



Arkport Alumni Association Newsletter

May 2021

What a year!

It is hard to believe that last year at this time, we were just beginning a year long “change of life” which included loss of loved ones, restrictions, school closings, business closings and many people out of work because of the Covid-19 virus. As we reported last year, many alumni members stepped up to help in areas of need, from providing medical support to manufacturing PPE items where needed. (This was not a surprise to us, as alumni members have always been known for providing support where needed!)

As states are beginning to open up and reduce their restrictions, we have made the decision to host our annual Arkport Alumni Banquet! We will follow New York State requirements of being as distant from others as possible, provide sanitizing stations through out the venue and we are also **NOT** doing a buffet meal this year. We will have dinners **served** to everyone so we can provide a safe food environment. There will be plenty of food available and we will also provide a vegan meal, **if requested**, on your registration.

This year we are including the classes which should have been honored and recognized in 2020, along with the Class of 1946 for 75 years, Class 1971 for 50 years and Class of 1996 for 25 years this year. We will also recognize the classes of 1941, 1951, 1961, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 and the graduating class of 2021. We will introduce those chosen for scholarships handled by the Alumni Association and also scholarships provided by alumni membership. This year we will distribute The Wolfgruber Family Scholarship of \$1,500, The C. Jack Wraight Memorial Scholarship of \$500, The Canisteo Valley Historical Society Scholarship of \$300, The Myrtle King Crissey Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 and also several Arkport Alumni Scholarships, which will be determined at a later date. We are pleased to announce two (2) new scholarships available to Arkport graduating seniors. The family of Jesse Dwyer, Class of 1978, will be providing a memorial scholarship of \$500 to a senior going into the trades and has a love for the outdoors, and the family of Donald Stauring will also provide a memorial scholarship in the amount of \$500 for a senior going into the military, fire service or criminal justice program also someone who has provided community support through programs, such as Little League, Boy Scouts or Church.

We have been working very hard this year keeping our website at arkportalumni.org up-to-date and have added several other pages to keep you informed on fellow members. Check out the new Treasurer and Secretary Reports for 2021, the listing of past and present alumni officers, a listing of scholarships winners through the years and also a listing an Arkport Alumni member, past and present, in the Military. We have a listing of alumni members we need current addresses for and a listing of obituaries for the past two years. This year we also included a listing of Arkport area alumni businesses for us all to support!

So please be safe and stay healthy and we hope to see you at the **57th Annual Arkport Alumni Banquet on July 9, 2021**, Friday night at the Main Place on Main Street in Hornell, NY.

Yours truly,

Arkport Alumni President

2020 Alumni Banquet Information

The 56th Annual Arkport Alumni Banquet was forced to cancel due to the State of New York not allowing group gatherings due to Covid-19. We would have honored the Class of 1945 for 75 years, the Class of 1970 for 50 years and the Class of 1995 for 25 years. We would have recognize the classes of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and the graduating class of 2020. But, so they are not forgotten, we will honor them in 2021 along with the classes to be honored and recognized at the 57th Annual Arkport Alumni Banquet.

Arkport Central School honored 31 seniors at the graduation ceremonies held outside on the athletic fields behind school, following all State of New York mandates. We are proud to announce the following seniors received various scholarships handled by the Alumni Association, including scholarships available from the donations made to the scholarship fund by alumni members.

The Wolfgruber Family Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000 (\$500 a year for two (2) years)

Meghan Patrick

The C. Jack Wraight Memorial Scholarship - \$500

Andrew Hedges

The Canisteo Valley Historical Society Scholarship - \$300

Regan Karr

The Kemp Family Memorial Scholarship - \$400

Joshua Theilen

The Myrtle King Crissey Memorial Scholarship - \$500

Tyler Timothy

Arkport Alumni Scholarships - \$600 each

Jonathan Haines

Victoria McDaniel

During the business portion of our program, we would have elected new officers for the coming year. This year, Marjorie Osborn Wagner, Vice President and Heather Hartwell Clark, Treasurer, both stepped down and replacements were needed. We sincerely thank these ladies for all their time and effort in keeping the Alumni Association running. It was greatly appreciated! As there was not a banquet, our Alumni Charter allows existing officers to select and put the following officers in place:

Linda Wellington Burdett, Class of 1969, President

Brenda Smith Porter, Class of 1987, Vice President

Tracie Hoyt McCarthy, Class of 1997, Secretary

Cathi Crossett Van Iderstine, Class of 1976, Treasurer

It was voted during the 54th Banquet that membership did not want to go through Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report during the banquet. It was suggested that we place both on our website for membership review. Any discussions, questions or concerns can be made directly to President Burdett at 607-368-8222.

