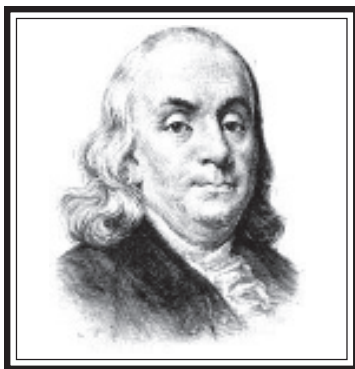


Benjamin Franklin High School Alumni Association

2001 Leon C. Simon Blvd. • New Orleans, LA 70122



**Benjamin Franklin
High School
Alumni Association
Board of Directors
2010 – 2011**

February 26, 2011

Alumni Colleague:

Sending this letter to update you on our Franklin Alumni Association's activities, I'm hopeful that your "Franklin Experience" – whether recent, way back, or multi-generational – will prompt your attention to current needs.

First order of business is the **Election Proxy** (on page 3), through which you can help us continue to benefit from an actively engaged board of directors. **If possible, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Friday, May 13th, to elect those directors whose term will extend until 2013.**

If you're unable to attend, you can provide input by mailing in your proxy. Mailing instructions are provided, as is an enclosed envelope.

Officers:

President:

John Otis '63

President Elect:

Morris "Sammy" Borenstein '72

Secretary:

Melissa Tyler Wells '98

Treasurer:

Kim McLellan Quintana '76

Board Members:

Rachel Becker-Barrois '99

Timothy P. Brechtel '88

Tom Buck '75

Heidi Haddock Charters '75

Marilyn Gendusa Ciolino '81

Roy G. Clay III '75

Sacha Borenstein Clay '81

Shannon Hurley Daigle '77

Alan D. Ezkovich '77

Sally Peyrefitte Firestone '80

Joan Jackson Folse '67

Wayne Gordon '63

Elaine Toscano Grundmeyer '66

Bonnie Ittmann Happel '62

Carl N. Indest '79

Alisha Johnson '89

Seth Knudsen '00

Dwight Norton '96

Christy Cowart Read '89

William T. "Buddy" Stockmann '75

Ralph Tankersley '96

Mimi Tsai '03

John M. Weil '75

Min Yang '81

Known as "Ben's Bash," our May get-together provides an opportunity to enjoy each other's company while attending to business, with board election and installation of officers requiring relatively little time midway through the evening. If you can attend **Ben's Bash**, then mark your calendar for **Friday, May 13th, 7:00 – 10:00 PM**, in the **Marriott Hotel's Riverview Room (top floor), 555 Canal Street**. Music will be provided by Franklin alumna Sarah Quintana. Admission is free, with complimentary food, soft drinks, coffee and tea, and a cash bar. Valet parking will be available for a \$12 flat rate, if, as anticipated now, there are no conflicting events at the hotel.

Don't put off becoming a current member of our Alumni Association if you've lapsed. We'll print a list of current members this spring in the upcoming Alum News, and I'm sure you'll want to be in that number! There's a membership mail-in form on page 3, beneath the Election Proxy. Mail both in the enclosed envelope? We need your continuing participation to keep our alumni organization poised and responsive in service to our communities – Franklin, the school community of students, parents, educators; Franklin, the vital component of New Orleans metro region's future; Franklin, the community of active alumni, including you and me. **Thanks for your participation.**

Our "Student Needs Fund" is an additional way to help – listed as an option on the mail-in form. An article in this fall's *Alum News* (http://www.benfranklinhighschool.org/development/alumni_newsletter.htm) provides details. In short, the fund helps low-income Franklin families with students' school expenses, such as instructional supplies and graduation fees.

One last item, for now, is the school's invitation to attend Franklin's signature public event:

On Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 2 until 8 p.m., Ben Franklin High School will hold its fourth annual "Frühlingsfeier and International Festival," a community-building fundraiser that showcases Falcon talent and diversity. The festival is Franklin's signature event and offers two stages of musical performances by our students, faculty and alumni. Cultural performances, an international fashion show, and comedy are all part of the event. We offer games, contests, a silent auction and raffles, to complement the wide assortment of international foods, beers, wines and desserts. This year's festival will be at the temporary location of Deutsches Haus – 1023 Ridgewood Drive Metairie, LA 70001 – one block off Airline, behind Hurwitz-Mintz Furniture, and just minutes away from Riverbend [Franklin's former location]. It's a fun day for the entire family, and all past, present and future Falcons should join the celebration.

