

CLASS OF 1960

CELEBRATION OF OUR 60TH REUNION – 2020

Volume XVI
Winter/Spring 2020



NOTE:
Our BHS Class of 1960 60th reunion will be held at the Fireside Grille, Middleboro, MA at the Rte. 44/18 Rotary on August 29, 2020. We will be looking for you!! More on the next page.

$$\frac{60}{60} = 2020$$

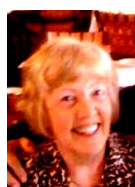
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

YOUR CLASSMATES WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. SEND US A NOTE-AND MAYBE EVEN A PHOTO- VIA EMAIL (JUDITHDONOHUE@GMAIL.COM) OR PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL JUDY HIGGINS DONOHUE, 352-603-3941. ALSO, PLEASE PASS THIS ALONG TO ANY CLASSMATES YOU KNOW WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL. WE ARE NO LONGER MAILING "HARD" COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER.

JUST EMAIL OR CALL
JUDY HIGGINS DONOHUE.

OUR CLASS WEBSITE: <http://www.bhs1960class.com>

Judith Higgins Donahue, Kerry Harkins, Tom Chew & Sharon Keith Cerci are joining forces as our class celebrates its 60th High School Class Reunion. In the past, you have received our newsletter issues with great enthusiasm, curiosity & pleasure as you read about fellow classmates. Hopefully you will be able to join us.



Judith



Kerry



Tom



Sharon

SAVE THE DATE: 60 + 60= 2020

The math may be a little off, but nonetheless, the theme of our reunion this year is 60+ 60=2020. The Brockton High School Class of 1960 will celebrate its 60th reunion in the year 2020. The reunion will be held at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro, MA on Saturday, August 29, 2020 from noon to 5 p.m. So be sure to mark your calendar now. Check it out at (<https://www.firesidegrille.com>)



Your reunion committee is at work, planning this special event. Although details are still being worked out, the cost is expected to be around \$60 per person, which will cover the cost of the meal and entertainment. (Alcoholic beverages are not included.) Please be aware that we have a fund earmarked specifically for those who may find the cost a financial burden. If you or anyone you know needs help, talk to Tom Chew in confidence. (tichew@comcast.net)

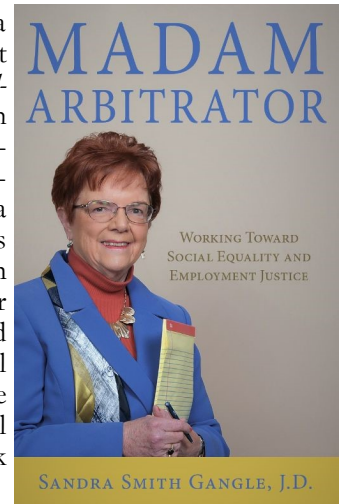
As with previous reunions, our class will be raising funds for another scholarship for Brockton High School students. This time we have set an ambitious goal of \$20,200. You may be surprised to hear that we have already passed the halfway point. (See related article by Tom Chew on Page-5)



We will be communicating with you in the months ahead with more details. In the meantime, we are hoping to collect and publish current photos from everyone in the class. Our goal is to have “then” and “now” photos from as many people as possible—even if you don’t plan to attend. You will see a few classmates in this newsletter. It is wonderful to see how our classmates are aging gracefully, showing the same face they had in 1960, enriched and enhanced by experience and wisdom.

Sandra Smith Gangle

Our classmate, Sandra Smith Gangle has just finished a memoir entitled *Madam Arbitrator*. The book, which is now in the hands of the publisher, is expected to be available in a few months. Sandra says that her memoir includes two chapters about her roots in Brockton, and also details her long career as an attorney and arbitrator working for social equality and employment justice in the state of Oregon. We will keep you posted when the book becomes available.



Dan George



Dan George’s interests and abilities have taken him in several different directions since he graduated from BHS, Colby College and Boston University Law School. After completing his formal education, he joined VISTA, the domestic peace corps, and worked in a homeless shelter in Portland Oregon’s “Skid Row.”

He practiced law for many years and subsequently started the unique “Smoke and Pickles” catering business which he operated for 15 years with his wife, Chris Ash. He enjoys cooking, fishing, and gardening and recently added a new interest--writing poetry. His poem about the “Ashland School” (See next page) will surely evoke memories in all of us, not only those who attended Ashland.

Dan lives in Westport, MA

BHS Trivia: Answers are found within this newsletter.