We hope to see you at the banquet this year and pray for the good health and safety of all our alumni members!

Remember Pay Your 2021 dues!

\$10.00

Without your dues, we cannot pay for alumni mailings, website hosting and other expenses.

You can use PayPal to
Arkport Alumni Association
or send your check to
Arkport Alumni Association



P. O. Box 28
Arkport, New York 14807

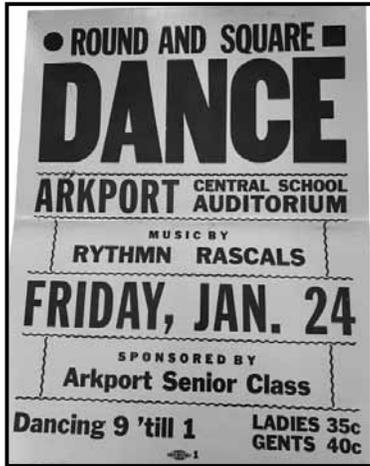
Do Your Part!

- Update your mailing address!
- Let us know the passing of family members or friends!
- Share any memorabilia with us!
- Check out our Facebook page at Arkport Alumni Association!
- Check out our website at www.arkportalumni.org!
- **Pay your dues and donate to the scholarship fund!**

Looking Back 80 years!

Recently, Melvin Brutsman, Class of 1967, reached out and asked if we would be interested in some items that were found while going through papers belonging to his mother, Marjorie. We, of course, said yes!

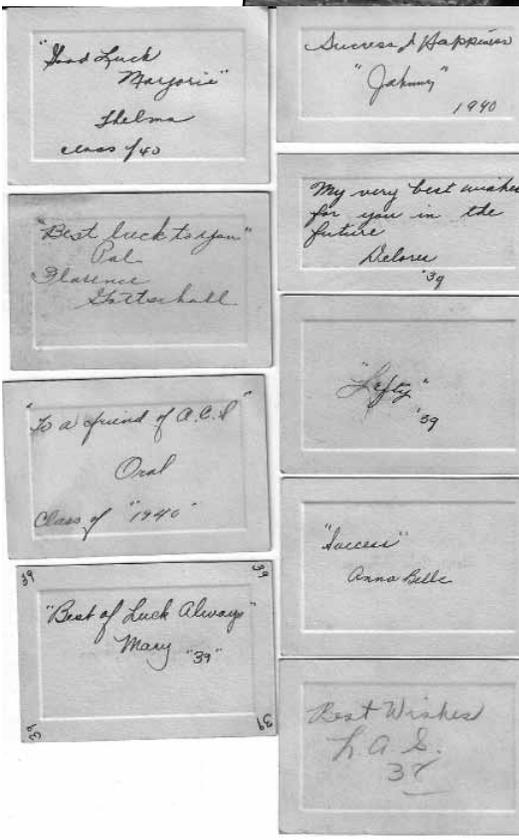
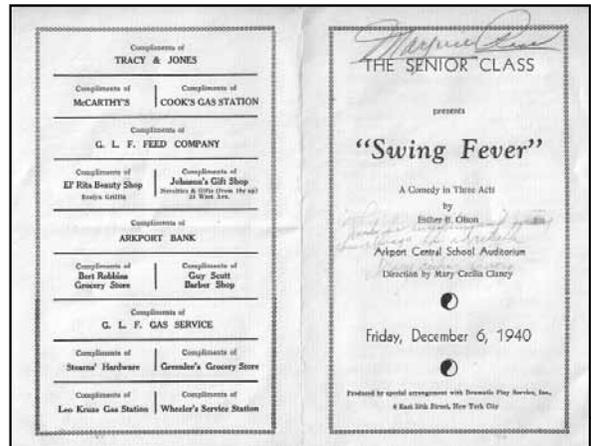
Marjorie Ross Brutsman was a member of the ACS Class of 1941, 80 years ago. There were 21 members in her graduating class, but there were others who did not complete high school, but instead joined the service to fight in WWII. The following are pieces of memorabilia that Marjorie kept through the years. Thank you Melvin for sharing. Marjorie passed in 1969.



