

Photo courtesy of Thom Treer

**TRUSTEES: Neil Brofman, Class of 1973; Nancy Redmond Brown, Class of 1959; Chris Ricchiuto, Class of 1976;**  
**President: Norm Rogozin, Class of 1963; Vice President: Pete Vaughn, Class of 1963;**  
**Treasurer: Bonnie Slabaugh Abbey, Class of 1968; Secretary: Joyce Takacs Simmelink, Class of 1960**

## Much Effort Goes into Preserving Brush's Legacy and Promoting its Future

The Brush Alumni Association is working to preserve the history of Brush High School. We appear to be the only organization devoted to this important mission. Our office houses a complete set of yearbooks. It has file drawers of photographs; some old copies of the Arc-Lite, the student newspaper; and other memorabilia. It even has copies of a publication from South Euclid High School, which was titled *The Exhaust*.

The Brush Alumni Legacy Gallery broadens the perspective and tells the history of the school system from the little red schoolhouse in 1865 to Brush High School in 1970. The gallery fills the walls of the second floor of the Administration Building. There are dozens of large reproductions of photographs on canvas. Display cases house early elementary textbooks, the band director's uniform, a sweater worn by a majorette when they were the cheerleaders for the Cleveland Browns. There are also dozens of documents, such as newspaper clippings from local papers that no longer exist, and candid photographs of students and teachers. Additional exhibits are being planned.

The email newsletter has made its debut. It attracted many new subscribers. The next issue of the email newsletter will be sent soon. It will consist of selected articles from this printed

newsletter. Our goal is not only to gain more readers, but also to gain new alumni association members.

The Brush Alumni Association would like to express its gratitude to Nancy Brown for serving as editor of this newsletter for five years. She has devoted hundreds of hours to this publication. Nancy has a gift for finding stories about alumni and getting alumni to follow-through with articles. She made major changes in both the format and the content of the newsletter. Nancy moved the newsletter to full-color and centered more of the content on individual accomplishments and interests. She also served as newsletter photographer and took many of the photographs in each issue. Nancy has painstakingly worked on the layout of each issue with Brenda Myers of Impressions in Highland Heights. The newsletter has provided excellent coverage of important events involving the alumni association: the Wall of Achievement Induction Dinner and the presentation of scholarships to Brush seniors. Nancy Brown has kept Brush alumni informed and connected both to the high school and to each other.



**Norm Rogozin**



## Welcome Sally Shortie Miller - Class of 1971

Sally Shortie Miller is a member of the Class of 1971 at Brush High School. She is one of three generations in her family to graduate from Brush. Her mother, Margaret Prasse Shortie was a member of the Class of 1940 and Sally's children, Katherine Miller and Gregory Miller, graduated in 2000 and 2002 respectively.

After graduation, Sally attended Grove City College in Grove City, PA to study math and business education. She received her Master's of Education in curriculum and instruction from Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. Sally worked for most of her forty- two years in education as a business and math teacher in the Mentor Exempted School District. She retired from the district in 2011 as a unit principal at Mentor High School. Following her retirement, Sally became a family liaison in the Madison School District.

Sally's commitment to education continued through her work as a school board member in Mentor, Ohio, and as a presenter at state education conferences.

We welcome Sally Miller to the Brush Alumni Association. She will serve on the newsletter and represent the alumni association at reunions.

## Induction Dinner for 2019 Wall of Achievement

The 2019 Wall of Achievement Induction Dinner was held on November 14, 2019 at Acacia Reservation Clubhouse in Lyndhurst.

Four Brush graduates and two retired teachers were inducted for their accomplishments. The top Brush seniors were honored for six semesters of academic excellence.

Deb DiLillo Betz '76 and Joe Cicero '76 were co-chairmen. A wonderful evening was had by all.



### Constantina Tsolainou - Class of 1977

Constantina received her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from The Ohio State University in 1982 and a Master's of Music in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College in 1984. She held conducting positions at Southern Methodist University, Westminster Choir College, New England Conservatory, McGill University in Montreal, and Oregon State University. Constantina has served as artistic director for many organizations.

As the pre-eminent authority on diction for choirs and one of the leading proponents of Group Vocal Technique in this country, Constantina is recognized as a consummate professional.

In 2018 she retired from her position as director of choral activities in the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University. Her most recent retirement was from her position as artistic director and principal conductor of the Arts District Chorale in Dallas, Texas. Trained as a singer, Constantina has prepared choruses and conducted collaborative performances for orchestras located in Oklahoma, Maryland, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey and many more.