- 1) Now our BHS mascot is the boxer. What was it in 1960?
- 2) What was the name of the street that ran behind BHS parallel to Warren Avenue?
- 3) Where was our Senior Prom held?

Ashland School, By Dan George

Before torn down,
The Ashland School
had sheltering roofs,
one just over a raised landing
where a cathedral door
opened to a wainscoted hall
running past our hats and coats
upstairs to grades three and four
then escaped out a window, in case of fire,
down wrought iron steps to the playground below.

Taking our seats when the bell rang
Miss Ryan closing the door
we answered to our names when called,
radiators chiming-in with a clang now and then.

As mornings poured through tall windows
we rose on planks of maple
inhaling incense of powdered chalk
to behold the flag of the Republic
draped from a staff on the wall,
hands over hearts pledging:

One Nation, Indivisible
With Liberty and Justice For All

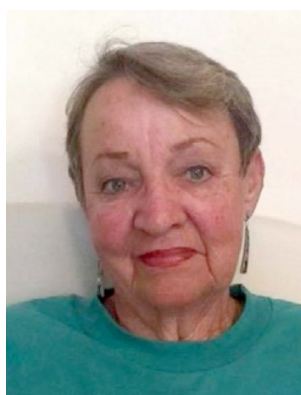
Sat back down, did our numbers,
pronounced our sounds
to olden rhymes and fairy tales of woe
when a bonnet was a sly disguise
for lupine fangs and eyes...

Oh how could she not have seen?
How could she not have known
Yet aren't we who extol the great divide
sold by men in flags
as blind to lurking fiends?

Ice chunks melting on recess milk
Roman numeral clocks dripping time
Republics to empires to dust
Self-evident truths notwithstanding
Once upon a time of trust.

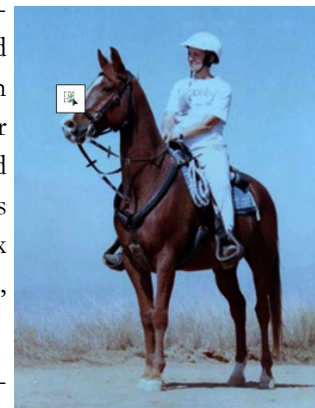
(Dan George, February, 2020)

Merrilyn Sherman Collins



Merrilyn Sherman Collins left high school at the end of senior year, got married and had a baby. She subsequently divorced and decided to complete her education, earning an associates degree at Massasoit Community College, a bachelors degree at Bridgewater State and a masters degree at University of Connecticut. Merrilyn has had a long career in social services, working in adult guardianship and AIDs case management. She spent 25 years as a social worker at the Veterans Hospital in Phoenix.

In the mid-80s Marilyn moved to San Diego, where she reignited her passion for horses. She bought an Arabian and participated in equestrian competitions and shows for more than 25 years. She relocated to Phoenix in the mid-90s and acquired another Arabian which she describes as a “pet” rather than a show horse. A professed animal lover, Merrilyn also has three goats, three dogs and six cats on her property in Laveen, Arizona.



She has become involved in genealogical research, spurred by the discovery that her grandfather was Cherokee and African-American. She is also taking Spanish classes in Phoenix, which brought her fresh memories of Miss Beaton at BHS. “She was a great teacher. She forced us to learn the basics. Of course, we did not appreciate it then,” she said. Learning Spanish was one of the things on Merrilyn’s “wish” list. A trip to Alaska, scheduled for this summer, will be another wish fulfilled. And she says “time will tell” whether another wish (a trip to Africa) materializes.

Merrilyn still has ties to Massachusetts, since her son, grandson and great-grandchild are there. She is in touch with a few BHS friends, and hopes to reconnect with others, now that she has discovered our class website.

BHS CLASS OF 1960

Frances Viscardi



*Frances Viscardi Lawton
and her husband Bill*

Frances Viscardi Lawton headed west after high school and hasn't been heard from since. Until now, that is. Frances lived in California for 30 years where she met her husband Bill. The couple has been married for 46 years and have two children. The Lawtons moved to Idaho in the mid-90s and are enjoying a busy life focused on family.

Frances worked for Bank of America until her second son was born 38 years ago. Since then she has been a homemaker. Today Frances has an important assignment—caring for her two grandchildren (ages 4 and 1) two days a week.

In addition to the two grandkids in Idaho, the Lawtons have two grandkids and four great grandkids in California.

Frances grew up on Nason Street and attended West Junior High. In high school, she was in the “retailing” track, working part-time and going to class part-time. She says that her job at Woolworth’s provided the most fun during those high school years.