I'm looking forward to May 21st, also to Ben's Bash on May 13th, and to your continuing involvement in the work of our Franklin Alumni Association.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Otis".

John Otis '63
President, 2010-11

Omitted from fall Alum News, plus three corrections. May need to adjust for time references.

Robert Crowder '66. Wondering why my daughter is enjoying the fall semester in Italy and I am not!

Julian and Julie Shadix Landau '66, Ridgefield, CT. Our daughter, Jamie, received her Ph.D. in speech communications from the University of Georgia in July 2010. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Keene State College in New Hampshire. Our son, Jeff, married Sangeeta Harkishani in December – a small wedding on the beach at sunset in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The newlyweds live in San Francisco and we had a great trip there last summer when we celebrated our 40th anniversary with them. We enjoy visiting with friends, so please give us a call if you are in the NYC/CT area. Julian's cell is 203-241-2055.

Dick Cooper '67, New Bern, NC. My wife, Chris, and I moved here from Avalon, NJ (seaside resort) in 2006 to be near her family and extended relatives. I have had my own consulting business (nuclear power and nuclear weapons) since 1997 when I retired from the Nuclear Reg. Comm., where I was a senior executive in the Northeast office (King of Prussia, PA). We have 3 grown children: Kelly, our daughter, who is a lawyer; Richard III, who is a lawyer with a recently born daughter and John, who is a high school math/algebra teacher, head coach of New Bern High's lacrosse team, and owner of Cooper's New Orleans Style Snowballs.

Sandra L. Guthans '67, Baton Rouge, LA. Enrolled in ELCA (Lutheran) Associate in Ministry program to become rostered clergy person.

Virginia Switzer Berry '67, Hattiesburg MS, Appointed University Audiology Clinic and student externship director, vice chair Natural Audiology Advisory Council.

Marc Fisher '70, Meridian, MS. Still practicing urgent care medicine in Meridian, MS. First grandchild born 7/19 - another milestone and transition, a very pleasant one.

James Woods '70, Detroit, MI. Two kids in college now and one more child in work force.

Alan Zimmerman '70, Silver Spring, MD. Son, Micah Zimmerman, just graduated from University of Southern California School of Law. Daughter, Shoshana Zimmerman, 2nd year law student at USC, was accepted to a 3rd year Law/Business degree program at London School of Economics.

Diane Benit Stutts '70, Rolla, MO. We're doing well, have steady challenging jobs and great health. Our 10 year old son now plays competitive soccer so we've become traveling parents.

Bruce Brown '71, Lafayette, LA. In 36th year with The Advertiser, Lafayette's daily newspaper. Currently, Senior Reporter, covering veterans, military news, nonprofit organizations, faith and values, sports and features.

Robyn Swayne Gibbins Cooperman '71, Orlando, FL. Many of the 1971 class have reconnected on Facebook. We are thrilled to be back in touch and have our 40th reunion coming up next May! WOW! I don't feel that old!

Fran Goldstein '71, New Orleans, LA. I edited a book called *Physics Foibles* written by my father (Melvin Goldstein) which he donated to Franklin's library.

Germaine Odenheimer '72. Looking forward to 2011 – 40 year reunion.

Mary Carruth '72, Vacaville, CA. Currently Family Pastor at Community Presbyterian Church and loving it!

Patrice Gaspard, M.D. '72, Atlanta, GA. Named one of Atlanta's Top Doctors by Atlanta Magazine 2 years in a row.

William J. Quick, Jr. '72, San Francisco, CA is alive and kicking.

Emile W. Artus, III '72. I am a CPA working out of Charlotte as a consultant to clients on corporate tax. I've been working for the last year in Greenville, SC and will probably be doing so at least another few months. I've been married 29 years to Shelly, no kids, 3 cats.

Debbie Goldstein Smith '72, entertains at children's parties and community events in the Washington, DC metropolitan area as 'Dootsiedum the Clown.' Go to www.dootsiedum.com for more information.

Shira Schwam-Baird '72 and David Schwam-Baird '73, Jacksonville, FL. Still teaching at the University of North Florida. Shira promoted to full Professor of French. David, Associate Professor of Political Science. Both of us are on sabbaticals for the 2010-2011 academic year. Our son, Michael Schwam-Baird, just starting doctoral studies in political science at Columbia University.

Marianthe C. Mericas Leach '73, Houston, TX. Son, Dylan, graduated from Oberlin College May 2009 and is sailing the Tall Ships as a deckhand. Daughter, Sian, is a senior at Kalamazoo College.

