

# Alum News 2008

THE NEWSLETTER FOR GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY'S ALUMNI

"Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."

Richard Bach

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## GBA ALUMNI CHAPTER INITIATED IN CHATTANOOGA

By Susan Goodwin Dingman (1972)

A GBA Regional Alumni Reunion took place on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN on March 29, 2008.

There were 45 alumni (in addition to another 50+ family members and friends) who gathered primarily from three surrounding states, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee;

even though some former graduates came from outside the area.

Slowly they gathered on a drizzly Sabbath afternoon, ex-

rived, it was evident that they were forced to squint and stare in order to identify each other based on *some familiar feature*.



The reunion included a wonderful opportunity to regain former friendships over a beautifully presented self-serve meal. Afterward, Rondi Aastrup, principal, provided a powerpoint update of GBA since it had joined the campus at Edgewood Elementary. It was amazing to see the myriads of ways that this school has

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## ALUMNI HELP RAISE MONEY AT 7TH ANNUAL ELEGANT DINNER

It's been eight years since Greater Boston Academy was forced off the Woodland Road campus it shared with Boston Regional Medical Center, thanks to the hospital's bankruptcy. After a historical trial which resulted in the school losing its building and property,

GBA students and staff packed up 35 years' worth of equipment and memories in June 2001 and moved them a mile and a half away to Edgewood Elementary School on Pond Street. Since both schools had already been under one administration for several years

and were sharing three teachers, the merger went smoothly, although the campus was quite crowded.

Unfortunately, as hospital workers moved away to find other jobs, their children went with them, so enrollment went down, and **Continued on page 6**

## INAUGURAL CHAPTER OF GBA ALUMNI MEETS IN ORLANDO

By Arthur Barnaby,  
1951

Early in February 2008 letters were sent out to 93 people in the state of Florida connected with GBA either as students or teachers.

On March 22, 2008, approximately 35 alumni & family gathered at the fellowship hall of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Florida for the first ever GBA reunion in Florida. People started arriving at 2:45 PM. The last person left at around 8:30 PM.

A couple of alums had not had any contact with GBA for over 50 years. One

couple drove for 4 ½ hours to attend. Others drove 2 hours.

Visiting continued until 6:00 o'clock. At that time a light supper was served.

Later Arthur Barnaby, Alumni President, presented a short history of GBA and an update on the present school site & its activities. Many had not seen the school since its move from the hospital grounds.

A display was set up on a couple of tables showing pictures from years past, some as far back as 1942. There was also a collection of early school newspapers beginning with some issues of an early school

newspaper "The Frog Pond" from 1946 & 1947.

Everyone enjoyed themselves while renewing old friendships.

Those present voted to have another reunion next year. Patti Tauro, Anita Whitney & Nancy Smith volunteered to be a committee to plan and host the event.

The following alumni attended the Florida reunion:

1951 Arthur Barnaby  
1952 Gwen Sweetser Jensen  
1953 Jacqueline McCleary Coon  
1954 Douglas Coon  
1954 Richard Pike

1954 Alberta (Kitty) Bowen Richardson

1955 Nancy Boyts Smith

1956 Bob Whitney

1958 Ken Rollins

1960 Tony Tauro

1961 Shirley Vid-ean Rollins

1962 Alfred Allard

1967 Patricia Laurie Tauro

1969 Cheryl

Camara Murphy

1969 Bob Mac-Dougall

1975 Jackie Laing Rathbun

1977 John Rathbun

1981 Sondra Snider Shields

1983 Mike Whitney

## BABY SHOWER REUNITES ALUMNI

Liz Cady Bryner's baby shower on February 17, 2008 brought together former GBA faculty from the 70's and 90's as smattering of former classmates. Among the guests were former PE teacher Doug Harris, former home economics teacher Ingrid Toeper

Mergenthaler, former English teacher Chali Masotta, former history teacher Sandy Lindquist, former EW secretary Karen McClendon, former GBA secretary Dale Cady along with current principal Rondi Aastrup and current cook Cheryl Wilkins. Liz's former

classmate, Holly Heath and her daughter were also present.

