

## 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** We look forward to hearing from you and ask you to help us keep the ARC spirit alive!

## 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

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

# ALUMNI ARC-LITE



CHARLES F. BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2023

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

## Brush High School Alumni Museum



## BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Museum

The Alumni Association has been busy this fall and winter combing through items gathered throughout the years...yearbooks, letters, programs, photographs, newsletters, memorabilia...basically everything we have, in an effort to establish the

### **BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Museum**

Unveiled this May, the museum is housed in room B102 at Brush High School.

This fabulous mosaic, which greeted everyone who walked through the front doors at Brush, was archived during the recent Brush facelift. Thanks to our district carpenter, Len Hohenfeld, it was rescued, framed and now hangs proudly in the museum. We thank Len, and the ENTIRE current SEL maintenance crew for their constant attention and help with so many of our initiatives.



It will be open for visitors during all previously arranged class reunion tours and select district activities.

You can also arrange a visit at other times by contacting Neil Brofman at

[nbrofman@sbcgobl.net](mailto:nbrofman@sbcgobl.net)

## Brush High School Alumni Night...Fall 2023

In cooperation with the district Athletic Department, the Alumni Association will be hosting a "2023 Homecoming Alumni Reunion" for all Brush High School graduates! The event will be held on **Friday, September 22, 2023** in conjunction with Brush Homecoming and the football game against Cleveland Central Catholic. Tours of the newly-renovated high school will be held at 5 PM and 5:30 PM and will include visits to the Spirit Shop, the Alumni Paver Walkway and, of course, our new Alumni Museum. Food will be provided by the Athletic Department and, at approximately 6:45, all alumni will be recognized on the football field during pre-game. There may be other surprises as well. Please check the alumni section of the district website for updates and additional information.

[https://www.sel.k12.oh.us/brushalumniassociation\\_home.aspx](https://www.sel.k12.oh.us/brushalumniassociation_home.aspx)





## 2022 Brush Alumni Wall of Achievement

The 2022 Brush High School Alumni Wall of Achievement Induction dinner was held on November 10, 2022, at The Venue at Stonewater. Five impressive Brush alumni and one retired staff member were recognized at the event along with 26 top performers from the Class of 2023.

The purpose of the Wall of Achievement is to recognize and honor graduates of Brush High School who have displayed outstanding achievement in areas such as leadership, service to the community, service to Brush High School, humanitarianism, creativity, courage, and careers which have benefited others. Staff members who may not have graduated from Brush may also be honored.

Approximately 140 attendees were present to honor our guests at the event chaired by Debbie Cassidy, '79 and Deb DiLillo Betz, '76.

The full biography on each of the recipients is long, and only a few highlights are included here:

**Lary Bloom ~ Class of 1961:** Military veteran, writer, editor, teacher. Has written or co-written numerous books including *Letters from Nuremberg* which was reviewed by Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, Elie Wiesel, who wrote that Lary's book is an "important contribution to history."

**Joe Hennes ~ Class of 2000:** If you are looking for someone who can "tell you how to get to get to Sesame Street", Joe can! Joe worked for, and made significant contributions to, the Sesame Workshop. He prominently appeared in "Sesame Street" episodes and wrote several scripts. He is co-owner and editor-in-chief of the popular fan blog, *Tough Pigs* and is the Creative Development editor of *Audible*.

**Simone Jelks ~ Class of 2004:** After playing basketball on a full scholarship to the University of Southern California, Simone became an NBA referee, making her the fifth woman and only African American woman to hold that title in the league. She is also the author of *One-on-One*, which uses basketball as a framing device to advise men on dating ambitious women.

**Robert Kain ~ Class of 1979:** Bob is a successful entrepreneur, Biotech executive, inventor, and the architect and program manager for the sequencing instrument that broke the barrier for delivering a human genome sequence for under \$1,000 in 24 hours. He was responsible for developing next generation genomic analysis systems which is used by *23 and Me*, *Ancestry DNA* and other companies to provide consumer genotyping information.

