

1974 PAINTING HONORS ‘THE MUSIC MEN’ OF ER

As a longtime Elementary librarian I’m used to telling stories, and I’m excited and proud to share this wonderful tale with you. From time to time our Alumni Foundation has chosen to honor former ER teachers, and with that intent, at the November ER Board of Education meeting I had the honor of presenting a very special painting to our school. Below are portions of the speech I gave that evening, along with some additional thoughts....

Early in my library career, which began in the mid-’70s, I had the opportunity to have dinner at the Brighton home of ER school family members **Dan and Ruth Lempert**. Dan was an instrumental music teacher and department chair from 1952-84, and Ruth was a librarian from 1977-94. I was surprised to see many abstract paintings on display throughout their home. Dan said he had painted them, explaining that art was as important to him as music. I told Dan that although I could easily see how gifted he was, I was much more familiar with the primitive landscape/folk-art style of artists like Grandma Moses, so I really didn’t understand his paintings... except one. I pointed to a 40” x 40” artwork done in bright, vibrant colors, depicting the outside of a yellow bus with a number of musical instruments nearby. Dan smiled and said he had painted it in 1974 in honor of **Jim Beckwith**, who was an ER instrumental music teacher, band director, and department chair from 1947-79. Dan explained that Jim would often take his students on the road to perform, so he’d decided to capture the memories by creating a painting in honor of his colleague and friend.

Sadly, none of these three extraordinary people are still with us – Mr. Beckwith passed away in 1982, Mrs. Lempert in 2011, and Mr. Lempert one year later. After Dan’s death I found myself thinking of the painting often. Eventually I contacted their son, David, and on behalf of the ER Retired Teachers’ Association, asked if we could have a print made of the painting for display in our school. I thought it would be wonderful to have Jim and Dan together again in our auditorium. After some thought, David replied that the Lempert family would be honored to have a print on canvas made for us.

When Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Lempert taught here, our instrumental music program had the reputation of being one of the most respected in the area. Both men were passionate about their work, and so proud and honored to be part of our ER school family. Between them they gave us 64 years of beautiful music and music instruction.

Will Moses, great-grandson of artist Grandma Moses, said, “Each painting should tell a story in itself – one that little girls and boys can understand, but also one their mothers and fathers will appreciate.” I believe this painting does that extremely well.

And so on behalf of the Lempert family and the ER Retired Teachers’ Association, the painting has been presented to our school. When displayed at the auditorium with photographs of Dan and Jim, along with a plaque explaining the gift, it will become part of the legacy of our Home of Champions of the arts. In a place where Dan and Jim spent so much time with their young musicians, it will rightfully honor their dedication and commitment to ER – past, present, and future.

– Anita M. Mance ’65



A color version of the painting is available at www.tinyurl.com/zup5eah.

Please visit the Alumni Foundation’s Website, at www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm!

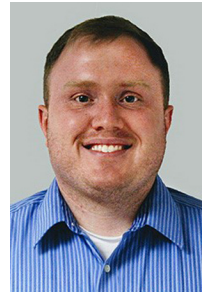
ONE LAST NAME, TWO NEW MEMBERS: FOUNDATION WELCOMES BATES '01 AND BATES '07 TO BOARD

At its July 18, 2016 Annual Meeting, the Alumni Foundation's Board of Directors selected interim board member **Jenalee Bates Herb '01** to serve a two-year term as a "permanent" member. In addition, on Oct. 17, **Dan Bates '07** – no relation to Jenalee – was elected to serve as an interim member until the June '17 Annual Meeting. (When a 'permanent' member leaves the board, an individual is chosen to serve in an interim capacity until voted to a full two-year term at the next Annual Meeting.) Jenalee replaced Marilyn Tuttle Lopez '63, who resigned from the Board in November 2015; Dan fills the position previously held by Sam Morabito '61, who resigned this past September.