Liz gave birth to Kaitlyn Noel on May 6, 2008.



Former classmates and staff shower Liz Cady with their presence..

## BILL MCGREGOR, ALUMNI TREASURER

Bill McGregor, treasurer of the Alumni Association, is a 1964 graduate of GBA. He attended GBA at 415 Newbury Street in Boston all four years. He and his sister Nancy traveled each day from Haverhill, MA on the train and subway to Boston. Later his brother Richard attended GBA in Stoneham.

After graduation, Bill went on to Atlantic Union College where he majored in business administration. He met his wife to be, Ruth Burdick, a nursing student. They both worked at the New England Sanitarium & Hospital upon graduation. Shortly thereafter Bill was drafted into the Army and spent two years as a company clerk at Fort

Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Bill took advantage of the GI Bill and went on for a Master of Business Administration at Suffolk University in Boston. He returned to work at the "San" as Assistant Personnel Director.

In 1977 Bill accepted a call to Reading, PA for work as Assistant Administrator at the Reading Rehabilitation Hospital, a specialty hospital operated by the Pennsylvania Conference. He moved to the Adventist Home in Livingston, NY to be Administrator in 1991, where he worked until the Home was sold earlier this year.

Bill is currently the executive director of the Susan Bailis Assisted Living Community in Boston with a



Bill's son Jon and his bride at their wedding in September 2007

former GBA graduate, Ted Moore. Bill stays with his sister Nancy in Haverhill during the week and travels home to Catskill, NY on the weekends.

His wife Ruth continued her education with a BS in Nursing and an MS in Counseling. She currently is the Director of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Program with the Mental Health Association

of Ulster County in Kingston, NY.

Bill and Ruth have two children. Jennifer, is married to Darren Watson and lives in Davie, FL. Jonathan, (see above), who attended GBA and graduated in 1998, lives in Catskill, NY.

## 2008 ALUMNI WEEKEND WILL SEE CHANGES

After a few years of experimentation with the Friday night programming, Alumni officers have decided to compromise between the "old" format of a Friday evening program and the "new" or more recent plan of

having open-ended fellowshiping at the EW/GBA gym.

"Let's go back to having a Friday evening light supper at 6:00 at the church followed by an evening program at 7:00 for those who wanted a program but

with visiting in the basement for those who don't want to attend the program," suggested one. "Seems like the best of both worlds."

And so the Alumni officers voted to try the new arrange-

ment next year. More details will be forthcoming as they are decided.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or other program elements, write to Art Barnaby at [afbarnaby@juno.com](mailto:afbarnaby@juno.com).

# PICTURE THIS: ALUMNI CHAPTER MEETING IN ORLANDO, FL



**L to R:** Alberta (Kitty) Bowen Richardson; Alfred and Pam Allard; Art and Avis Barnaby



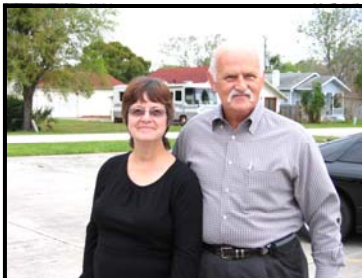
**L to R:** Bob MacDougal; Bob and Anita Whitney with Michael Whitney and children; David and Sondra Snider Shields and children.



**L to R:** Donald Coon and Jackie McCleary Coon; Gwendolyn Sweetser Jensen; John Rathbun and Jackie Laing Rathbun.



**L to R:** Ken and Annette Grant; Nancy Boyts Smith and Ron Smith; Richard Pike and wife.



**Photos on this page courtesy of Art Barnaby and Tony Tauro.**

**L to R:** Florida church member and Eric Doran, former pastor New England Memorial Church; Shirley Videan Rollins and Ken Rollins; Tony Tauro and Patricia Laurie Tauro

# PICTURE THIS: ALUMNI CHAPTER MEETING IN COLLEGEDALE, TN



L to R: Alice Chapman Brown; Bob Mulkern; Daryl Barber Ford



L to R: Old friends enjoy a conversation; Julie Rittenhouse; Jeanne Caruthers Mabley



L to R: Doug Toppenburg; Gene and Ruth Gascay; Jean-Yelland Anderson, Donna Farley Jamison, Jud Jamison



L to R: Rebecca Valentin; Richard Cadavero and Barbara Farley Cadavero; Wendy Tauro Lombard.