Carol Grize

Carol Grize Butler is living in Brockton, just 3-miles from where she grew up in The Village neighborhood. She retired a few years ago after almost 40 years with a food manufacturing company. She stays close to home these days, somewhat limited due to some medical challenges. She gets out to visit her husband who is in a nursing home nearby dealing with Parkinson’s disease. Luckily Carol has one of her four sons living with her, so she has some family support. She has been blessed with one granddaughter.

One of her vivid BHS memories is sitting in a health education class in a 3rd floor room above the gymnasium that was later condemned as being unsafe. (Some music classes were also held in these attic rooms.) She has vivid memories of admiring Joanne Anania’s wardrobe every day. “She always looked stunning,” she recalls. Carol does not expect to make it to our 60th reunion, but would enjoy hearing from old friends. (Note: Carol’s first cousin Douglas Grize, who passed in 2016, was also in our class.)

A Few Thoughts From Gene Gilmore

I’m pleased to say that I’m still upright. And still in my house in Walpole. What I do most days probably wouldn’t move the needle on most people’s “having a great time meter” a lick. But I’ve always been easily entertained. So starting the day at McDonalds with a bunch of other guys is more than all right with me. Especially guys who are inquisitive and interested in hearing and conversing about all sorts of things beyond our favorite Boston sports team like metaphysics, life in the London underground during WW2, and Spanish bagpipe music. All the while kibitzing and acting with the maturity of eight grade boys. My special interest is the same as it’s been for years—getting out on my bicycle. Although given increased traffic and increasingly distracted drivers, I probably put in more miles on my trainer than the road. But either way, I ride every day. I also love cars. I have had a few classics like an MGTD. Today it’s a Miata. No worries about a 70 year-old vehicle giving up the ghost every time you drive it. I don’t know about my favorite teacher, but my most memorable teacher was Miss Silvia. I was a horrible French student; thus when she called on me it was never Monsieur Gilmore; it was just ‘Gilmore.’ See you at the reunion.— Gene



Some Interesting Statistics

We all love statistics, especially when they are about US. Here are some interesting numbers regarding the 669 members of the BHS Class of 1960. Please note that there may be a significant margin of error, since we are missing information about 8 percent of the class and the data we have for the remaining classmates might have changed. But here is the best data we have to date:

- 25% (176 people) in our class have passed.
- 66% (462 of us) are alive and living the dream, more or less.
- 8% (57 people) are missing, though they may be hiding in plain sight.
- 11% (75 people) are still living in Brockton.
- 45% (314 people) are living in Massachusetts.
- 55% (381 people) left Massachusetts for 33 other states.
- 6% (43 people) are in Florida.
- 6% (41 people) are on Cape Cod.

Class of 1960 Gives Back - by Tom Chew



When the Class of 1960 Reunion Committee was discussing what contribution our class might make to Brockton High School to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of our graduation, a suggestion was made to offer a scholarship. Through the generosity of many of our classmates, the initial goal was surpassed almost immediately and finally amounted to over \$11,000 resulting in two scholarships of \$5,500 each, one of the largest awarded at Brockton High.

It was no surprise, five years later, when the 55th Reunion planning group came together that they again wanted to provide a scholarship for the graduating class of Brockton High. Once again, the generosity of our classmates was overwhelming and two scholarships of \$5,000 each were awarded.

So here we are now, looking forward to our 60th Anniversary. Because we had already established a track record of awarding scholarships, several classmates have continued to send in checks in anticipation of the class once again making a scholarship gift to the BHS graduating class. I am pleased to report that we have almost \$11,000 towards the scholarship, mostly from one extremely generous classmate. Given that starting base and that our 60th anniversary is in 2020, it seemed almost too easy to make our goal this time to be \$20,200. The math is easy. We need \$9,200 more to reach that goal. We already have proven we can do it twice before. Think we can do it one more time?

If you agree, please send your check payable to BHS Class of 1960 Scholarship, to Tom Chew, Treasurer, 21 Freedom Cir, Pembroke, MA 02359. Individual donation amounts are always kept confidential. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.



John Blood

John Blood sends his best to his classmates from the Class of 1960. He is currently dealing with metastatic cancer, undergoing bi-weekly chemo treatments. John and his wife live in West Bridgewater. They have two sons, five grandchildren and a great-grandchild. John spent his career as a systems operator for utility companies, including Brockton Edison and National Grid.