During her time as an ER student, Jenalee achieved an enviable academic record, was co-president of the National Honor Society, and played field hockey, volleyball, and softball. Ours isn't the only alumni board Jenalee serves on – she's also a member at St. John Fisher, where she earned a bachelor's degree in management, summa cum laude, in 2005. She and her husband, Adam, live in ER with their two sons – kindergartner Jacob and third-grader Jaidyn. She's a realtor with Nothnagle, and focuses most of her time on properties in ER and neighboring communities. In her 'spare time' Jenalee serves as events chairperson for the ER Chamber of Commerce, and enjoys "adventuring and exploring new places" with her family and cheering on her sons at their baseball and basketball games.



Jenalee Bates
Herb '01



Dan Bates '07

While at ER, Dan – also an NHS member – was on the football, basketball, baseball, and indoor track teams, and wrote for the student newspaper, *ER's Voice*.

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications, and a master's in integrated marketing communications, from St. Bonaventure University. Dan's Bomber roots grow deep. Both his parents, Dan and Kathy Henry Bates, graduated from ER in 1980, and his grandfather, Bob Bates, taught English here until retiring in 1995. A Penfield resident, Dan has volunteered with the ER Youth Activity Center and is a Little League coach, and is employed as a marketing specialist with Ambrell Induction Heating Solutions in Scottsville. Away from work he enjoys spending time with family and friends (including his girlfriend, Carylann), working out, playing and watching sports, and reading.

For a complete list of Alumni Foundation board members please see the box at the bottom of page 4; to learn more about what we do, visit our Website at www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm.
– Carl Tobin '59

Forgot what you and your classmates looked like as seniors?

Now on the Alumni Foundation's Website: an 'E.R. Connections' page, where you'll find several useful links – including one to the ER Local History Office's searchable database of ERHS graduates going back to 1910, and the senior portraits of almost all classes since '31. Just go to www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm and click on 'E.R. Connections.' (The features are also easily accessible from the District's homepage – just go to the 'Alumni' tab to access the pull-down menu.)



On Tuesday, Nov. 29, the Greater Rochester community came together to ROC the Day. It was the third year the ER Alumni Foundation was part of this great event, and we're pleased to report our generous donors contributed \$318 to support our mission.

ROC the Day was a 24-hour giving opportunity to benefit eligible not-for-profits in the nine-county Rochester area. Community members visited ROCtheDay.org, a secure online giving platform, to contribute to any participating non-profit organization. All money raised during ROC the Day stays local. The Alumni Foundation would like to sincerely thank its friends and donors for their generosity, which is greatly appreciated. We're hoping to inspire even more contributors for next year!

more ERAF information on next two pages...

THE ER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WAS FESTIVE INDEED!

The sixth-annual East Rochester Christmas Festival – held Saturday, Dec. 10 – was a fun-filled day of activities. At the school campus and the Eyer Building, as well as around Edmund Lyon Park aboard horse-drawn wagon rides, a good time was had!

Free bus transportation was provided between the two locations, where a variety of activities, food, and beverages was available. The Junior/Senior High cafeteria, where activities were proudly sponsored and staffed by the Alumni Foundation, was alive with festive holiday music performed by three different groups: the third-grade chorus, the fourth- and fifth-grade chorus, and the High School Select Choir.

Meanwhile, the Elementary cafeteria bustled with energy as kids of all ages enjoyed the PTA's Breakfast with Santa. And as always, the Advent Craft Sale (to benefit the Community Resource Center) filled the gymnasium with crafts and artwork as the aroma of hot cocoa and coffee filled the air.

Across town, carolers, vendors, and a food cart outside the Eyer Building welcomed visitors who had plenty of sights, sounds, and sensations to choose from inside. ER Rotarians sold both volumes of their 'Treasured Italian Recipes' cookbooks,

the Alfieri family provided popcorn and karaoke fun, Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted youngsters who eagerly shared their wish lists with them, and more than 100 kids visited the Public Library, attracted by crafts (such as cookie and ornament decorating) and stories read aloud by our friendly librarians. In addition, thanks to the St. Nicholas Society, the story of *La Befana* (featuring performances by familiar community members) was presented, and the *cucidati* 'throw-down' brought fierce competitors vying for bragging rights of who made the best traditional Italian fig cookies.

