continuing to this day to give it away during the Lyndhurst Home Days Parade when his family sponsors a Family Fun Day and cookout on the front lawn of the funeral home. He treasures life-long friendships he made at Brush, and enjoys keeping up with classmates on Facebook.

Mario, Sr. & Corinne 1947



DonnaMarie, William, Mario, Jr., Cristine, Mariana & Johnny



Mario Fioritto

### TEAM CAPTAINS

Bob Mormino  
Tom Schostek  
Coach Kingzett  
Pat McHenry



Chad Gaizutis  
Coach Kingzett  
Bruce Borthwick

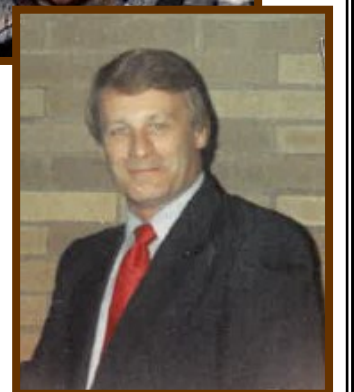


## A Huge ARC Thank You to PETE VAUGHN, '63

From the bottom of our hearts we express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Pete Vaughn who served as an active member of the Alumni Association for close to ten years. Pete served as Vice President, in addition to participating in just about everything we do. Pete was the primary coordinator of our Paver initiative. He participated in the scholarship program and was heavily involved in the design, development and creation of the Alumni Legacy Gallery (1865-1970) located on the second floor of the district Administration building.

Some of Pete's favorite memories of his tenure as a student at Brush include band and marching band, track meets and Mr. Bill Inderwich's speech class.

When asked if there was anything else he would like to mention as he retires from his current Alumni Association duties, Pete said, "From Anderson Elementary, to Memorial Junior High and then on to Brush, might I say in all candor, were some of the best years of my life."







## Brush High School Alumni Night~Homecoming 2023

The Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Athletic Department, hosted the first **Brush Alumni Night** on September 22, 2023.

Approximately 100 alumni visited Brush High School. Members of the Alumni Association and current Brush students conducted tours of the school highlighting the new renovations including the modernization of the new media center (library), the cafeteria, the main front hall, and the hallways on the first floor. Many did not recognize their old stomping grounds! The tours ended at the new Spirit Shop where alumni could purchase Brush swag. The new Alumni Museum was also a big hit! The museum houses all yearbooks, displays, and showcases filled with historic photographs and a variety of memorabilia. Pizza was provided in the cafeteria by the Athletic Department. The night ended with all alumni being invited onto Korb Field during the Homecoming pre-game festivities. Alumni athletes, cheerleaders, Arcettes and band members were introduced.

Our varsity ARCS proceeded to beat Cleveland Central Catholic 25-6 for their first win of the season.

Attending alumni included those recently graduated as well as two honored ARCS: Rosa Marra Scotland, '43 and Lola Lazzaro Gergye, '44.

Everyone appeared to have a great time. We hope this will be the "First Brush Alumni Night" and that we can continue to make this an annual event.

The Blue Moons  
sang the  
National Anthem  
and the Alma Mater

Howard Feldenkris '73  
Neil Brofman '73  
Tim Duffy '74  
John Anderson '73



## '76ers Keep Annual Golf Outing Alive

August saw the 8th rendition of the Brush Arc '76 Golf Extravaganza. Twenty-six players hit the links at Manakiki Golf course for a beautiful, fun-filled day. Organized by Steve "Scutch" Pasquale, the event has become an anticipated annual event. Following golf, the group headed over to Steve's house for refreshments, and for those who dared, swimming!



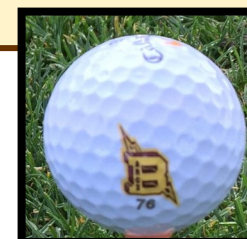
(Standing)

Bob Kassai  
Rick Giannantonio  
Ron Schickler  
Dave Michel  
Scott Anderson  
Jim Laughlin  
John Davis  
Joe Dittoe  
Tom Meredith  
Jack Pavlik  
Frank Casarona  
Doug Louvas



(Kneeling)  
Shawn Kennedy  
Mike Vaselany  
Bob Kovatch  
Jeff Teringo  
Steve Pasquale  
Joe Delsanter  
Steve Kaback  
Nick Brugh (guest)

(Not pictured)  
Byron Garvey  
Anthony Marimpetrie  
Dave Rossi  
Ben Derubertis  
Gene Minichello  
Tommy McMullen  
Chic Allen  
Frank Neer  
Vince Donato  
Marty Diemer



**LEADERS**

**TERINGO -7**  
often Tests buoyancy of  
irons, hooked 12 lb salmon  
in #3 pond, strictly carnivore  
avoids greens at all cost