**Barbara Roman ~ Class of 1968:** A partner with Meyers, Roman, Friedberg and Lewis, Barb is well-recognized by the legal community in Cleveland. She has been named a Super Lawyer by *Inside Business* for each of the past twelve years. In 2019, she was recognized as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Ohio and the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cleveland. *Crain's Cleveland Business* recognized her as a "Woman of Note" in 2011, when they named her to "Who's Who in Northeast Ohio." The City of Beachwood honored her by proclaiming "Barbara K. Roman Day"!

**David Nichting ~ Retired Assistant Principal:** As an assistant principal at Brush High from 1971-1997, Mr. Nichting exemplified excellence as an administrator. In his nomination, Dr. Neil Brofman states that Dave has always been a "heart and soul" member of our school community. "He was always there with kindness and support, yet was traditional, professional, and a strong disciplinarian. This served us well as students."



## 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.




### CLASS OF 1983

#### 40th Reunion

Saturday, **8/5/2023**

**7 PM—11 PM**

Zeppe's Tavern & Pizzeria  
Bedford Hts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28481691266>

### Upcoming 2023 Reunions

SAVE the DATE

### CLASS OF 1973

#### 50th Reunion

**7/1/2023**

### CLASS OF 1968

#### 55th Reunion

Saturday, **7/29/2023**

Contact:

**Bonnie Abbey**  
blabbey@aol.com







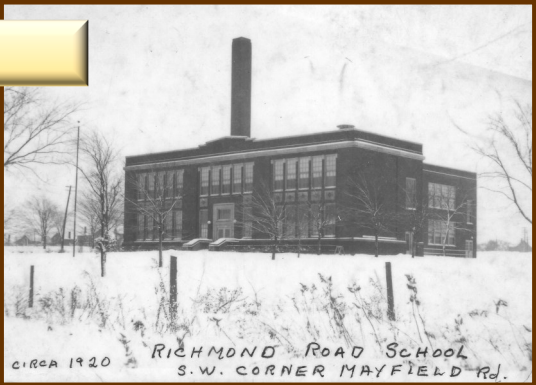
**Thanks to Yvonne Raab Sanderson, Class of 1978**



A huge ARC thank you to Yvonne for these super cool aerial shots of Brush, and our Alumni Paver Memorial Walkway. For information on purchasing a paver check out the next page!



**Remember When...**



CIRCA 1920 RICHMOND ROAD SCHOOL S.W. CORNER MAYFIELD RD.



1941 photo of the Victory Park School. Photo by James J. Kelley, staff photographer of the Southfield Citizen.

**2022 Brush Alumni Association Senior Scholarships**

Class of 1984 \$1,000 Scholarship awarded to Rheigna Gullatte-Class of 2022



Our apologies to the Class of 1984 and to Rheigna for the accidental omission in our 2022 Fall Newsletter

**CLASS OF 1963 Stay Tuned**

**CLASS of 1966**  
**75th Birthday Bash**  
**September 8-10, 2023**  
Fri 9/8 4-9 PM  
Red Hawk Grille  
Sat 9/9  
Tour Brush High  
Pine Ridge Country Club  
Sun 9/10 Noon Lunch  
Euclid Creek Gully  
Contact: Carol Thatcher  
cthatch48@aol.com

**Upcoming Class Reunions**  
**CLASS of 1970**  
**53rd Reunion Weekend**  
**September 9, 2023**  
VFW Post 4358  
29412 White Rd.  
Willoughby, OH  
Good old fashioned BBQ  
Contact:  
lwoods352@yahoo.com

**Mr. David Nichting** is honored by **Dr. Neil Brofman '73**

**Mr. David Nichting**

**Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey '68** inducted **Ms. Barbara Roman**

**Natalie DiLillo Lynch** pays tribute to her friend, **Ms. Simone Jelks.** Both from the **Class of 2004**

**Madeleine Hirsch Pearce '99** honors her friend, **Mr. Joe Hennes**

**Mr. Robert Kain** is honored by **Debbie Cassidy '79**

**Mr. Lary Bloom** inducted by **Deb DiLillo Betz '76**

**2022 Wall of Achievement Inductees**





## Mr. Larry Cirillo Honored

At the January, 2023 school board meeting the South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools honored Mr. Larry Cirillo by naming the science wing at Memorial Junior High School after him. Mr. Cirillo's career at Memorial spanned from 1956-1994.