Posters from 1941 for school dances. Check out the cost!



Cast of the Senior Play "Swing Fever". Program for the play.



It used to be common for all graduates to buy the same graduation announcements that were offered by the school. Inside the program was a place for these cards with the grad's name and we also included our senior picture.

Here you can see they passed their cards out to classmates and put short messages on the back. Here are some that Marjorie received.

WALT SHERNER -District Clerk



Recently, The Canisteo Valley Historical Society included an article on Walter Sherner in a recent newsletter. If you are an “older” alumni member, you will remember Mr. Sherner. The following is an excerpt from an article that Nancy Amidon Glover, Class of 1957, wrote and an article that Bob Dunn, Class of 1962, wrote on a memory he has of Walt. (*Alumni members will also remember Bob’s father who was a maintenance man for many years at ACS.*)

Nancy Amidon Glover Article

While looking through my books of old clippings I found one on Walt Sherner dated February 19, 1964.

Walter W. Sherner, clerk of the Arkport Central School District for more than 20 years has resigned to become full-time clerk of the Steuben County Board of Cooperative Educational Services. His resignation becomes effective July 1. He will work out of an office in Bath in his new post. The office will be established by George R. Daulton of Bath, superintendent of the sole supervisory district in Steuben County.

Walt joined the local district in 1931 when the old Arkport Union Free School District was in existence. He served as school district treasurer and then in 1933 became clerk of the Union Free School District. He remained in this position until the district centralization. In 1940, Walt became a full time employee of the district, taking care of the Board of Education, attendance officer, census enumerator and office secretary. In addition, for over eight years he drove school bus.

The Steuben County Board of Cooperative Education Services was established in 1954 and Sherner was appointed clerk of the board. He has served in this capacity as a part-time position since 1954.

During his 24 years with the district, he has participated in the centralization of the area, building of the original central school structure, two additions and the bus garage. He has seen the pupil enrollment double since 1940 and also seen the duties of his office as district clerk increase.

The Board of Education accepted his resignation “with regret”. Walt thanked the board for his “many happy years” at Arkport and stated his decision to leave was the opportunity to carry on in a full time manner the work which he has been doing part time.

Bob Dunn, ACS Class of 1962 Article

Linda Burdett mentioned ACS District Clerk Walt Sherner in an article earlier this year. I was a bit surprised at the clerk title, for I had always thought of him as the “Vice Principal”, the one to whom you were sent for relatively minor infractions of the rules. My personal memories of “Uncle Walt”, as he was known to many, are pretty limited, but of course some students who went to the Principal’s office more often knew him much better. I simply remember him as one of the nicest people in the main office while I was at ACS (1949-1962). Perhaps some other Alumni will remember more about him.

I do, however, have a rather strange reminder of Walt, now sitting in the basement of my home in western North Carolina. Walt kept the same wooden chair at his desk for most or all of his time in the office, although I seem to remember there were many efforts to get him to accept a more modern chair. When it finally was re-moved from the front office, the head custodian, Jack “Bing” Howe, put the chair down in the custodians’ basement space. My dad, Art Dunn, was one of the custodians then. When it was time for the chair to leave ACS forever, he brought it home and used it for many years in the basement of his home. Finally, when I moved to Gainesville, FL in 1975, I took the chair to use at my desk in my home office space. As you can see in the picture, the old chair still survives. It is one of several that I have in my present home office/lab. It is still is solid and, with a good cushion, not a bad place to spend a few hours on a rainy afternoon. *[Photo courtesy of Bob Dunn]*



Another Little Fact!

There have been only three (3) District Clerks in Arkport, Mr. Sherner, Earlene Sampson Kennell and current clerk, Meghann Khork.

Congratulations Joelle Jenkins Norris, Class of 1998

We were recently sent this article on Joelle and her accomplishments!