Gail Fenton Pesses '73, Metairie, LA: **Beryl Howell '74** was recently confirmed by the US Senate to become a US District Judge. I saw her when she was in town a few months ago and she is doing great!

Nahum Laventhal '73, New Orleans, LA. Daughter **Raina '98** has a baby Emma born in 2008. Son **Dylan '08** is in 2nd year at LSU on the Dean's list.

Robin Bronston '73, Covington, LA. My niece, Sally, graduated with honors and is now attending University of Pennsylvania.

Randall Curren '73, Rochester, NY. It's hard to believe it will soon be time for our 40 year reunion. I am not on Facebook, but you can find out what I am doing through the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota: Thursday at Four Series, and "Bat of Minerva" Broadcast. In my 7th year as Chair of Philosophy at the University of Rochester. This November I'm very proud to be a co-author on a presentation at the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America with Franklin classmate, **Ellen Metzger '73.**

Alexis A. Aronowitz '74. In addition to teaching classes in criminology at the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), I have worked as a consultant on projects on human trafficking for international organizations (the IOM and OSCE). My book *Human Trafficking, Human Misery* was published by Praeger last year.

Susie Berry Golding '74 Houston, TX. We had a terrific class Reunion (35 years!) in October 2009. Big thanks to **Elizabeth Simpson** and **Cindy Muller** for organizing it. My family celebrated a major milestone in May when our three sons graduated - from high school (Kyle), college (Stephen-Washington University in St. Louis) and graduate school (Jarrett- USC School of Cinematic Arts). Jay and I are now enjoying the spontaneity of being empty-nesters!

Frederick Palumbo, Jr. '75, Spring, TX. 30 years in the oil and gas industry. Life is great fun! Still traveling the globe for business and for fun. Any more Houston get-togethers?

Elizabeth Kuhne Bindschadler '75, Laurel, MD. After 30 years with the Defense Department, I am looking forward to retiring in 2012 and moving to Washington State with my wonderful husband, Bob.

John Naland '75, Arlington, VA. Recently completed my year as the leader of the U.S. Provincial Reconstruction team in Basra, Iraq and am back in Arlington, VA working at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute.

Linda S. Barker '75, Annapolis, MD. Still working as a statistician for MD Dept of Natural Resources and teaching for University of MD. What's new? Yoga! I love it! Drop me a line if you are in the area. LSB@yahoo.com

Robert Schindler '75, Jupiter, FL. Had a great time at the class of '75 mini-reunion in March.

Matthew Rice '75, Overland Park, KS. Back to graduate school, University of Florida, pursuing a Masters in Real Estate. Anticipated graduation date is May 2011.

Pamela Lightfoot (Rodriguez) '76, Stafford, VA. I returned home in January following a year of military duty in Iraq as an Army JAG Corps warrant officer. I was awarded a bronze star for my service with the 3rd and 13th expeditionary sustainment commands. I have returned to work at my Federal civilian Agency in DC. I am also receiving physical therapy, for non-combat related injuries, at Quantico from Lt. **Bolen**, also a Franklin graduate.

Barbara Ashe '76, Harrison, AR. My youngest of three just started her senior year in high school. Next year all 3 will be in college. Still working in the ER here in North Central Arkansas.

Ramchandra V. Athavale '76. Ram lives in Cary, NC with his wife Amy, and their 2 children - a 10 year old daughter and an 8 year old son. Ram is a faculty member at 2 Raleigh area colleges, and he teaches courses in Computer Programming, Mathematics, and Business Administration. He is contemplating a run for local public office.

Lou Ann Longbotham Pease '76, Broken Arrow, OK. I'm still teaching sixth grade world history. My husband of 25 years is still teaching and coaching at the high school level. We love to travel. I appreciate getting the newsletter, especially the humor.

Beth Miller '77, Little Rock, AR worked in Liberia, West Africa as part of a Vets without Borders-US, and will return this summer to assist farmers in caring for their animals, after 14 years of civil war. Check out www.vetswithoutbordersus.org for updates and pictures.

Stephen Pert '77, Brentwood, TN. I have seen **James Quirk '77** a few times. He lives in the Nashville, TN area, not far from me.

Deborah Thomas Swenson '77, Hammond, LA. Married 4/24/10 to Warren Swenson. Working as a paralegal for Bruce Warner in Madisonville, LA. Daughter, Courtney, just started Southeastern Louisiana University in honors Psychology.

Elaine Hutton Johnson '77, Bee Cave, TX. Enjoying a career change to special education teacher's aide; currently working on certification for Special Ed; already finished Elementary certification. Have a son in middle school and another a freshman in college. Time flies!