### Donald P. Lewis, Jr., DDS - Class of 1968

Donald P. Lewis, Jr., DDS, CFE is a Diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and is currently in private practice in Cleveland, Ohio. He received his undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University with a major in chemistry. Don received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Case Western Reserve University and did his post-graduate residency in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

He is an assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery at CWRU School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Lewis is the chairman and originator of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Committee on Software Development and Computer Technology, which developed and produced OMSVision®. This practice management software is recommended by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Dr. Lewis is the originator of Practice Safequard®, the first and only computer software for the detection of errors and potential fraud in the dental profession. In 1996, he became the second dentist in the world to earn the designation of "Certified Fraud Examiner" from the Board of Regents of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Dr. Lewis is a respected lecturer on the subject of white-collar crime.





### Mark Agrast - Class of 1974

Mark Agrast is executive director and executive vice president of the American Society of International Law. He previously served as deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs from 2009–2014. Mark was a senior vice president and senior fellow at the Center for American Progress from 2003–2009 and held senior staff positions with the U.S. House of Representatives from 1992–2009. He practiced international law with the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day from 1985–1992.

During his years on Capitol Hill, Mark played a prominent role in shaping laws on civil and constitutional rights, terrorism, civil liberties, criminal justice, patent and copyright law, antitrust and other matters within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Mark graduated summa cum laude from Case Western Reserve University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He pursued his post-graduate studies as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, and he received his JD in 1985 from Yale Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Journal of International Law.

His brother Bob states, "Mark has spent his entire life dedicated to making a difference in our world community".

### The Poni Tails - Class of 1957

Toni Cistone, Karen Topinka and Patti McCabe from the Brush Class of 1957 performed at "The Brown and Gold Review" and various school functions. A local attorney introduced them to music publisher Tom Illius. He liked their soft style and took them to the local Point Records, which issued their first single, *Your Wild Heart*, in January of 1957. Mr. Illius had connections with ABC Paramount Records and the trio signed a three year contract. After graduation, Karen decided to attend college, therefore leaving the group. LaVerne Novak, a Regina High School graduate, was her replacement.

Their most successful record was *Born Too Late*, which is still widely played on the radio and for which they are still receiving royalties fifty-nine years later. Their success led the group to international travel and they spent time at the home of a young soldier by the name of Elvis Presley. The group also performed on Dick Clark's *American Bandstand*. In 1960, the trio decided not to continue their career.

The girls made a total of ten records during their career from 1957 until 1960. The Poni Tails got their name because of their hair style. Toni Cistone Costabile attended the Wall of Achievement Induction Dinner.



### Seymour (Sy) Levine - Retired Brush Language Arts Teacher - (Inducted Posthumously)

Sy Levine was born in 1928 and joined the Army after graduating from John Adams High School. He served our nation as a staff sergeant in Japan and received the World War II Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal in 1948–1949. Following the Army, Sy received his Bachelor's Degree in journalism from Ohio University. He furthered his education with a Bachelor's Degree in education and a Master's Degree in guidance counseling from John Carroll University.

Sy began his career in the SEL school district as an English teacher at Greenview Junior High School. He then went to Brush in 1968, where he taught English and journalism for thirty-one years, retiring in 1998. Sy spent countless hours working behind the scenes at Brush. He sang at homecoming, was advisor for the Brown and Gold Review, and was advisor for the Arc-Lite. He was not only a friend, but also an advocate and support system for all Brush students.

Sy was an equity actor, who entertained for decades at Chagrin Valley Little Theater, the JCC, and several other community theaters. Seymour Levine passed away in 2019.



**Sheila Murphy Crawford**

Sheila Murphy Crawford faces the world each day with little sleep and lots of determination. Most people are satisfied doing one challenging thing right. Sheila never settles for less than two.

She earned her Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Dayton and her Master’s Degree from Cleveland State University. She taught English/Language Arts at Brush for twenty–nine years. Teaching students to write and interpret the printed word requires knowledge, skill, and patience.

The high school experience can be more than passing academic courses and Sheila devoted hundreds of hours to making extracurricular activities possible. She coached the majorettes for nineteen years. She helped them develop their skills and prepare for performances. Twirling a baton and synchronizing movements with other majorettes was an accomplishment, but Sheila carried it farther. At some football games the girls used fire batons, which held the attention of the fans and the fire marshal. Sheila was also the choreographer for Brush musicals such as *Oklahoma* and *No No Nanette*. After she retired from Brush, she taught at Beaumont for several years.