Jim Norcross

Our classmate Jim Norcross lives in Wareham, MA with his wife, Gail. He had a long career as both a bricklayer and a carpenter. He was forced to retire 12 years ago when he was diagnosed with COPD. Jim, who was recently released from the hospital, says his life has always revolved around his wife and family. "I married young, worked hard and spent most of my time with my wife, our four children and grandchildren." Jim says he probably won't make it to our 60th reunion, since he is on oxygen around the clock, but wants to extend his best wishes to his BHS classmates.

Janice White



Janice White Bahrt has taken some bold steps since graduation. After a brief failed marriage, she packed up her car and her four-year-old son and drove to Utah to begin a new life. With support from her Mormon church, she went back to school, earning a degree from Brigham Young University.

Janice remarried in 1977, gave birth to a daughter and moved to Sun City, Arizona a place she hopes to return to in a couple years when her teenage Utah grandchildren graduate from high school. (She moved back to Utah a few years ago to support her

daughter and her grandchildren.) Janice and husband have seven grandchildren and their 10th great-grandchild is expected in May. Sadly, her son died in a motorcycle accident three years ago.

After a 30-year career in education, both as a classroom teacher and a school librarian, Janice started a business, Wee Bee Quilting. She provides “longarm quilting” services, assembling and stitching quilts made by her customers.

Janice grew up on Foster Street, surrounded by family. She made a lifelong friend in high school, **Dorothy Lavange Brown**, who lives nearby in Layton, Utah.



Janice White Bahrt in Utah

More BHS Trivia: Answers are found within this newsletter.

- 4) Which of our classmates holds the coveted title of "Badminton Champion"?
- 5) Who in our class could do the most chin-ups?
- 6) What song did the BHS band play at our graduation?

Virginia “Ginger” Shaughnessy Pierce



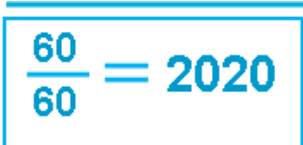
Virginia “Ginger” Shaughnessy Pierce is one of several members of the Class of 1960 who has retired to the Carolinas. Before settling in Rock Hill, SC she lived in cities from coast to coast, including San Diego, California and Leesburg, Florida. She lived in Seville, Spain for three years, a period she recalls with great enthusiasm.

Ginger was married for 12 years and has a daughter. She spent most of her career as an administrative assistant in the

bio-medical research field at universities. She has been on her own for many years, exploring different cities and different jobs. Along the way, Ginger learned to paint and has created some beautiful works, including the one shown here. Since moving to South Carolina, she adopted an adorable dog, Spunx, as a companion.



Ginger's Artwork



Dick Govoni in Vienna



In her words: Jane Sheehan Venckauskas

Ray Lofstrom and I first met at our Brockton High 50th reunion. A few months later, Ray and I started dating and our relationship grew. We had both lost our spouses to devastating diseases after many years of marriage and raising our families. We now live in Abington, MA and have a shared family of 6 children and their spouses, 15 grandchildren and 3 great-grands.



Over the past ten years our travels have included Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, New Orleans, Nashville, San Francisco, Amelia Island in Florida and the Blue Ridge Mountains. We are both grateful that we were given a second chance at companionship and love.

*Next time you're stressed,
take a step back, inhale
and laugh. Remember who
you are and why you're
here. You're never given
anything in this world that
you can't handle. Be
strong, be flexible, love
yourself, and love others.
Always remember, just
keep moving forward.*



Bernie LaBelle and his sons



Bernie LaBelle is semi-retired and living in Fairfield, CT. He enjoys working part-time at a tennis club, occasionally getting in a few sets. His career has taken him far and wide, including 20 years in Manhattan doing high end print production. He started his post-high school education at Northeastern, left after two years to serve in the US Army, and completed his education at University of Pittsburgh.

Bern's high school memories include playing tenor sax in a dance band with a few other BHS students. He gets to do the 60th reunion thing again, since he is married to BHS grad Anne Sheppard, younger sister of our classmate, Phil Sheppard. They have four children and four grandchildren.

Judith Metta, Mary Arnone, Cherie Galante, & Viola Marrese



Celebrating their birthdays together at Luciano's
Celebrating their birthdays—10/29/2016

Continuous Poker Game for 63-Years

Leo Sicilano, Willy Stadelmann, Fred Solari,
Ron Matta and Bill Haskell.

