

ELIZABETH BRUCH BECHT

CLASS OF 1970



Liz (Bruch) Becht grew up in Seneca Falls and graduated from Mynderse Academy in 1970. While at Mynderse, she was an active member of the Girls' Athletic Association and participated in many pre-Title IX play days. Liz graduated tenth in her class and received the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Award and the Kiwanis Club Outstanding Senior Girl Award.

Liz attended State University of New York at Brockport and graduated in 1974 with degrees in Physical Education and Recreation. Upon graduation, she was hired by Dom Paradise and accepted a teaching position at the Seneca Falls Middle School with John Nicholson as her mentor. Liz taught at the middle school for nine years before moving to the high school Physical Education

position after Angie Bantuvan's retirement. Liz remained at the high school until 2007, retiring after 32 years of teaching. She was honored as the Myndersian yearbook dedicatee in 1987 and 2001.

Liz's coaching career began when she started teaching in the Middle School. She became the Varsity and JV Cheerleading Coach for football and basketball and continued in this position until 1982. During her tenure as cheerleading coach, Liz took on additional Freshman, 7th and 8th grade and even wrestling cheerleaders. Her squads were very successful, placing in many tournaments in Rochester and Syracuse and ultimately winning two Section V Cheerleading Championships. Liz's coaching achievements were recognized when she was awarded two Section V Coach of the Year Awards. Upon retiring from coaching cheerleading, Liz served on the Section V Cheerleading Committee and continued in that capacity until 2007. Liz was also the first JV girls' soccer coach at Mynderse. She coached the girls' varsity track team for thirteen years and was selected as the Finger Lakes West Coach of the Year.

While teaching at the high school level, Liz became involved in many additional extracurricular activities. She was the Senior Class Co-Advisor and was instrumental in starting the senior trip to Florida and Project Graduation, the all-night substance free graduation party. She was also the Girl's Athletic Association advisor and it was under her tenure that the GAA merged with the Block M so that all athletes were now a part of the same club. Although retired, Liz is the current co-advisor of Interact, a Rotary sponsored club which involves students in community service activities.

The Mynderse community filled Liz's life for many years, but she still found the time to give back to the Seneca Falls community as well. She joined the Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation Commission in 1994 and is still a member of that committee as well as the Seneca Falls Sports and Recreation Booster Club. She coached soccer through the Community Center and in 2002 developed the Family Fast Break Basketball Program for 3 and 4 year old boys and girls with Dave Baker and Dennis Pysnack. This year, she received the David Baker Volunteer of the Year Award.

Liz joined the Seneca Falls Rotary Club in 2008 and served as its president in 2012. She is currently the literacy chairperson for the club and is an active member of the Rotary sponsored Camp Onseyawa board. Also in 2008, she became the co-chairperson of Seneca County's Relay for Life committee and held that position for five years. Presently, she is the entertainment chairperson for the Relay, an annual event that is very important to her.

Liz considers herself very fortunate to have been a part of the Seneca Falls Community her entire life and is grateful to all the people who have enabled her to do what she does. One of these people is her husband, Steve, who she has been married to for 38 years. They are the proud parents of two children; Heidi (Zac) Young, an occupational therapist at Happiness House and Matt (Kristen) Becht, a special education teacher in the Schuylerville school district. They have three grandchildren, Haley, Evan and Camden.