Forty years ago, Sheila opened her own Irish dancing school, Murphy Irish Arts. Its enrollment grew and the skills of the dancers developed. Soon her dancers were regional, national, and international competitors. When they arrived at the world championships, they represented North America. The high point of Sheila’s success was when her dancers became the world champions in the category of dance drama. Sheila directed and choreographed the production, which was presented in Ireland.



Constantina Tsolainou leads alumni singing a song from *Oklahoma*.



The seniors honored at the dinner receive their certificates.



### The Class of '54 Celebrates 65 Years of Memories

The Class of '54 celebrated our special 65th reunion the weekend of August 16, 17, and 18th. Friday evening's get-together was a fun evening with five first timers who came. The event was held at the Mayfield Village Community Center.

The Saturday evening event was held at Pine Ridge Country Club. Our teacher, Mrs. Joyce Williams Davidson, came from Florida and she is ninety years old.

We will continue to hold our annual class luncheon on the second Wednesday of August. This year it will be held on August 12th. You will be informed of the location.

Marie Nero Bella, Class of 1954



Marie Nero Bella, and teacher Joyce Williams Davidson



Seated: Barb King Matrka, Leda Primavera Piazza, Joan Cross Clinger. Standing: Margaret Bilkey Brooks Terry, Art Dremann and Angie D'Anna Fulton.



Joey Lazzaro, Art Dremann and Al Hehr

### Class of '59 – 60th Reunion

The Class of 1959 celebrated their sixtieth reunion on August 3, 2019 at the Acacia Reservation Clubhouse in Lyndhurst. Close to ninety classmates attended. Members of the class came that had never attended a reunion in the sixty years since graduation.

The evening was filled with good food, music, and wonderful memories of the 1950's.

A wonderful evening was had by all.

#### Candid Photos from the Class of 1959 Reunion





**Class of 1969 – 50th Reunion**

The Class of '69 held their 50th reunion on September 21st at Mayfield Sand Ridge Country Club. On Friday evening, some classmates attended the Brush/Mayfield football home game. Others celebrated at The Rustic Grill at Stone Water in Highland Heights with food, talk, and memories.

**Class of 1979 – 40th Reunion**

Brush Class of 1979's 40th reunion was a hit! The event was held on Saturday, August 10th at Play Arcade and Kitchen in Mayfield Heights. Almost 200 guests came to the party. The committee consisted of Joel Zaas, Karen Roth-Tindel and Marci Gross-Izeman. The reunion was such a success that many have asked the committee to plan a forty-fifth reunion.

Several classmates had the opportunity to spend Friday evening at the House of Swing in South Euclid to hear our class's favorite band, Chantz. All members of the band are 1979 classmates. A good time was had by all and the music was great!

Marci Gross Izeman, '79

**Candid photos from the Class of 1979**



**Class of '84 Celebrates 35th with Three Events**

The Class of '84 held their 35th Reunion on Saturday, August 3rd, on the upper deck of Shooter's on the Water in Cleveland's Flats. There were 112 attendees for the afternoon party.

The Class of '84 made it a whole weekend starting off with a Friday night concert by Dave Galaxy and the Quasars at Stella's Music Club on East 9th Street. Owned by class member Mike Zweig, Stella's hosted this free event showcasing a band that made its debut thirty-eight years ago at the "Greenview Talent Show". Members include Dave Roth on guitar and vocals, Brian Herder on lead guitar, Mike Zweig on bass, and Chris Barone on drums.

A free Italian cooking class with wine pairings was held at the home of Robert and Yan Maschke on Sunday afternoon. Jim Frank taught, cooked, and entertained, while classmates enjoyed an incredible Italian meal. Robert Maschke curated an incredible selection of six varietal Italian wines to pair with the meal Jim created.

The Class of '84 has raised \$24,000 to date and created an endowment to award an annual scholarship to a graduating Brush senior. The class has awarded ten scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 each. They collected close to \$1,000 over the weekend towards this fund. You do NOT have to be a member of the Class of '84 to donate. If interested, see the link online and consider making a gift: [centre-foundation.org/](http://centre-foundation.org/) (then search Charles F. Brush Class of '84 Scholarship Fund). Mark McCann '84

**FRIDAY NIGHT EVENT AT STELLA'S MUSIC CLUB**



**SATURDAY AT SHOOTER'S**

Lisa Morris Spencer, Mike Zenobi, Kelly Voelker Murphy, Michael Eisner, and Betty Andrassy.