**Science Teacher**  
Fall 1956—Winter 1961



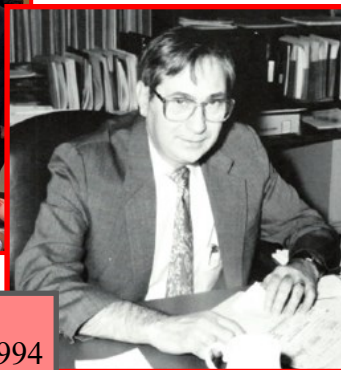
## Memorial Mustangs

Congratulations Mr. Cirillo!!!



**Assistant Principal**  
Fall 1966—Spring 1985

**Dean**  
Winter 1962—Spring 1966



**Principal**  
Fall 1985—Spring 1994

## Class of 2000 Reunion Memories . . .



**Class Officers**  
Jacki West Grandey  
Russell Randazzo  
Katie Cicero Segal  
Erin Christy Wolen

Jacki West Grandey  
Mindy Weiss James  
Kristen Schenker  
Blair Skinner  
Lauren Detki Longano



Justin Lewis, Loren Hailes,  
Jim Ujic, Lee Wolen,  
Lorenzo Hailes,  
Kamal Cann



## Local Alumni Business Spotlight ~ The Euclid Beach Rocket Car

A lifetime resident of South Euclid/Lyndhurst, Ron Heitman took a dream and did what he likes best, turned it into a car!! When he discovered the old Euclid Beach Rocket Ships, unused and lost from their glory days at the amusement park in Cleveland, he decided to bring them back to life. He remarked that he had built the largest convertible on the streets of Cleveland for his family of six! After a few years, his father-in-law asked if he could rent it for a company picnic. What a blast they are! Soon the Rocket was seen throughout the Cleveland area and for many years has been featured in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York. The calls for reservations were so overwhelming that he built a second Rocket Car.

The Rocket Car is 28 feet long, nose to tail, and covered entirely with polished stainless steel panels. Along with the driver, it will seat 10 adults or 15 kids very comfortably. All of the seats are upholstered in heavy red nautahyde with seatbelts and automatic lock bars.

Over the years, it grew in to a family business. Leanne (his wife), Jen (his daughter), and Matt (his son) first became involved, as drivers. They have since been joined by Jen's son, Cooper and her husband, Zol Laszlo. The connections to our district are many. Leanne currently works as the transportation supervisor. Jen, a 2004 graduate is currently the principal's secretary at Memorial Junior High School. Jen's husband Zol is the unit custodian at Memorial. Matt is a 2007 Brush graduate. Jen's children have also attended district schools.

Sadly, Ron passed away in 2020. Jen and Matt have taken over management of the business. Jen provides guidance, all the bookings and has been a full-time rocket driver since she was 16 years old. Matt keeps the rockets safely on the road, doing all the maintenance on the vehicles. Together, they are both determined to keep their father's memory alive, "The original Rocket Man". Jen and Matt still live in the district. Matt has expanded his own business in welding & fabricating.

When you see the Rocket Cars on the road you can't help but beep the horn and wave. Jen said, with a tear in eye, that she absolutely loves it. Those beeps are for her Daddycakes and that's how the family knows that he is still here with them.

You can rent the Euclid Beach Rocket Car for any of your upcoming events by calling 216-382-1616.

