

The Official Publication of the Buffalo Octagon Association



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The Breakdown

Serving all Sides of the Marque since 1983

Letter from the President

Buffalo Octagon Association

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Upcoming Events

- January Meeting—**Hobby Night**—
January 8th—Tavern at Windsor Park
- February - Winter Blues Lunch—
February 24— Glen Park Tavern
- March—Pancake & Maple Syrup
Breakfast — March 23 - Time &
Location TBD

Check your e-mail or Facebook for
more details on these events!

Happy New Year to All,

The annual Christmas party held this year at the Columns Restaurant was a first-rate extravaganza packed with great food, humor, some surprises and even a silent auction! Or as I like to say these days, “it was everything one would expect for the money - all that and a bag of chips!”

Every year at the Christmas party an outstanding member is entrusted with the stewardship of the **Herb Bradt Memorial Cup** for one year in recognition of enthusiasm and club participation. It was my pleasure to have awarded the cup this year to **Kathy Gioffre** of Lancaster NY.

Kathy and her husband, Joe, own a unique, Iris Blue, MGB which they personally accepted delivery from the MG factory in Abington way back when the Beatles were a new musical sensation, and the BOA was just another variety of serpent! Their love of all things MG pre-dates most every current member’s MG fancy.

Kathy was the driving force behind our BOA 40th anniversary party earlier this year, and the primary reason we did not miss that big milestone and were able to keep with a standing tradition. She also chaired the Christmas party.

When not planning BOA extravaganzas, you will usually find Kathy (and Joe) at most BOA meetings/events, and not just the popular ones where we give out food goodies! Kathy with her British accent and traditions from across pond give the BOA extra flair and authenticity.

President's Message (continued)

Returning a moment to the Christmas party...through the generosity of long-standing member Sue Cudmore, we had a silent auction of MG books and splendid, framed MG ephemera from her late husband Jack's collection. It is nice to know those items will be enjoyed by fellow BOA members for years to come. Thank you to all who participated.

Another standout activity at the Christmas Party was the gift exchange filled with the usual humor, treachery, and collusion. I never realized someone could be so fond of an electric, four-slice, toaster! Perhaps a new rule will be put in place for next year.

As many of you are aware, we recently lost longtime BOA member and sitting club Treasurer, Larry Vito. Larry was a fixture in the BOA who ran many activities and filled many roles throughout the years. Together with his wife, Janet, the annual Autumn Sports Classic always ran smoothly for as long as I can remember. We all miss him very much as a caring friend, loving husband, father, grandfather, and longtime BOA member.

The next meeting at the Windsor Tavern in January will be a "Hobby Night" once again. If you have a hobby (besides MGs proper) which you'd like to share with your fellow members, bring some representative sample of it to the BOA meeting and be prepared to say a few words. Yours truly will be bringing another, fully-restored, antique radio. Let's have some fun... so show everyone some other hobby you've found to enrich your life! No live animals, please.

Safety Fast and good health with humor to all,

Peter Calabrese (MGcarnut@aol.com)

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Buffalo Octagon Association
January BOA Meeting



8444 Transit Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221



**It's
Hobby
Night**



Mon., January 8th 2024

Please arrive

by 5:30

Show us your other hobbies!

In Memory of Larry Vito—Fellow MG Enthusiast and Friend of the BOA

It is with a heavy heart that we convey that Lawrence J. Vito (known to us as Larry), a long standing member and most recently Treasurer, of the Buffalo Octagon Association passed away on the 16th of November.

We thought it appropriate to convey information from Larry's obituary about Larry's life accomplishments. Born May 1, 1937, in his younger years Larry was an Eagle Scout, and maintained honorable values throughout his life, dedicating himself to his faith, family, friends and country. We knew him as an admirable and wonderful man.

Larry was a career engineer at Bell Aerospace for 16 years and the 20 years at Moog retiring in May of 2002.

He was very active in serving. He volunteered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Clarence Residence helping with cooking for St. Joseph Day Table and Oktoberfest events. He also served as a hospitality minister at the Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Larry was a lead instructor for Erie County Resistance Band exercise classes at the Clarence Senior Center for 20 years and extended the program to the Sisters of St. Joseph residence.