Joelle Norris currently serves as the Executive and Co-Artistic Director of the MidSouth Music Institute, a non-profit community youth and adult choral program located in northwest Mississippi, just outside of Memphis. She and her husband, J. Reese Norris, co-founded the organization in 2012 through a desire to enrich the musical experiences of young singers in the area and to broaden the cultural fabric of the community. CoroRio (www.cororio.org) was the initial arm of the MidSouth Music Institute, with four choirs for students in grades 1-12. Since then, MMI has expanded to include an adult choir, the Mississippi River Chorale, and most recently, a First Steps in Music program for preschool children. CoroRio has performed at notable venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall, St. Peter's Basilica, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, and the Normandy American Cemetery.



Prior to her work with MMI, Joelle directed choirs at Olean High School in New York and Olive Branch High School in Mississippi, where she was honored as a STAR teacher. During her tenure at Olive Branch High School, Norris's choirs received numerous awards and honors, most notably giving invitational performances at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Conference and the Mississippi ACDA Conference. However, Joelle is most proud of the number of former students who are currently leading their own music programs and who are pursuing careers in music. A hallmark of Joelle's teaching is her dedication to meeting the needs and valuing the contribution of each individual singer with whom she works, regardless of skill level or experience. She is passionate about working with treble-voice choirs of all abilities and ages. Norris was a contributing author for Debra Spurgeon's book, *Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success*, in which her chapter focused on singer development in the introductory-level soprano-alto chorus. She had the privilege of serving as MS-ACDA R&R Chair for SSAA Choirs where she coordinated the first Mississippi All-State SSAA Choir, and also served as a coordinator for the ACDA Southern Division SSAA Honor Choir. Norris has also served as a guest conductor and clinician for numerous treble and soprano-alto festival choruses across the southeast, including conducting all-state choirs in South Carolina and Kentucky.

As a strong proponent of music literacy education and team building in the choral rehearsal, Joelle has given many presentations and workshops on these topics. She developed the Bluff City Choral Festival, an annual event hosted by the MidSouth Music Institute that combines opportunities for performance, clinics, team building, and community service for middle and high school choirs. With a fervor for building and facilitating a healthy, collegial local choral community, Joelle regularly creates innovative workshops for music educators to learn new ideas and to be rejuvenated through the fellowship and encouragement that these experiences bring. Furthermore, mentoring young teachers has been a constant throughout her career, and she and her husband also host "Fellowship Fridays" in their home to provide additional support and networking opportunities for local choral music educators.

Joelle graduated summa cum laude with a BME from Roberts Wesleyan College and a MME from Florida State University. She currently works from home where she cares for her three children: Isabelle, Juliette, and Weston.

Serving Our Country!

Kyle Baker, Class of 2003 has recently been promoted to the rank of E8 First Sergeant. He recently returned from being the detachment commander of the US Embassy in Singapore and his new assignment will be overseeing Far East Embassies. Kyle is married to Cassandra Dungan Baker, Class of 2021, and they have two (2) children.

"Oorah" Marine!



Obituaries

The following obituaries are for Arkport Alumni members and area friends. With all the Covid-19 restrictions, many were not afforded the opportunity of funerals and gatherings to remember them by. We hope we have not missed anyone, but if we did, please send an email to help us keep our records up-to-date. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of these Arkport classmates and friends.