Photos on this page courtesy of Art Barnaby and Susan Goodwin Dingman

L to R: Zeola Allston (former teacher); Gene and Ruth Gascay and Avis Barnaby; Andrew Musgrave (former Bible teacher).

# ELEGANT DINNER, FROM PAGE 1

staff cuts had to be made. Still, the quality of education never wavered. Academy classes were not cut, nor were extra-curricular activities. Staff took on extra responsibilities to maintain the experiences GBA students were accustomed to. All that was missing was the finances.

To their credit, the staff did not let this get in their way. Home and School leaders Bernadette Ovalles and Lauren Rittenhouse rallied their partners to the cause and inaugurated a

fund-raising dinner that has, to date, raised several hundred thousand dollars to support Christian education at Edgewood/GBA. The most recent dinner, held on April 6, brought in nearly \$50,000.

More than 160 people gathered at Montvale Plaza, a function hall in Stoneham a scant 5 minutes from the school, to enjoy what has come to be known as an evening of fine dining, entertainment, and fellowship. Hors d'ouvres were served at 5, and dinner promptly at 6. Julie Rittenhouse (class of 2006) and Cherie As-

geirsson provided background music on cello and piano. Former Edgewood teacher and EW/GBA graduate Erika Randall Bryan made the appeal for donations and pledges, apparently to good effect, as her call garnered the most support since the dinners began seven years ago.

Not so coincidentally, among the special guests attending the dinner this year were the eleven members of the North American Division Accrediting Team who spent the following three days evaluating EW/GBA's program and facility. Principal Rondi Aastrup felt it was important for the committee to see the strong and substantial support the local community and alumni have given to the



school since the hospital closed. Most there were not parents, but members of Stoneham Memorial, the local constituent Adventist church, as well as friends and family members of the staff. The committee was duly impressed and commended the church and community in their final report.

Once again, local merchants provided products and gift certificates for the door prizes and drawings that took place during the evening. The GBA choir, under the direction of Rachel Pamphile (class of 2006), sang two numbers while the donations and pledges were collected. The evening closed with Emilie Pla singing two numbers, leaving the guests on a high note.

Today, thanks to fund-raisers like this Elegant Dinner and other measures, EW/GBA is on solid financial footing, getting stronger every year. Enrollment is growing, too, with a three-year old class being added this year, and an additional elementary classroom coming next year. This summer, the school will offer several day camps, including Reading Camp, Math Camp, and the return of last year's Basketball Camp with former pro-player Anthony Bowie.

There is an anticipation in the air for more good things to come. Parents in the greater Boston area with school-aged children are encouraged to call the office for more information about enrolling in either the summer programs or the coming school year. As one board member has said on a number of occasions, "Good things are coming for EW/GBA." Now is the time to get involved.

**Join us for GBA's next Alumni Weekend  
October 17-19, 2008**

**Friday night social and vespers  
All-day Sabbath inspiration  
Saturday night fun and fellowship  
Sunday morning Fall Festival**

**Make plans now to come home to GBA!**

# GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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You can find the *AlumNews* on-line via the GBA website. Read it and share it with other alumni!

## CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER, FROM PAGE 1

maintained academic expectations as well as provide many diverse means of regional interaction and outreach. In addition to the principal's report, Art Barnaby briefly reminded us of the school's history and how it has impacted several of our lives. It was like a walk down memory's lane as several browsed the old photographs and mementos that brought the past alive again.

The evening concluded with an appeal to pledge sup-



Andrew Musgrave talks with a former student at the Chattanooga Chapter supper.

port for our alma mater.

Given the celebration of reuniting with former classmates and expressing appreciation for leadership and mentoring from teachers and staff, it was well within our vision to recognize the needs and potential for a continued presence of Adventist Christian education in the Boston area. Certainly, more specific plans and organization for a regional chapter of GBA alumni will take place as interest and responses are determined.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the success of this special event.