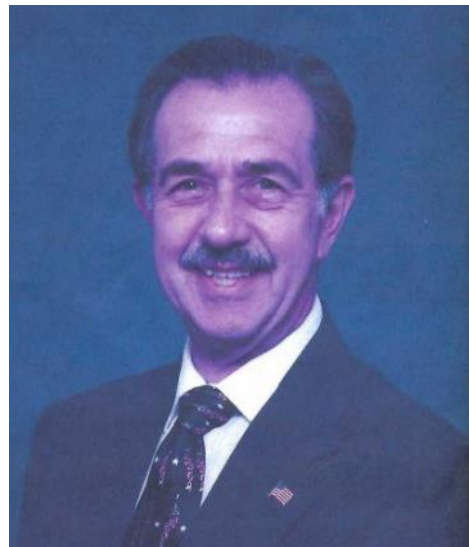
He served on the board and as a transparency advocate for the New York Coalition for Open Government; he was a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club where he spent many years enjoying the outdoors camping and hiking.

Larry was an avid British car and MG enthusiast. He enjoyed driving his MGB for 40 years and participated with many of us at the British Car Class and of course club meetings and events. He always helped with registration for our car shows.

His favorite pastimes were traveling, gardening, reading, and especially his love for wining, dining and dancing!

We want to express our condolences to his wife Janet (former President of the BOA), and the entire Vito family.

We were all blessed to know Larry, his love for his faith and family, and as his friend.



Tour of the Lane Motor Museum—Nashville, TN

By—Dan Grzybek

On our recent trip down to Tennessee, we decided to visit the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville. Jeff Lane founded the museum over 25 years ago. It started as his personal collection but has since grown to have over 700 vehicles. They specialize in low production non-American vehicles, although they also do have many popular marques in the collection. Plenty of odd and exciting cars.

Jeff Lane and his father are MG guys. They restored and raced MGs for many years in the 70s and 80s. In fact, the MG's are the only cars in the collection he still owns personally, the rest are owned by the museum LLC.

There were race cars, an entire collection of Japanese Kei cars and much more. The current exhibits were Lotus: lite, fast, and fun. And the fantastic Fiat 500. Both had some great examples of rare and well cared for autos.

The best part of our visit was the vault tour. We hit at the right time to get a guided tour in the basement storage area. The curator walked us around the 500 or so cars and talked about many of them. A large part of the museum is “repair and restoration”. They are very proud of the fact that every car can be driven. They all have fluids and are licensed on the road.

If you are in the Nashville area, it is well worth the \$12 entry fee. Visit their website to see a lot of their collection. <https://www.lanemotormuseum.org/>



RESTAURANT REVIEW—Jim & Gail Borkman

Clarksburg Cider Co.— If you didn't know it was here you might just miss it. Nestled off 4493 Walden Avenue (Lancaster) west of Ransom Road lies this quaint new Cider Brewery with delicious food. The Clarksburg offers many blends of their in-house brewed cider in more than 12 varieties. From, Botanical Blueberry to Double Dry Hopped Cider. I tried the Pineapple Hibiscus Blend and it was delicious.

Their food was amazing too. We enjoyed a Reuben sandwich that was packed with tender and thinly sliced corn beef—delicious. The fresh cut fries were amazing. Their food offerings are broad from brick-oven pizza to bacon cheeseburger.

The atmosphere is as comfortable as the food & drink. A newer establishment with sufficient openness and character to enjoy your visit. We highly recommend you give Clarksburg Cider Company a try. [Clarksburg Cider Co. - See where it takes you.](#)



NAMGAR
North American **MGA** Register

Recent Events—Steak Roast

Our Annual STEAK ROAST was held in the Casino on October 15th at Sprague Brook Park. We gathered in the Casino due to inclement weather and enjoyed the dry and warmer environment. The company was great and so were the steaks. It's always nice to get together for this event.

Peter Calabrese and George Barbari



Peter Calabrese and Rob Marshall



DeeDee Livingstone, Paula Barbari & Pat Bogdan



George Barbari, Jim Borkman & Vince McCormick



Don Bogdan with DeeDee Livingstone



James Bodgon checking out the steaks.