**KENNEDY -6**  
accurate with hand wedge,  
photos every tree he hits for  
insurance purposes, often  
scores his weight

**DONATO -6**  
took six years extra to  
graduate, has six extra  
clubs in bag, never records  
more than six

**NEER -6**  
see above

**DITTOE -8**  
speaks for itself -8  
speaks for itself -8  
has extensive Santa Village  
in car trunk made from  
broken Tees

**SCHICKLER -5**  
only honest one in bunch, if  
he puts 4 he records 3, if  
others put 4 they record 2,  
favorite shot is practice swing

**LOVAS -10**  
gentleman, can still perform  
but can he hit a ball? enjoys  
strolls in the rough, pro's  
pro at finding ball in woods

**PAVLIK -41**  
should win first major in next  
lifetime, has world class  
collection of divots resembling  
iconic religious figures,  
favorite golf accessory is  
eraser

**CASARONA -14**  
admires ladies Tees while  
passing, enjoys slicing tomatoes  
in kitchen and golf balls on  
course, swings well, means well!

**GIANTONIO -16**  
danced thru from nine like  
Bo Jangles, built beach in yard  
from sand stuck to clubs,  
cool as a cucumber, maintains  
prom weight (i am envious)

**MEREDITH -15**  
Tinkers to Meredith to  
Chance - best dream ever,  
refuses to hit ball straight  
for poetic reasons

**BRUGH -11**  
guests are not insulted,  
until back nine, then let fly,  
rumored to have trouble  
adding and subtracting balls

**KUSZEY DSO!**  
major infraction - too  
many women on bag!!!!

**DAVIS -9**  
lives for the long putt,  
shows great body discipline  
Sometimes puts for birdie  
at 150 yd marker, wind  
tends to blow him sideways now

**ROSSI -21**  
consistently plays worse  
than before, iconic ability  
to lose track of all of swings,  
has worrisome holes in game  
and shoes, bothersome lefty

**McMullen -17**  
related to Kusze-eye, drive  
over ball, step on putting  
line, hide putter

**VASELANEY -9**  
a pro's amateur, buying  
all drinks on 19th hole,  
occasionally clubs a  
miracle

**MICHEL -11**  
class, sweet swinger,  
 raconteur, traveler,  
never records whiffs,  
wears two first names  
well

**DERO -E**  
Swings tend to go  
out-of-bounds where  
he encounters unattainable  
women

**DIEMER -20**  
again a guest, show him  
modicum of decorum, then  
clap, cheer, boo simultaneously  
on every swing

**DELSANTER -9**  
get that orange juice  
up to Lawson's in 48 hours,  
almost as long as it takes  
him to play 78

**MINICELLO -12**  
most thoughtful, gives great  
stuff, holds record for  
longest divot length and  
distance, has 4 famous  
cousin - Ms. Lemoncello

**KOVATCH -2**  
ruthless, relentless,  
madly motivated,  
uses whole course,  
scorches more worms  
than nature can replace

**ALLEN -16**  
guest, picks up lost  
balls while they are  
still rolling, carries  
beach ball for sand play  
okay to annoy

**PASQUALE E+E=W**  
Godfather of Brush  
golf outing, enjoys sucking  
on orange wedges, bow,  
respect, curtesy, loves  
to be beamed up

**GARVEY -22**  
iridescent game, scores  
best when clubs are left  
in bag, excellent wrist  
action upon returning  
clubs to bag, can double  
bogey in 34 countries

**ANDERSSON +1**  
a struggle day, some  
suggest he soak head  
in #3 pond to refresh,  
others say no because  
he could not keep his  
head down long enough,  
enjoys 4 putting more than  
5 putting

**MARIMPIETRI +714**  
rookie, one to watch,  
pridigious indigenous  
probiscus, sports guru

**RENDLE -70**  
beverage consultant  
wild blue yonder NIXON - buys  
drinks under HAMPTON bone  
artist CATO - wife MARIA,  
PATTY ANA, siacua mentunia  
breakers short of championship  
3 letters DIAL - a comet  
course HUEL - a comet  
ANY MISSED - an honor  
and a pleasure