Sally Garrett LeBourgeois '77, Metairie, LA. Walked across Paris, Florence and Barcelona last fall, spending my savings before crossing the Atlantic on Navigator of the Seas. Highly recommended and civilized way to travel. Would love to have a Franklin trip aboard a ship leaving New Orleans cruise port.

Nathan Alan Schwam '78, moved back to New Orleans after being in Los Angeles 21 years. My wife Danielle and I live a few blocks from the old school. Currently, I work for the Recovery School District, in the capital division, working on FEMA and other funding issues related to Katrina. It's great to be back; good things are happening here. [*incorrect placement in fall Alum News]

Susan Bernofsky '84, New York, NY. I just translated my 5th book by **Robert Walser*** (Microscripts), due out from New Directions in May 2010, and just got to spend a month in Switzerland doing research for the next one! [*name typo in fall Alum News]

Chris Nicholas '93,* San Antonio, TX. My wife Becky and I are expecting our first child in April 2010. [*incorrect placement in fall Alum News]

I, _____, a member of the class of _____, hereby appoint one of the following Board members whose term expires in 2012, as selected by the Secretary, to act as my proxy at the Friday, May 13, 2011 annual meeting of the Benjamin Franklin Senior High School Alumni Association and to vote my proxy as directed below.

Directors Whose Terms Expire in 2012:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rachel Becker '99 | Shannon Hurley Daigle '77 | Alisha Johnson '89 |
| Timothy P. Brechtel '88 | Sally Peyrefitte Firestone '80 | Seth Knudsen '00 |
| Roy G. Clay III '75 | Wayne Gordon '63 | Mimi Tsai '03 |
| Sacha Borenstein Clay '81 | Bonnie Ittmann Happel '62 | John M. Weil '75 |

My proxy shall cast my vote as follows:

I vote FOR / AGAINST (circle one) the slate listed below. If I have stricken through any member(s) of the proposed slate, that indicates my desire to withhold my vote for that/those candidate(s). If I do not indicate a vote, my proxy will vote FOR the entire slate. If elected, the following Directors' terms will expire on May 31, 2013.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Morris "Sammy" Borenstein '72 | Jason S. Otis '94 | Daniel Snell '94 |
| Heidi Haddock Charters '75 | Greg S. Phillips '94 | William T. "Buddy" Stockmann '75 |
| Marilyn Gendusa Ciolino '81 | Kim McLellan Quintana '76 | Nicole Tournillon Westerfield '92 |
| Walter Gabriel '02 | Christy Cowart Read '89 | Min Yang '81 |
| John Otis '63 | Carla L. Reed '82 | |

This proxy is revocable by me if revoked in writing before the commencement of the Friday, May 13, 2011 annual meeting of the Benjamin Franklin Senior High School Alumni Association.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME (include maiden/former name, if applicable): _____

Mail to Ben Franklin Alumni Association, 2001 Leon C. Simon Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122.

An envelope is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP DUES & INFORMATION MAIL-IN FORM

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (\$10.00 - \$24.99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Inventor (\$50.00 - \$99.99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Statesman (\$500.00 – \$999.99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kite Flyer (\$25.00 - \$49.99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher (\$100.00 - \$499.99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosopher (\$1000.00 and up) |

Contributions, including dues, are tax-deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Benjamin Franklin Senior High School Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Dues (July 1 - June 30): \$ _____

Student Needs Fund (optional): \$ _____

Total Amount Remitted: \$ _____

Name: _____

My maiden/former name, if applicable: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Is this a mailing address change? _____

Email address: _____

Is this an email address change? _____

Membership Categories:

- Franklin Graduate, Class of _____
- Non-Graduating Classmate, Class of _____
- Friend of Class of _____
- Spouse/Partner of Graduate, Class of _____
- Parent(s) of Graduate, Class of _____
- Faculty Alum; years: _____ to _____
- Other/describe: _____

An envelope is enclosed. Please make your check payable to Benjamin Franklin Senior High Alumni Association and mail to:

Ben Franklin Alumni Association, 2001 Leon C. Simon Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122

News/Comments: _____

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**Franklin Alumni Association's Annual Meeting
Ben's Bash: Friday, May 13, 7-10 PM,
Riverview Room, Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal St.
FREE ADMISSION, complimentary food, soft
drinks, coffee/tea, etc. Live music. Cash bar.
Valet parking option. ~ Details on page 1.**

**See Election Proxy mail-in form on page 3,
listing nominees for alumni board service,
and the enclosed return envelope for alums
unable to attend our May 13th Annual Meeting.**