Recent Events—Our Christmas Party

Our Holiday Banquet was held at The Columns under the watchful planning of Kathy Gioffre. We enjoyed an excellent dinner and enjoyed our gift exchange. In addition we held a Chinese and silent auction to raffle off donations from Sue Cudmore in memory of her husband Jack. Thanks to Craig Johnson for the excellent photos.



The festivities included the Herb Bradt Memorial Cup Award, this year presented to Kathy Gioffre for her dedication and support of club activities including our 40th Anniversary dinner and Christmas banquet. Thank you Kathy for your dedication and support of the BOA.



Recent Events—Our Christmas Party

Food, fun and friends. Here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Thanks to all who contributed to Toys for Tots at our Holiday Banquet!



BOA's Contribution to the Center for Handicapped Children



The Buffalo Octagon Association (BOA) each year supports a charity in our area as a way of convey goodwill to the community. A portion of the proceeds from our Autumn Sports Classic (Super Cruise Car Show) was donated to the CHC Learning Center. This year a donation of \$ 775 was presented to the CHC. Pictured below Peter Calabrese and Jim Borkman standing in the sensory room to present our donation to Janice Gentz Executive Director of the CHC. We want to recognize the good work of the CHC and thank them for their contributions to the Western New York community.

CHC Philosophy

CHC Learning Center is committed to the belief that all children, regardless of the type or degree of disability, are valued individuals who grow, develop, and learn. CHC recognizes the need for support for the families of children with disabilities and the benefits to child and family when services

Follow this link to learn more about the Center for Handicapped Children.

[CHC Learning Center | Special Education | CHC LEARNING CENTER, Eggert Road, Buffalo, NY, USA](#)



Our new Web site has been up and running for a little over a year now. If you haven't had a chance you should check it out. The new format lends itself to easy navigation and the home page provides information on upcoming events. There is an amazing amount of information to be explored.

Just type in www.buffalomg.com on your computer or phone and the Home Page will pop up. As you use the program the Home Page can be easily accessed by simply clicking on the BOA Logo. The Home Page provides information on upcoming events and notices. It also give a brief history of the club, a connection to upcoming events, as well as past Newsletters. All of the sections are hyper-linked below ; just click on the link if you would like to try one out.



The following Links are provided:

[NEWS](#)—Miss a “Newsletter”—not a problem. The Newsletters are archived for your reading pleasure. This NEWS section also includes results from our car show and other events.

[CALENDAR](#)—The calendar tab provides a link to details on upcoming events, club meetings, time and place.

[GALLERY](#)—Want pictures! They are kept current for recent events and historical photos are organized by date and event back to 2002! Take time to look at some of the older events or view the winning cars from our Autumn Sports Classic.

[BLOG](#) —The section includes some of the “Just Ramblin” articles by Jim Pelletterie as well as other write-ups on cars and events—too many to mention here.

[TIPS & TECH](#)—This section has some interesting technical articles by John Twist and Jim Pelletterie. Take a look, more content is welcome here and if you have anything of interest to post we would be glad to do so.

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)—Although not heavily populated at this time we do offer a classified section to advertise your parts for sale. Please send information on anything you would like to sell to webmaster@buffalomg.com

[LINKS](#)—There are a lot of interesting “links” provided here. They include: car clubs, car events as well as movie and advertising links to name a few.

[ABOUT](#)—This page tells about who we are with some links to information about the Buffalo area.

[CONTACT US](#)—Simply a page to get in touch with our club through email.

MEMBERS-ONLY—This page is password protected and includes an archive for the minutes from all of our previous meetings. The Password is available by request.

[“CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER”](#) - This Tab links to a membership application and information on how to contact our Membership chairperson for more information.

We have a powerful tool available to us which will only be as good as the information contained on our site.

I encourage you to take some time to explore it and provide feedback on how we can improve.

2023 REMEMBERING OUR CARS ON DISPLAY—2024 HERE WE COME



June Cookout Picnic



Mad Hatter Rallye



Hanging Out—Wurlitzer Cruise



Cars & Coffee Jim Pelletterie Tube Car



Pete's Car Picture used by NAMBGR



Joe Gioffre Winning Photo



Robert Carrs MG-J3 at the Ice Cream Social

Photo of the Month—Jim Borkman's MG-TD



Ready for Winter



North American MGB Register

**The BOA is a Member of
NAMGBR**

**We Fix
British & American
Classic Cars**

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