**SUNDAY ITALIAN COOKING & WINE PAIRING CLASS**

Front: Patti Belitz Pfriem, Frank Cook, Claire Kohler. Back: Vera Koenig, Jim Frank, Kathleen Savage, Marc McCann, Stanford Loveman, Arun Nagpaul, Karen Monastra, Patrick Sweeney, Beth Ballard, Margie Miller Ciasullo, Tom Schostek, Robert Maschke, and Jim Cirillo.



**Upcoming Reunions**

**Class of 1994 - Twenty-Fifth Reunion**

The Class of 1994 held a “Twenty-Five Year Get-Together” on August 10, 2019 at Dito’s Bar and Grill. It was great to catch up with old friends and classmates on a lovely summer evening. Thank you to Jenna Galatis Abrams and Lyndsey Suster Sarris for organizing this event. We are already putting together a planning committee for our 30th reunion, which we hope will be our biggest and best yet! Please reach out to one of these ladies or to the Brush Alumni Association, if you would like to help with our next reunion. See you in 2024. Holly Braden Limbert, Class of 1994

**Candid photos from the Class of 1994 Reunion**



**60th Reunion of Brush Class of 1960**

August 23, 2020. Luncheon 11 am – 4 pm  
Acacia Clubhouse at Acacia Reservation  
Lyndhurst, Ohio

Contact: Dorothy Dvorak Zenobi if you plan to attend or have questions. 440-442-4858  
Please pass on this information to our classmates.

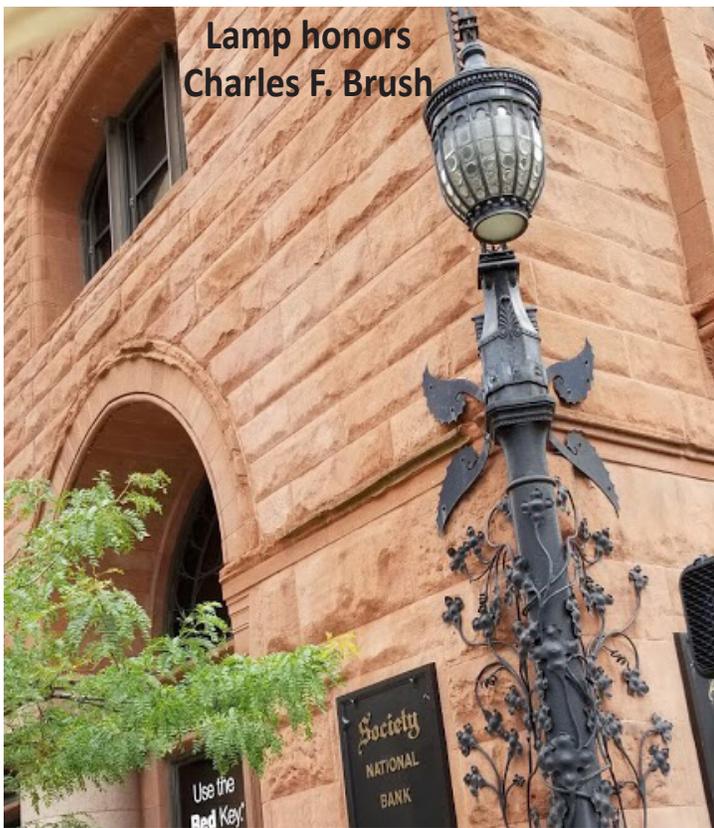
**Class of 1970 - 50th Reunion**

June 5, 2020 Tour of History Gallery  
June 6, 2020 Tour of Brush from 10 am – 11:30 am  
June 6th evening at MGM Northfield Park  
Contact: Larry Woods, lwoods352@yahoo.com for more information



Gayle Cozens and Barbara Ferguson Marfisi. This is their first reunion since graduating in 1954.





Lamp honors Charles F. Brush

Located on Public Square next to the Society Bank in Cleveland is a commemorative decorative lamp in honor of Charles F. Brush. In 1869, Charles Brush placed twenty arc lamps around Monumental Park, now Public Square. The iron lantern was designed by John Root in 1890 in honor of Brush.



Members of the Class of '99 touring Brush.



The Class of 1960 ladies celebrated at their annual Christmas luncheon on December 2nd at Alfredo's At The Inn.



Wall of Achievement Inductees and Top Brush Seniors



Dr. Donald Lewis, Jr. and classmate Claudia Cull

### **Alumni Arc-Lite**

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