None of this could have been accomplished without generous support from the events's many sponsors, supporters,



and friends, for which we are very grateful. Sincere thanks to all who helped and joined us to make the Christmas Festival such a great day! And please keep your eyes and ears open for details on the seventh-annual ERCF, set for Saturday, Dec 9.

– Katie Connors DeVito '86

Above and at left, visitors enjoy some of the activities hosted by the Alumni Foundation – including Mary Burton Estey '56. Photos from activities at the Eyer Building are on page 25, and color versions of these photos, along with many more from the day, are at www.tinyurl.com/zggzkhe.

Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations due April 7; Sam Urzetta Classic set for Aug. 4

2017 marks the ninth year the Foundation will present its **Distinguished Alumni Award** to an ER graduate for significant, ongoing contributions to the students and town/village of ER, our country, and/or their chosen profession. The goal of this award is twofold: it recognizes ER graduates for noteworthy lifetime accomplishments and contributions, and provides us with a powerful opportunity to underscore the potential that exists for kids and young adults who are lucky enough to grow up and be educated in the Home of Champions.

The DAA is presented during the awards banquet at our Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic golf tournament, which this year is set for Friday, Aug. 4. Recipients from 2009 to '16, respectively, have been **Nick Verzella '44**, co-honorees **Brig. Gen. Richard McPhee '74** and **Rear Adm. Don Quinn '75**, **Sam Urzetta '44**, **Larry Weise '54**, **the Hon. Vicki Argento '80**, **Tom Conners '44**, **Mary Steigerwald Whittier '83**, and **Jeanette D'Agostino Banker '49**.

The ERAF Board of Directors is looking to expand the field from which it selects a DAA recipient by encouraging ER alumni to suggest individuals for consideration. Recommendations can be made by printing the DAA nomination form (which can be found on our Webpage, under the 'Distinguished Alumni Award' tab) and returning it to the ERSD Superintendent's Office, 222 Woodbine Ave., by Friday, April 7; the honoree will be selected and announced in May.

Mark your calendar and save the date! The 10th annual **Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic golf tournament** is set for Friday, Aug. 4, again at Lima Golf & Country Club. Details and entry forms will be sent to past participants, and available on our Website, in early April. We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

In addition, we'd like to encourage **classes who are planning a reunion this year** to think about holding it the weekend of Aug. 4-6 so you can include the SUAC on your schedule of reunion events. Also, if you or someone you know would like to volunteer to help with the tournament, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact me at 526-6120 or ctobin@frontiernet.net for more information. – Carl Tobin '59

Dina Marcoccia Remains an Inspiration to All

You might recall reading on these pages last fall about our friend and neighbor, Dina Marcoccia '86: a woman who cast rays of sunshine on everyone around her. Dina's courage and humor in the face of her numerous cancer-related health complications provide us all with a wonderful example of how to lead a graceful, meaningful, and positive life.

Sadly, we lost Dina on Dec. 20, 2016, and we miss her dearly. However, her presence is still felt in a very significant way in our ER community and beyond, and her legacy of selflessness remains an inspiration to all who knew and loved her. Rest in peace, Dina – and thank you for sharing your friendship and extraordinary optimism with us. – Katie Conners DeVito '86



*** ERAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ***

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Former members: Terry Brown-Steiner, Jim Burlingame '54, Tim Henry '79, Marilyn Tuttle Lopez '63, Dr. Howard Maffucci, Dina Marcoccia '86, David Morabito '72, Sam Morabito '61, Peter Nicolucci '50, Fred Ricci '65, Barbara Steve Stoner '45, Patrick Tobin '58, Sam Urzetta '44, Nick Verzella '44, and Richard Stutzman