Witty commentary provided by Ben Derubertis

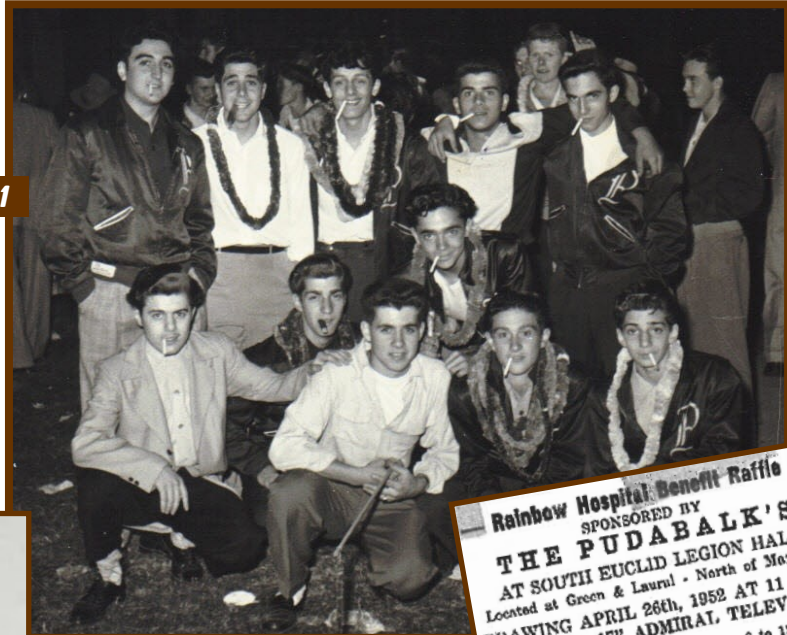




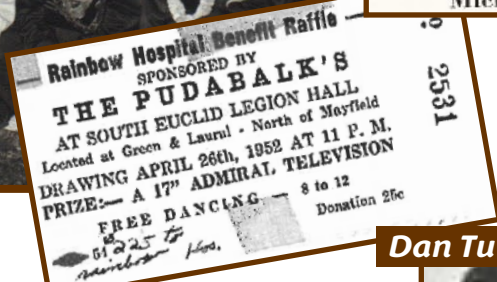
# The Pudabalk's

Organized in the early 1950's, the Pudabalk's were a group of Brush students who, according to Bill Loparo, '54, were just a "bunch of Italian guys who were proud to be Italian and wanted to have our own group." Hoodlums? Hardly! Their first civic project, held in 1952, was a benefit dance. The proceeds of the affair went to purchase equipment, suggested by the assistant director of Rainbow Hospital, to brighten the days of the shut-ins at the convalescent hospital located in South Euclid. Assisting the group in planning the event was Michael "Mac" Palermo, principal of Memorial Junior High School and former Brush football coach. Mr. Palermo, who was well respected by club members, took them under his wing. In addition to planning philanthropic events, the group enjoyed playing pool in the pool room located under the Cedar-Lee theater. They played football on the front lawn of Victory Park Elementary School and hung out at Stella's Drive In which was located on Mayfield Road next to Bemis Florist. Members of the group included: Rick Betori '54, Al Campensa, Tony Caruso, Mike Cipulla, Lawrence Corio, Pat Corrado, John DePalma '54, Arthur Dercole '50, Gene Dercole '54, John DiCillo, Mike DiCillo, Frank DiLillo '51, Tony DiLoretta, Bob Fiderio '54, Ron Lanese '54, Marzel Levan '53, Bill Loparo '54, Jim Loparo, John Pedella, Joe Pullella, Arnold Tutolo '53, and Dan Tutolo '52 (apologies to any group members we may have missed).

Frank DiLillo '51



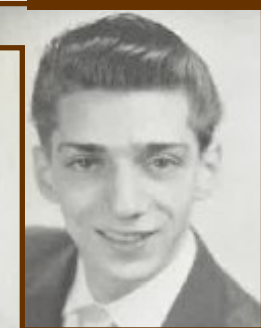
Michael Palermo



Dan Tutolo '52



Gene Dercole '54



Ron Lanese '54



Rick Betori '54



Bill Loparo '54



John DiPalma '54



Bob Fiderio '54



Lola Lazzaro Gergye

Class of 1944

- Spanish Club (2, 3)
- Gym Leader (2, 3, 4)
- Girl Reserves (4)
- Girls Basketball (2, 3, 4)
- Operetta (1, 2, 3)
- Chorus (1, 2, 3)

Rosa Marra Scotland

Class of 1943

- Gym Leader (3)
- Hall Guard (2)
- Operetta (3, 4)
- Chorus (3, 4)

Lorenzo Hailes  
Elizabeth Mulhall Tarkowsky  
Steven Jamaal Boyd

The Alumni Museum





## 2023 Alumni Association Scholarship Presentations

**By Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey:** On May 11, in the Charles F. Brush High School Performing Arts Center, the annual Senior Scholarship Awards Night was held. Proud seniors who earned a GPA of 3.0 or greater took the stage as they were honored. The families and parents of these seniors were acknowledged for the part each played in helping these seniors achieve these accolades. Monetary scholarships were presented to many of these students.