2020-2021 Alumni Deceased

Class of 1985	Gary Dye	April 27, 2021
Class of 1964	Nancy Kame Willard	April 7, 2021
Class of 1946	Doris Odell Stewart	March 4, 2011
Class of 1966	Marlene Jones Bolton	March, 2021
Class of 1965	Thomas Springett	February 3, 2021
Class of 1965	Kenneth G. Brutsman	February 22, 2021
Class of 1950	Sally Briggs Fox	December 13, 2020
Class of 1948	William T. Pryor	January 29, 2021
Class of 1938	Barbara Greenlee Thomas	October 20, 2019
Class of 1961	Linda McKibben Johnson	January 3, 2021
Class of 1946	Mary Ann Pryor Remsen	December 2, 2020
Class of 1956	Betty M. Jones	December 1, 2020
Class of 1964	Sharon Northup Evans	November 11, 2010
Class of 1965	Joel "Butch" McKibben	October 16, 2020
Class of 1969	Sharon Smith Graham	September 26, 2020
Class of 1966	Roger Griffin	September 16, 2020
Class of 1962	Roger Dunham	September 10, 2020
Class of 2011	Jared Green	August 25, 2020
Teacher	Roger Graham	August 5, 2020
Class of 1986	Edward Bradoc, Jr	August 3, 2020
Class of 1955	Barbara Crossett Schirmer	August 1, 2020
Class of 1977	Martin Pryor	July 28, 2020
Friend	Floyd Farley	July 26, 2020
Class of 1985	Brian Morgan	July 22, 2020
Class of 1956	Rodney Holden	July 21, 2020
Class of 1959	Dwight Burge	June 28, 2020
Class of 1946	Theolyn Pryor Foster	June 15, 2020
Class of 1965	Janet Slocum Craig	June 13 2020
Class of 1968	Kathy Kemp Doan	April 17, 2020
Class of 1967	Nancy Haynes Drake	April 17, 2020
Classmate	Karen Fitzgerald	April 14, 2020
Class of 1957	William Jones	April 10, 2020
Class of 1979	Debra Ellis Price	March 14, 2020
Class of 198	Steven Bridge	March 12, 2020
Class of 1982	Robert Yates	March 8, 2020
Class of 1954	Robert Auckland	January 29, 2020
Class of 1962	Gary Falzoi	January 29, 2020
Class of 1949	Jeanne Tuttle Westbrook	January 22, 2020
Class of 1955	Lawrence Brown	January 21, 2020
Class of 1967	Charles Flanders	January 15, 2020
Class of 1952	Myrtle King Crissey	January 8, 2020

Canisteo Valley Historical Society

P O Box 123

Arkport, NY 14807

Memberships available at \$10 - join today and enjoy reading four (4) historical newsletters a year!

57th Annual Alumni Banquet

**“The Main Place”
251 Main Street
Hornell, New York**

Friday, July 9, 2021

Social Hour 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Dinner and Program 6:30pm - ?

Dinner Includes:

Stuffed Chicken Breast • Mashed Potatoes with gravy • Vegetables

Garden Salad • Rolls & Butter • Cake

(Vegan meal of Cheese Ravioli w/ marina sauce is available with request below!)

Cost:

\$23.00 per person (includes meal,
gratuity and use of facilities)

The 2021 graduating seniors and the Classes of 1946, 1971, and 1996 will be honored.

The Classes of 1941 1951, 1961, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 will be recognized.

Also we will celebrate those who missed out last year because of banquet cancellation...

The 2020 graduating seniors and the Classes of 1945, 1970, and 1995 will be honored.

The Classes of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 will be recognized.

Reservations

Name _____ Class of _____

I will _____ OR will not _____ be able to attend.

Amount enclosed for dinner # _____ @ **\$23.00** \$ _____

Vegan Meal Requested # _____

Alumni Due **\$10.00** per alumnus \$ _____ @ **\$10.00** \$ _____

Scholarship fund donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Reservations are due by June 28, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT RESERVATION MONEY RECEIVED WILL BE RETURNED IF WE ARE FORCED TO CANCEL. PLEASE PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER HERE SO WE CAN ADVISE YOU OF A CHANGE IN PLANS.

PHONE # _____

Arkport Alumni Association

P. O. Box 28

Arkport, New York 14807

Email: arkportalumni@arkportcsd.org

President: Linda Wellington Burdett, Class of 1969

Vice-President: Brenda Smith Porter, Class of 1987

Secretary: Tracie Hoyt McCarthy, Class of 1997

Treasurer: Cathi Crossett Van Iderstine, Class of 1976

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE AT WWW.ARKPORTALUMNI.ORG
FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK AT **ARKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
DROP US AN EMAIL AT ARKPORTALUMNI@ARKPORTCSD.ORG

Update My Information

Name _____ Class of _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Married to an ACS Alumni? Name _____ Class of _____

Let us know your thoughts! Have a picture you would like to share? Scan it and send to our email address:
arkportalumni@arkportcsd.org or post on our Facebook page at Arkport Alumni Association.