In the 2009 issue of our Brocktonia newsletter, we featured an article about Willy and Gerrie Stadelmann. They had vacationed that year in Mumbai at the same time the terrorist attack happened. One of the interviews that Willy did was with the Boston Globe. The comment was made that Willy had been in a featured story about what may be the oldest continuous poker game in the country. He has been playing cards regularly since 1957 with BHS classmates Leo Sicilano, Ron Matta, Bill Haskell and Fred Solari.



Our classmate, Leo Siciliano said that he was looking forward to reconnecting with his old friend at the poker table. "it was unbelievable to read about what had happened. We are looking forward to hearing it straight from the horses mouth."

The poker game has now been taking place for 63 years. That is an awesome record and example of friendship, consistency and regularity for sure.

This is probably a world record let alone a US record.

More BHS Trivia: Answers are found within this newsletter.

7) Who in our class set both a new school and state record for the longest javelin throw of 196-ft-1-inch?

Frances Lalli and John Brophy



After 56 years of marriage, “Francie” Lalli and “Jack” Brophy, as we knew them in 1960, are currently enjoying life on beautiful Cape Cod.

Jack retired in the early 90s, after 32 years as a City of Brockton police officer. Francie retired in 1995 after a long career with Verizon. The Brophys lived first in Easton and then in Rochester, MA. They have been fortunate to share in the lives of their son and their three grandchildren who live in Easton.

After spending family vacations on the Cape since the late 70s, Jack and Francie decided to retire in Eastham, near First Encounter Beach. Francie says it has been “an adjustment,” getting used to a much slower pace of life on the Cape- especially off season. They are both fit and healthy, content with the change and enjoying the beautiful beaches during their daily four-mile walks.

Evelyn Ghelfi Ferioli

Evelyn Ghelfi Ferioli is looking forward to attending our 60th reunion in August. She and her husband Francis divide their time between Kingston, MA and Naples, Florida. Evelyn keeps fit physically and mentally with tennis games in the morning and mind-sharpening activities such as bridge, Mahjongg and Samba in the afternoon.



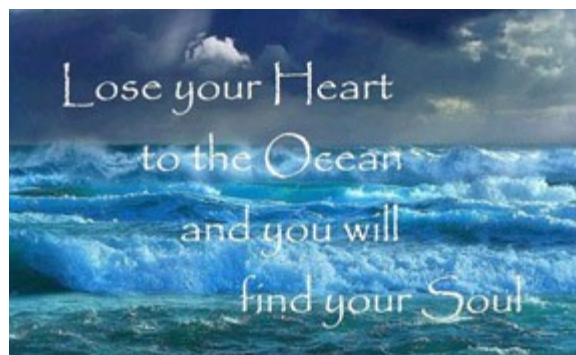
Joane Adomkavicius

Joane Adomkavicius Wilhelm left Brockton in 1973 and headed south. She spent most of her life in Kennesaw, GA working in the Human Resources department at Kennesaw State University. She retired from full-time work in 2005, but returned to the university on a part-time basis.



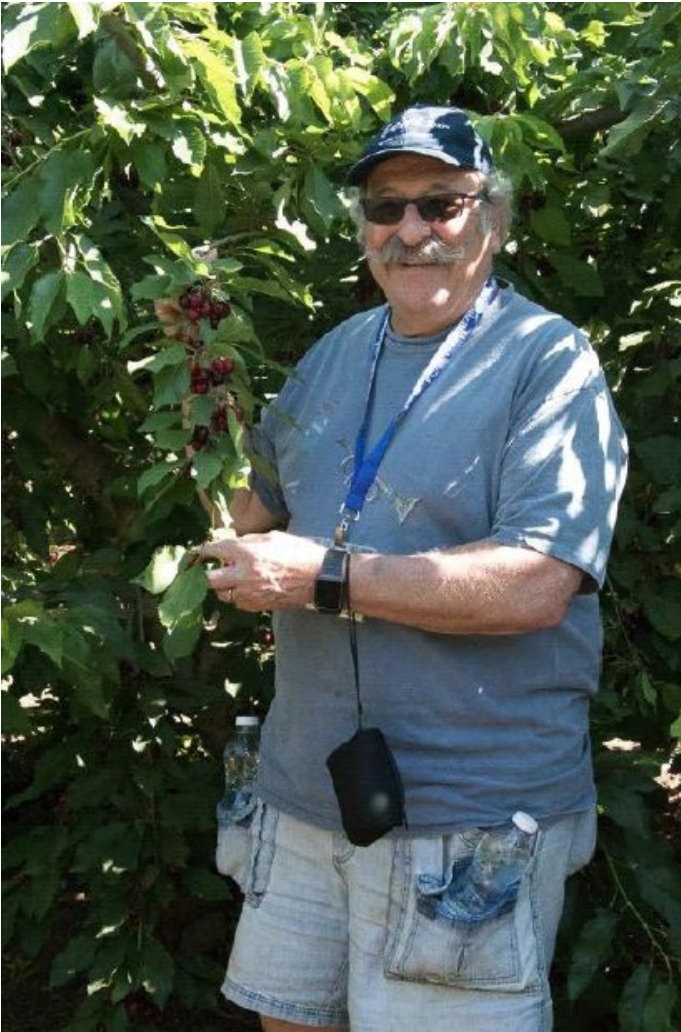
Joane enjoys spending time with her two children and four grandsons.