The Brush Alumni Association was proud to be a part of this celebration, administrating 13 scholarships which, this year, totaled \$21,000! The first scholarship given by the Alumni Association was in 1993, when Mr. & Mrs. Alan Skinner and Mr. & Mrs. Don Lamberton (1947 classmates) established the John V. Jacque Memorial Scholarship. Since that time, the Alumni Association has distributed nearly \$225,000 to deserving Brush seniors. This year, the \$1500 John Jacque Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Akaiya Abdullah. Other recipients were:

Nathan Rubinstein---\$500 Eugene A. Torok Scholarship

Giovanni Tripi---\$5000 Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer Scholarship for Excellence in Physics & English, Class of 1960

Ronisha Reed---\$2500 Junie Speed Davis Blackmore Scholarship

Sujing Chen---\$1000 The Theodore Bell Mathematics Prize

Christopher Matovic---\$1500 The Brush Alumni Association Scholarship for Teacher Education

Benjamin Weil---\$1500 Class of '61 Scholarship

Madeline Pugh---\$1500 Class of '61 Scholarship

Justin Colbert---\$1500 Class of '61 Scholarship

Leela Reeves---\$1000 Thomas J. Murnick Scholarship

Khalia Dogan---\$1000 William L. (Bill) Kopf, Class of 1960, Scholarship for Excellence in Math and Science

Madison Radaker---\$1000 Joseph Burris Memorial Scholarship

Ronisha Reed---\$1500 Class of '84 Scholarship



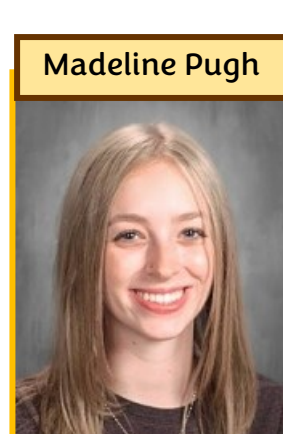
Giovanni Tripi



Ronisha Reed



Benjamin Weil



Madeline Pugh

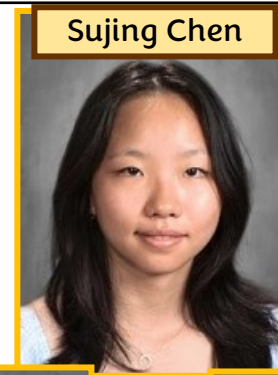


Justin Colbert

Presenters at the awards program included: Cherie Thomas Pencak ('76), Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer ('60), Mark McCann ('84), and Neil Brofman ('73). By contributing to these scholarships, Brush alumni have provided monetary help to these recipients' futures. We thank you, Brush Alumni, for your years of loyalty and caring. If you would like to create a scholarship in your name, your class, or someone else's name, please contact Bonnie Abbey at [blabbey@aol.com](mailto:blabbey@aol.com). Also, if you wish to contribute to any of the named scholarships above, please note that on your donation envelope when you return it with your dues contribution. Thank you.



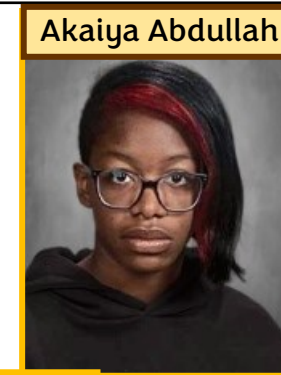
Leela Reeves



Sujing Chen



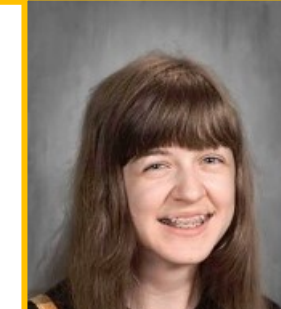
Khalia Dogan



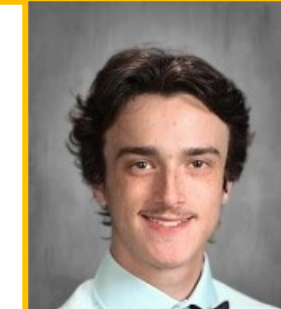
Akaiya Abdullah



Nathan Rubenstein



Madison Radaker



Christopher Matovic



Fern Hill  
Karen Skala

### Brush 55th Reunion Class of '68



Class President Don Lewis  
Billy Levine



Paige Larkin  
Linda Rash  
Toni Pettitto

**By Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey, '68**

"We were great, in '68" is our motto, and to celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, we were great, again! The weekend of July 28-29 proved to be beautiful with over 100 attendees at our events. Friday's Happy Hour was celebrated at the Highland Hts. Panini's, and the following morning we had a tour of Brush showcasing the building's improvements and course offerings. On Saturday evening, we came together at The Venue at StoneWater in Highland Heights for small bites, drinks, camaraderie, and memories. And when we departed, we decided not to wait for our 60<sup>th</sup>, but to celebrate our upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays with each other, in just two years.