She relocated to Hickory, NC in October and says she is still learning her way around. She enjoys playing cards and volunteering at the local church-sponsored thrift store. She also likes spending time with her new mixed breed dog, GG. (standing for Good Girl.) Gardening has always been a passion for Joane. Though she doesn’t have much room for a garden in her new place, she is hoping to figure out a way to put her green thumb to work.



Marvin Geller: In his own words

Well, it is now 60 years since I graduated from Brockton High School. Some things have changed. Others have not. As a high school student, I was a math/science nerd. Now, as a retiree, I'm still a math/science nerd. At Brockton High School, I was an avid tennis player, but one hip and one knee replacement later, those days are over. As a high school student, I lived in my parents' home on Winifred Road in Brockton. Now, my wife



Marvin Geller picking cherries in the Golan Heights in Israel in 2019.

of 51 years, Lynda, and I divide our time between Sarasota FL and Falmouth. We have two children, Stephanie and Steven, and a 14 year-old granddaughter, Neala.

My memories at BHS include Mr. Kelly, who taught calculus my senior year and my two best friends in high school, Stuart Brenner and Eddie Lazarus. I saw Stuart at our 50th reunion. I remember well during my senior year, when I was playing in the state high school tennis tournament, meeting a kid from Sharon, who asked where I went to school. When I answered Brockton, he said that coming from that school, it would be tough to get into a good college. I have to admit that when asked where I was going, I did get a perverse pleasure out of saying I was going to MIT. Brockton High prepared me well.

Fast-forward four years as an undergraduate and five years as a graduate student at MIT, my new wife and I went to my first job as an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. That was an eye opener. Living in the Northeast at that time, I had no conception of the mass, quality, public higher education that existed in the Midwest. We had no conception of how different the Midwest was from the Northeast. After eight years in Illinois, we found a sunnier environment when I took a position as Full Professor at the University of Miami, where my wife got her PhD in Psychology. After three years there, I left to start a research group at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Nine years later, we moved to Long Island where I was a profes-

sor and head of research institute at Stony Brook University, retiring in 2015.

We lived in Williamsburg, Brooklyn for nine years, where we got a taste of living in the Big Apple. We then bought a home in Sarasota, Florida, and two years ago, we bought a condo in Falmouth, Mass.

Life has been good to me, except for both my parents dying at far too young an age, 55. I have a great family, and a sizable cadre of MS, PhD students, postdocs, and colleagues all over the world. I have traveled the world as part of my profession, and I have good friends in many countries. As a high school student in Brockton, I had little appreciation for the horizons that awaited a graduating math/science nerd. I had a lot of fun at our 59th mini-reunion in Middleboro, and I look forward to seeing old friends at our 60th reunion.

ELDON B KEITH FIELD HISTORY



Eagle Entry Gate, Keith Memorial Brockton, F. W. Allen, 1924
Right side of a pair .

deed that the school board has "sole charge of the management and use of said field for athletic games and other entertainments and purposes of a public nature as well as for school purposes." In 2002, the old Brockton High "B" building across West Elm Street from the field was re-named for Eldon B. Keith.

Given by shoe magnate George E. Keith in memory of his son, Eldon, a long-serving member of the Brockton School Board, who died in a flu epidemic while on a U.S. Government mission in London in 1919. Keith had bought the land with a stream running through it with the intention of rerouting the stream and reworking the site to create an athletic field. In a letter dated January 8, 1920, George E. Keith gave notice of his intention to give the land as a memorial to his son, under provision of the



Can You match these yearbook photos to the people in Our Newsletter... Give it a try!



Trivia Answers:

4. Patricia Harris
3. BHS Auditorium
2. Goddard Road
7. Jack Brophy
6. "Aida"
5. John D Cahill
1. There wasn't one, we were just known as "The Red & Black"

Trivia Answers:

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